



**Sent Via Certified Mail**

January 10, 2022

M. Lee Bishop, Director  
United States Department of Energy  
Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office  
Office of Quality and Regulatory Compliance  
PO Box 1663, MS M984  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Joseph Murdock, Program Manager  
Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC  
Regulatory and Stakeholder Interface  
600 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

**RE: Request for Additional Information for Los Alamos National Laboratory Underground Injection Control Wells, Discharge Permit 1835**

Dear M. Lee Bishop and Joseph Murdock:

On July 8, 2021, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) received an application for renewal and modification for the Los Alamos National Laboratory Underground Injection Control Wells from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Newport News Nuclear (N3B), collectively the Permittees for Discharge Permit 1835 (DP-1835). NMED has reviewed the application in accordance with the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations (20.6.2 NMAC).

The renewal and modification application proposes an increase in the quantity discharged from 648,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 1,500,000 gpd. The application states that the proposed increase is “to allow for increases in the treatment of the chromium plume.” NMED notes that the Permittee did not provide any calculations nor groundwater modeling to support their request. To consider the Permittee’s request, NMED requires, at a minimum, that the Permittee provide a groundwater model and supporting documentation that demonstrates and displays:

1. The reasoning for the proposed increase of the injection rate with supporting calculations.
2. Evidence that the aquifer can take the proposed additional daily injection rate.
3. The location and depth of penetration of the new injection points.
4. That the requested increased rate and injection wells will perform as expected to control plume migration along the entire thickness of the plume.

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Ground Water Quality Bureau | 1190 Saint Francis Drive, PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469

Telephone (505) 827-2900 | [www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/](http://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/)

5. That the requested increased rate and new injection locations will not create undesirable plume movement.

Please submit the requested information to NMED within 45 days of the date of this letter, **by DATE**. NMED appreciates your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact either Andrew Romero at (505) 660-8624 or Melanie Sandoval at (505) 660-7892.

Sincerely,

**Justin Ball** Digitally signed by Justin Ball  
Date: 2022.01.10 09:57:03  
-07'00'  
Justin D. Ball  
Ground Water Quality Bureau, Acting Chief

JB:ar

cc: Melanie Sandoval, NMED GWQB  
Patrick Longmire, NMED GWQB  
Rick Shean, NMED HWB  
Neelam Dhawan, NMED HWB  
Christopher Krambis, NMED HWB  
Christian T. Maupin, N3B