

NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0020133

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

RECEIVED ON THE SUBJECT DRAFT NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS LISTED AT 40 CFR §124.17

APPLICANT: Los Alamos County Department of Public Utilities
1000 Central Avenue, Suite 130
Los Alamos, NM 87544

ISSUING OFFICE: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1201 Elms Street, Suite 500
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PERMIT ACTION: Final permit decision and response to comments received on the draft reissued NPDES permit publicly noticed on November 27, 2021.

DATE PREPARED: January 25, 2021

Unless otherwise stated, citations to 40 CFR refer to promulgated regulations listed at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, revised as of January 20th, 2022.

DOCUMENT ABBREVIATIONS

In the document that follows, various abbreviations are used. They are as follows:

4Q3	Lowest four-day average flow rate expected to occur once every three-years
BAT	Best available technology economically achievable
BCT	Best conventional pollutant control technology
BPT	Best practicable control technology currently available
BMP	Best management plan
BOD	Biochemical oxygen demand (five-day unless noted otherwise)
BPJ	Best professional judgment
CBOD	Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (five-day unless noted otherwise)
CD	Critical dilution
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	Cubic feet per second
COD	Chemical oxygen demand
COE	United States Corp of Engineers
CWA	Clean Water Act
DMR	Discharge monitoring report
ELG	Effluent limitation guidelines
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCB	Fecal coliform bacteria
F&WS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
mg/l	Milligrams per liter
ug/l	Micrograms per liter
MGD	Million gallons per day
NMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NMIP	New Mexico NPDES Permit Implementation Procedures
NMWQS	New Mexico State Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
MQL	Minimum quantification level
O&G	Oil and grease
POTW	Publically owned treatment works
RP	Reasonable potential
s.u.	Standard units (for parameter pH)
SWQB	Surface Water Quality Bureau
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TMDL	Total maximum daily load
TRC	Total residual chlorine
TSS	Total suspended solids
UAA	Use attainability analysis
USFWS	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Service
WLA	Wasteload allocation
WET	Whole effluent toxicity
WQCC	New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan

SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES FROM DRAFT PERMIT

There are changes from the draft NPDES permit publicly noticed on November 27, 2021:

- Under Part III.D.7 Reporting Requirements, 24 Hour Reporting, Los Alamos County is required to report permit exceedances and spills, which may endanger public health or the environment, to San Ildefonso Pueblo, a downstream entity.

STATE CERTIFICATION

Letter from Shelly Lemon, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to Charles Maguire, (EPA) dated January 24, 2022.

CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION

There are no conditions of State certification.

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT PERMIT

Comment from the State of New Mexico sent with the 401 Certification on January 24th, 2022.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Comment 1: Under Part III.D.7 Reporting Requirements, 24 Hour Reporting, NMED advises that Los Alamos County be required to report permit exceedances and spills, which may endanger public health or the environment, to San Ildefonso Pueblo, a downstream entity.

Response 1: EPA and San Ildefonso Pueblo agree. This change has been made in the final permit.