



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Surface Water Quality Bureau

**Harold Runnels Building, N2050
1190 South St. Francis Drive (87505)
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-0187 Fax (505) 827-0160
www.nmenv.state.nm.us**



DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

RAJ SOLOMON, P.E.
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 25, 2011

Mr. Tom Swisstack, Mayor
City of Rio Rancho
3200 Civic Center Circle
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

Re: Minor Industrial, SIC 4941, NPDES Compliance Evaluation Inspection, Rio Rancho Well #17 Purge Operations, NMU001733,
May 24, 2011

Dear Mayor Swisstack,

Enclosed please find a copy of the report and check list for the referenced inspection that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted at your facility on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This inspection report will be sent to the USEPA in Dallas for their review. These inspections are used by USEPA to determine compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program in accordance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

Introduction, treatment scheme, and problems noted during this inspection are discussed in the Further Explanations section of the inspection report. You are encouraged to review the inspection report, required to correct any problems noted during the inspection, and to modify your operational and/or administrative procedures, as appropriate.

I wish to thank you for the cooperation extended to the NMED personnel by OMI personnel while at the Well #17 site. If you have any questions about this inspection report, please contact me at (505) 222-9587 or sarah.holcomb@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sarah Holcomb

Sarah Holcomb
Environmental Scientist/Specialist
NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau

Cc: Marcia Adams, USEPA (6EN-AS) by e-mail
Carol Peters-Wagnon, USEPA (6EN-WM) by e-mail
Diana McDonald, USEPA (6EN-WM) by e-mail
Samuel Bates, USEPA (6EN-AS) by e-mail
Larry Giglio, USEPA (6EN-P) by e-mail
Jennifer Ickes, NMED District 1 Manager (by e-mail)
Trevor Alsop, SCAFCA (by e-mail)



NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding

Transaction Code	NPDES	yr/mo/day	Inspec. Type	Inspector	Fac Type
1 N 2 5 3	N M U 0 0 1 7 3 3 11 12	1 1 0 5 2 4 17 18	C	S	2
Remarks					
M I N O R I N D U S T R I A L					
Inspection Work Days	Facility Evaluation Rating	BI	QA	Reserved	
67 69	70 1	71 N	72 N	73	74 75 80

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) RIO RANCHO WELL #17, SANDOVAL COUNTY: FROM HWY 528, TURN WEST ON WESTSIDE ROAD. DRIVE PAST THE STOPLIGHT AT UNSER AND TAKE THE FIRST RIGHT ON 19TH ST. THE WELL SITE IS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ROAD.	Entry Time /Date 1330 hours / 5-24-2011	Permit Effective Date N/A
	Exit Time/Date 1510 hours / 5-24-2011	Permit Expiration Date N/A
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) MR. CLIFF LEEPER, OMI, (505) 896-5025 MR. MICK JACYMIW, OMI	Other Facility Data GPS: N. 35° 13' 42.52" W. -106° 41' 53.83"	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number MR. TOM SWISSTACK, MAYOR 3200 CIVIC CENTER CIRCLE, RIO RANCHO, NM 87144	<p style="text-align: center;">Contacted</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	SIC: 4941

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)

U	Permit	S	Flow Measurement	M	Operations & Maintenance	N	CSO/SSO
U	Records/Reports	U	Self-Monitoring Program	N	Sludge Handling/Disposal	N	Pollution Prevention
U	Facility Site Review	N	Compliance Schedules	N	Pretreatment	N	Multimedia
U	Effluent/Receiving Waters	N	Laboratory	N	Storm Water	N	Other:

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

- INSPECTOR ARRIVED AT THE FACILITY AT 1330 HOURS ON MAY 24, 2011. THE INSPECTOR CONDUCTED AN ENTRANCE INTERVIEW WITH MR. CLIFF LEEPER AND MR. MICK JACYMIW, BOTH OF CH2M HILL/OMI, WHERE SHE PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AND DISCUSSED THE PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION.
- PLEASE SEE REPORT FOR FURTHER EXPLANATIONS.
- AN EXIT INTERVIEW TO DISCUSS THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION WAS CONDUCTED WITH MR. LEEPER AND MR. JACYMIW ON MAY 24, 2011 AT THE FACILITY.

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) Sarah Holcomb /s/ Sarah Holcomb	Agency/Office/Telephone/Fax NMED/SWQB 505-222-9587	Date 5-25-2011
Signature of Management QA Reviewer		

Richard Powell /s/ Richard Powell	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers NMED/SWQB 505-827-2798	Date 5-25-2011
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EPA Form 3560-3 (Rev. 9-94) Previous editions are obsolete.

**Compliance Evaluation Inspection
Rio Rancho Well #17 Purge Discharge
May 24, 2011**

Introduction

On May 24, 2011, Sarah Holcomb of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) at the Rio Rancho Well #17 Drinking Water Treatment Facility. Well #17 discharges approximately 0.033 MGD (million gallons per day) and would be classified as a minor industrial discharger under the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 402, of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. The facility discharges to the Black Arroyo, thence to the SSCAFCA MS4, thence to the Rio Grande in Segment 20.6.4.106 according to the *State of New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters, 20.6.4 NMAC*. This segment includes the designated uses of irrigation, marginal warmwater aquatic life, livestock watering, wildlife habitat, and primary contact; and public water supply on the Rio Grande.

The NMED performs a certain number of CEIs for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region VI, under the NPDES permit program, in accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act. USEPA uses these inspections to determine compliance with the NPDES permit program. This inspection report is based on information provided by the permittee's representatives, observations made by the NMED inspector, and records and reports kept by the permittee and/or NMED.

Upon arrival at the facility at 1330 hours on May 24, 2011, the inspector conducted an entrance interview with Mr. Cliff Leeper and Mr. Mick Jacymiw, representatives of OMI (the contract operator for the City of Rio Rancho's water and wastewater infrastructure), where she presented credentials and explained the purpose of the inspection. Mr. Leeper and Mr. Jacymiw conducted a tour of the facility. An exit interview was conducted with Mr. Leeper at the facility at approximately 1310 hours on May 24, 2011 to present the preliminary findings of the inspection.

Treatment Scheme

This facility is a drinking water well that is supplied from an underground aquifer. The water is pumped from the aquifer and brought into the facility. The raw water is treated with carbonic acid to adjust the pH, and ferric chloride is added for arsenic removal. The water and chemicals are then flash mixed in order to get floc particles to form. The floc (and subsequently the chemicals and the arsenic) are then filtered out through three vessels containing gravel, sand and anthracite which are run in parallel. The water is then treated with sodium hydroxide to readjust the pH so that it is appropriate for distribution, and is chlorinated with sodium hydrochloride, and is then sent out for distribution.

Sludge from the treatment process is stored onsite until a contract hauler comes to pump out the solids from the facility.

The facility utilizes a purge process during start up and shut down of the well to clear out any sand from the process. This avoids the sand being sent into the distribution system. The purge occurs using pumped ground water prior to any treatment. A check valve is engaged, and the water is flushed out at a rate of 2800 gallons per minute for a period of 4-5 minutes. This results in a discharge to the arroyo of about 16,800 gallons, twice per day. This discharge is not currently permitted.

Inspection:

This inspection was prompted by a citizens' concern about the discharge from Well #17, which appeared yellow in nature. Both the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau and the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau responded.

During the inspection, it was noted that the arsenic treatment facility was started up in March of 2010. During that process, the contract engineer was fine tuning the arsenic treatment system and accidentally discharged ferric chloride to the arroyo. According to the facility representatives, this was an isolated incident and the staining observed in the arroyo was due to this incident. The city did not report the spill to NMED or EPA.

The inspector asked the facility representatives to run through a typical purge cycle during the inspection. When they did so, it was evident that the check valve was in place, and that the water being discharged was not being treated with any sort of the chemical prior to its exit from the facility. Please see attached photos.

Further Explanations

Per 40 CFR PART 122.1 (b) *“The NPDES program requires permits for the discharge of “pollutants” from any “point source” into “waters of the United States.” The terms “pollutant”, “point source” and “waters of the United States” are defined at §122.2.”*

Per 40 CFR PART 122.21(a) *“Duty to apply. Any person who discharges or proposes to discharge pollutants” “shall submit a complete application (which shall include a BMP program if necessary under 40 CFR 125.102) to the Director in accordance with this section and part 124.”*

Findings:

This facility did not have NPDES permit coverage for the discharge of purge water from Well #17 on the date of this inspection. This well has a regular discharge resulting in approximately 33,600 gallons of ground water per day being discharged to the arroyo. The water makes it into the Black Arroyo (part of the Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority conveyance system), but on the day of this inspection, did not appear to make it past a retention pond a few miles east of the discharge. However, the discharge could have the potential to make it to the Rio Grande during storm events.

The facility is not currently conducting any testing of the discharge to ensure that it is free of pollutants.

NMED/SWQB
Official Photograph Log
Photo # 1

Photographer: Sarah Holcomb	Date: 5-24-2011	Time: 1407 hours
City/County: Rio Rancho/Sandoval County		
Location: Well #17 Outfall		
Subject: Outfall pipe from Well #17 into the arroyo. Rocks are discolored from a discharge of ferric chloride in March 2010.		



NMED/SWQB
Official Photograph Log
Photo # 2

Photographer: Sarah Holcomb	Date: 5-24-2011	Time: 1407 hours
City/County: Rio Rancho/Sandoval County		
Location: Well #17 Outfall		



Subject: Arroyo being discharged to (outfall is behind the photographer). Some discoloration of the rocks is due to the fact that it is old concrete once used as curbing (now being used as rip rap to prevent erosion), which was once painted yellow.

NMED/SWQB
Official Photograph Log
Photo # 3

Photographer: Sarah Holcomb	Date: 5-24-2011	Time: 1504 hours
City/County: Rio Rancho/Sandoval County		
Location: Well #17 Outfall		
Subject: Active discharge from the purge cycle.		



NMED/SWQB
Official Photograph Log
Photo # 4

Photographer: Sarah Holcomb	Date: 5-24-2011	Time: 1504 hours
City/County: Rio Rancho/Sandoval County		
Location: Well #17 Outfall		
Subject: Arroyo during active discharge.		

