

1 WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER  
2 Erik Schlenker-Goodrich (New Mexico Bar # 17875)  
3 Megan Anderson (California Bar # 237548) *pro hac vice*  
4 P.O. Box 1507  
5 Taos, New Mexico 87571  
6 (575) 751-0351 (tel.)  
7 (575) 751-1775 (fax)  
8 eriksg@westernlaw.org  
9 anderson@westernlaw.org

7 WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER  
8 Matthew K. Bishop (New Mexico Bar # 17806)  
9 104 E. Broadway, Suite 7  
10 Helena, MT 59601  
11 (406) 443-3501 (tel.)  
12 (406) 443-6305 (fax)  
13 bishop@westernlaw.org

14 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

15 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
16 FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

17 AMIGOS BRAVOS, a non-profit organization; )  
18 CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY, )  
19 a non-profit organization; EMBUDO VALLEY )  
20 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING GROUP, a )  
21 non-profit organization; THE NEW MEXICO ACEQUIA )  
22 ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization; DON )  
23 GABINO ANDRADE COMMUNITY ACEQUIA; )  
24 PARTNERSHIP FOR EARTH SPIRITUALITY, )  
25 a non-profit organization; RIO GRANDE )  
26 RESTORATION, a non-profit organization; )  
SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT, a non-profit )  
organization; TEWA WOMEN UNITED, a non-profit )  
organization; and J. GILBERT and KATHY SANCHEZ, )  
individuals, )

Civil Action No.  
CIV 08-137 JB/KBM

FIRST AMENDED  
COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Plaintiffs,

vs.

1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, a )  
 2 federal department; SAMUEL W. BODMAN, in his )  
 3 official capacity as Secretary of the U.S. Department )  
 4 of Energy; LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL SECURITY, )  
 5 LLC, as manager and operator of Los Alamos National )  
 6 Laboratory; MICHAEL R. ANASTASIO, in his )  
 7 official capacity as President of Los Alamos )  
 8 National Security and director of Los Alamos )  
 9 National Laboratory, )  
 10 )  
 11 )  
 12 )  
 13 )  
 14 )  
 15 )  
 16 )  
 17 )  
 18 )  
 19 )  
 20 )  
 21 )  
 22 )  
 23 )  
 24 )  
 25 )  
 26 )

Defendants.

---

INTRODUCTION

10 1. Plaintiffs hereby bring this civil action for declaratory and injunctive relief and  
 11 request for civil penalties against the above named Defendants (hereinafter “Los Alamos  
 12 National Laboratory” or “LANL”) pursuant to section 505 (a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution  
 13 Control Act (hereinafter “Clean Water Act” or “CWA”), 33 U.S.C. § 1365 (a)(1).

15 2. This civil action arises out of LANL’s historic and continuing failure to comply with  
 16 the terms and conditions of its storm water National Pollution Discharge Elimination System  
 17 (“NPDES”) permit for industrial activities (hereinafter “storm water permit,” “NPDES permit,”  
 18 or “permit”).

20 3. For the past sixty plus years, LANL’s nuclear testing and industrial activities have  
 21 generated an enormous amount of solid, hazardous, and radioactive waste. This waste includes,  
 22 high explosives such as TNT and RDX, volatile organic compounds, metals, inorganic  
 23 compounds, perchlorate, hexavalent chromium, and PCBs.

24 4. Once generated, these contaminants are often dumped at various disposal areas strewn  
 25

1 throughout the 40 square mile LANL Facility (hereinafter “the Facility” or “the Lab”). In fact,  
2 from the 1940s until the early 1980s, LANL dumped its toxic and hazardous waste directly into  
3 the various watersheds that dissect the Lab.  
4

5 5. Today, the New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”) estimates that  
6 approximately 2,093 such dump sites have been created since the Lab began operating in the  
7 early 1940s. While some of these sites have been cleaned up or are in the process of being  
8 cleaned up by LANL, many continue to discharge contaminated storm water. In fact, recent  
9 storm water monitoring data from both LANL and NMED confirms that contaminants from these  
10 dump sites runs off into the soils, surface water, and shallow groundwater of LANL’s seven  
11 watersheds, eventually traveling down-gradient to the Rio Grande. This is precisely why such  
12 sites are currently regulated under the CWA and required to obtain coverage under an industrial  
13 storm water NPDES permit. See 33 U.S.C. § 1342 (p) (regulation of industrial storm water  
14 discharges); 40 C.F.R. § 122.26 (industrial storm water regulations).  
15  
16

17 6. At issue in this civil action is LANL’s prolonged and continued failure to comply with  
18 the terms and conditions of its NPDES permit for approximately 109 storm water sites located in  
19 the Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyon watershed.  
20

21 7. Specifically, LANL has violated, is violating, and is reasonably likely to continue  
22 violating the effluent standards and limitations in its NPDES permit, including the NPDES  
23 permit’s prohibition on violating water quality standards, failing to comply with the permit’s  
24 monitoring and reporting requirements, and failing to adhere to the permit’s mandate that LANL  
25 have effective effluent limitations and pollution control measures in place for each of the  
26

1 approximately 109 sites. In addition, LANL is allowing the unauthorized discharge of pollutants  
2 into waters of the United States from sites not covered by an NPDES permit.

3 8. LANL's failure to comply with the terms and conditions of its NPDES permit, as  
4 described more fully below, continues to harm Plaintiffs' concrete interests in protecting,  
5 restoring, and using the natural resources of the Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries and  
6 Plaintiffs' concrete interests in monitoring and educating the public about water contamination  
7 issues at the Lab.  
8

9 9. Wherefore, Plaintiffs – a coalition of local residents, farmers, pueblo members,  
10 conservation organizations, acequia associations, community groups, and religious entities – are  
11 hereby compelled to bring this civil action.  
12

#### 13 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

14 10. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331  
15 (Federal Question).  
16

17 11. The Court has the authority to review the violations complained of herein, and grant  
18 the relief requested, pursuant to section 505 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365 and 28 U.S.C. §§  
19 2201 and 2202.  
20

21 12. Proper notice of this civil action was provided to LANL pursuant to section 505(b) of  
22 the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d). LANL did not respond to Plaintiffs' notice. Neither the EPA  
23 nor the State of New Mexico has commenced or is diligently prosecuting an action to redress the  
24 violations of the CWA alleged in the 60-day notice letter and thus Plaintiffs are not prohibited  
25

1 from commencing an action as provided in CWA section 505(b)(1)(B), 33 U.S.C. §  
2 1365(b)(1)(B). Claims for civil penalties asserted in this action are not barred by any prior  
3 administrative penalty under CWA section 309(g)(6)(B), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(6)(B).  
4

5 13. The relief sought is authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2201 (Declaratory Judgment), 28  
6 U.S.C. § 2202 (Injunctive Relief), 33 U.S.C. § 1319 (civil penalties), and 33 U.S.C. § 1365.

7 14. Venue is properly before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) and 33 U.S.C. §  
8 1365(c)(1) because the sources of all violations occurred in the District of New Mexico.

9 15. There is a present and actual controversy between the parties because defendants have  
10 violated, continue to violate and are reasonably likely to continue to violate effluent standards or  
11 limitations in their NPDES permit and the Act.  
12

### 13 PARTIES

14 16. Plaintiff AMIGOS BRAVOS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, state-wide river conservation  
15 organization with offices in Taos and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Amigos Bravos has  
16 approximately 1700 members in New Mexico. Many of these members live in and around the  
17 Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries, including adjacent to or downstream from, the Lab  
18 property. Amigos Bravos is guided by social justice principles and has a concrete interest in  
19 preserving and restoring the ecological and cultural integrity of all of New Mexico's streams,  
20 rivers and watersheds. Specifically, Amigos Bravos' concrete interests are in: (1) returning New  
21 Mexico's waters and the Rio Grande watershed to drinkable quality wherever possible and to  
22 contact quality everywhere else; (2) seeing that natural flows are maintained and where those  
23 flows have been disrupted by human intervention to see that they are regulated to protect and  
24  
25  
26

1 reclaim the river ecosystem by approximating natural flows; (3) preserving and restoring the  
2 native riparian and riverine biodiversity; (4) supporting the environmentally sound and  
3 sustainable traditional ways of life of indigenous cultures; (5) ensuring that environmental justice  
4 and social justice go hand-in-hand; and (6) informing and educating all members of the public  
5 about water pollution concerns and issues throughout the State of New Mexico. In furtherance of  
6 these interests, Amigos Bravos' staff and members spend time meeting with state and federal  
7 regulators and facilities such as LANL, cleaning up various rivers and streams in New Mexico  
8 (including the Rio Grande and its tributaries), setting up and participating in water quality  
9 sampling trips along the Rio Grande and its tributaries, commenting on various permits and  
10 agency decisions affecting water quality in New Mexico, attending hearings, hiring experts,  
11 drafting reports, participating in various administrative and legal processes, publishing  
12 "bulletins" and sending out e-mail alerts to educate the public, organizing and setting up a library  
13 of various water related publications in their Taos Office (the library is organized by subject and  
14 open to members of the public), and requesting and reviewing discharge monitoring reports  
15 (DMRs), sampling data, and agency and/or expert reports on water contamination issues in New  
16 Mexico. All of Amigos Bravos' members and staff derive aesthetic, artistic, ecological,  
17 conservation, recreational, spiritual, and professional benefits from working to protect and  
18 restore the natural resources and biological integrity of the Rio Grande watershed and its  
19 tributaries (including the Pajarito Plateau) and spending time in the area and have been adversely  
20 impacted by defendants discharges. Amigos Bravos' members and staff have used, and will  
21 continue to use, the waters into which the contamination and pollutants from LANL have been,  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

1 and are being, discharged.

2 17. Plaintiff CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY (“CCNS”) is a  
3 501(c)(3) non-profit community based organization in Santa Fe, New Mexico. CCNS was  
4 founded in 1988 to voice community concerns about the transportation of nuclear waste from  
5 LANL, the nation's oldest nuclear weapons production facility, to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant,  
6 the nation's first permanent nuclear weapons waste repository, through Santa Fe. Many of the  
7 members of CCNS live in and around the Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries, including  
8 adjacent to or downstream from, the Lab property. The mission of CCNS is to protect all living  
9 beings and the environment from the effects of radioactive and other hazardous materials now  
10 and in the future. CCNS is specifically committed to educating members of the public on the  
11 operations being conducted at LANL and the resulting contamination issues. CCNS is also  
12 committed to ensuring that LANL is in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations  
13 and that the natural resources and biological integrity of New Mexico’s air and water is protected  
14 and restored. Towards this end, CCNS staff and members spend time meeting with and  
15 providing briefing to local, state and federal officials and regulators about LANL contamination  
16 issues, organize public information and educational events, and review and provide public  
17 comments about proposed permits, environmental impact statements and other technical  
18 documents to state and federal governmental agencies. CCNS has hired experts and written  
19 technical reports about public health and water issues at LANL, as well as participated in three  
20 independent Clean Air Act audits of LANL’s radionuclide emissions. Since 2002, CCNS has set  
21 up and participated in water quality sampling trips along the Rio Grande and its tributaries.  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

1 Since 1988, CCNS has produced a weekly radio program about nuclear safety issues at DOE  
2 sites, including LANL, which is distributed to radio stations throughout the Rio Grande  
3 watershed. CCNS sends out e-mail action alerts to educate the public. CCNS's members and  
4 staff derive aesthetic, artistic, ecological, conservation, recreational, spiritual, and professional  
5 benefits from this work and spending time along the Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries  
6 (including the Pajarito Plateau) and have been adversely impacted by defendants discharges.  
7  
8 CCNS's members and staff have used, and will continue to use, the waters into which the  
9 contamination and pollutants from LANL have been, and are being, discharged.

10  
11 18. Plaintiff EMBUDO VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING GROUP is a  
12 non-profit organization located in New Mexico's Embudo River Valley. The Embudo Valley  
13 Environmental Monitoring Group focuses on the public and environmental health and safety  
14 issues related to air quality emissions and water quality contamination generated by activities at  
15 Los Alamos that affect the Rio Grande watershed. Members and staff of the Embudo Valley  
16 Environmental Monitoring Group derive aesthetic, artistic, ecological, conservation, recreational,  
17 spiritual, and professional benefits from working to protect and restore the natural resources and  
18 biological integrity of the Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries (including the Pajarito  
19 Plateau) and spending time in the area and have been adversely impacted by defendants  
20 discharges. Members and staff of the Embudo Valley Environmental Monitoring Group have  
21 used, and will continue to use, the waters into which the contamination and pollutants from  
22 LANL have been, and are being, discharged.

23  
24  
25 19. Plaintiff the NEW MEXICO ACEQUIA ASSOCIATION ("NMAA") is a 501(c)(3)  
26



1 non-profit grassroots, membership-based organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The  
2 NMAA has members that live in and around the Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries,  
3 including adjacent to or immediately downstream from, the Lab property. The NMAA's  
4 members work to protect and strengthen acequias. Acequias are community-based systems of  
5 irrigation and water governance in New Mexico. An acequia also refers to the community of  
6 farmers that cooperatively maintain the ditch and share water through custom and tradition. The  
7 NMAA uses community education, community organizing and policy advocacy to achieve its  
8 mission to sustain a way of life for acequia communities, protect water as a community resource,  
9 and strengthen the agricultural traditions of our families and communities. Members and staff of  
10 the NMAA derive aesthetic, artistic, ecological, conservation, recreational, spiritual, and  
11 professional benefits from working to protect and restore the natural resources and biological  
12 integrity of the Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries (including the Pajarito Plateau) and  
13 spending time in the area and have been adversely impacted by defendants discharges. Members  
14 and staff of the NMAA have used, and will continue to use, the waters into which the  
15 contamination and pollutants from LANL have been, and are being, discharged.

19 20. Plaintiff DON GABINO ANDRADE COMMUNITY ACEQUIA ("DGACA") is a  
20 sub-division of the State of New Mexico, governed by an elected board of commissioners.  
21 DGACA is committed to using community education, community organizing and policy  
22 advocacy to achieve its mission to sustain a way of life for acequia communities, protect water as  
23 a community resource, and strengthen the agricultural traditions of our families and  
24 communities. Members and staff of the DGACA derive aesthetic, artistic, ecological,  
25

1 conservation, recreational, spiritual, and professional benefits from working to protect and  
2 restore the natural resources and biological integrity of the Rio Grande watershed and its  
3 tributaries (including the Pajarito Plateau) and spending time in the area and have been adversely  
4 impacted by defendants discharges. Members and staff of the DGACA have used, and will  
5 continue to use, the waters into which the contamination and pollutants from LANL have been,  
6 and are being, discharged.

8 21. Plaintiff PARTNERSHIP FOR EARTH SPIRITUALITY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit  
9 membership organization based in Albuquerque, New Mexico with approximately 400 members.  
10 Partnership for Earth Spirituality brings together people from various religious traditions, ages,  
11 cultures and economic backgrounds to promote a better understanding of the interdependence of  
12 ecology and spirituality. The Partnership's vision is explored through retreats, forums, seasonal  
13 rituals, wilderness experiences, programs for children, hands-on projects and education for sound  
14 environmental policies. Members and staff of the Partnership for Earth Spirituality derive  
15 aesthetic, artistic, ecological, conservation, recreational, spiritual, and professional benefits from  
16 working to protect and restore the natural resources and biological integrity of the Rio Grande  
17 watershed and its tributaries (including the Pajarito Plateau) and spending time in the area and  
18 have been adversely impacted by defendants discharges. Members and staff of the Partnership  
19 for Earth Spirituality have used, and will continue to use, the waters into which the  
20 contamination and pollutants from LANL have been, and are being, discharged.

24 22. Plaintiff RIO GRANDE RESTORATION is a 501(c)(3) non-profit policy advocacy  
25 group based in Pilar, New Mexico with approximately one hundred supporters. Rio Grande

1 Restoration's mission is to foster the restoration of the Rio Grande by providing an improved  
2 flow regime of high-quality water. Rio Grande Restoration seeks to achieve its mission using the  
3 tools of river and watershed education, policy advocacy, alliance building, and river and habitat  
4 restoration. Supporters and staff of Rio Grand Restoration derive aesthetic, artistic, ecological,  
5 conservation, recreational, spiritual, and professional benefits from working to protect and  
6 restore the natural resources and biological integrity of the Rio Grande watershed and its  
7 tributaries (including the Pajarito Plateau) and spending time in the area and have been adversely  
8 impacted by defendants discharges. Supporters and staff of Rio Grand Restoration have used,  
9 and will continue to use, the waters into which the contamination and pollutants from LANL  
10 have been, and are being, discharged.

13 23. Plaintiff, SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT ("SWOP") is a 501(c)(3)  
14 non-profit statewide multi-racial, multi-issue, community based membership organization based  
15 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. SWOP works to make it possible for thousands of New Mexicans  
16 to begin to have a place and voice in social, economic and environmental decisions that affect  
17 our lives. SWOP's mission is to work to empower our communities to realize racial and gender  
18 equality and social and economic justice. Members and staff of the NMAA derive aesthetic,  
19 artistic, ecological, conservation, recreational, spiritual, and professional benefits from working  
20 to protect and restore the natural resources and biological integrity of the Rio Grande watershed  
21 and its tributaries (including the Pajarito Plateau) and spending time in the area and have been  
22 adversely impacted by defendants discharges. Members and staff of SWOP have used, and will  
23 continue to use, the waters into which the contamination and pollutants from LANL have been,  
24  
25  
26

1 and are being, discharged.

2 24. Plaintiff, TEWA WOMEN UNITED, is an independent women centered and Native  
3 women run non-profit 501(c)(3) organization located within the Northern Pueblos of New  
4 Mexico. Tewa Women United is dedicated to a vision of making a healthy, safe and culturally  
5 enriched self, family and community a reality. Tewa Women United promotes and supports  
6 activities which nurture and care for the well being of our Mother Earth, including being free of  
7 all nuclear contamination. Many of Tewa Women United's members are long time residents and  
8 owners of property adjacent to, downstream of, and/or near LANL and have a concrete interest in  
9 the continued preservation and protection of an area that many of Tewa Women United's  
10 members and staff have and will continue to use. Members and staff of Tewa Women United  
11 derive aesthetic, artistic, ecological, conservation, recreational, spiritual, and professional  
12 benefits from working to protect and restore the natural resources and biological integrity of the  
13 Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries (including the Pajarito Plateau) and spending time in the  
14 area and have been adversely impacted by defendants discharges. Members and staff of Tewa  
15 Women United have used, and will continue to use, the waters into which the contamination and  
16 pollutants from LANL have been, and are being, discharged.

17  
18  
19  
20 25. Plaintiffs J. GILBERT and KATHY SANCHEZ are individuals with specific,  
21 concrete interests in Los Alamos and Pueblo canyon watersheds. J. Gilbert Sanchez is a member  
22 of Tribal Environmental Watch Alliance and a community activist at the Pueblo of San  
23 Ildefonso. Kathy Sanchez is Director of Tewa Women United and a community activist at the  
24 Pueblo of San Ildefonso caring for Mother Earth. As local residents, J. Gilbert and Kathy  
25

1 Sanchez derive aesthetic, artistic, ecological, conservation, recreational, spiritual, and  
2 professional benefits from working to protect and restore the natural resources and biological  
3 integrity of the Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries (including the Pajarito Plateau) and  
4 spending time in the area and have been adversely impacted by defendants discharges. J. Gilbert  
5 and Kathy Sanchez have used, and will continue to use, the waters into which the contamination  
6 and pollutants from LANL have been, and are being, discharged.  
7

8           26. The concrete interests of the Plaintiffs, described above, including the concrete  
9 interests of their individual members and staff have been harmed, and will continue to be  
10 harmed, by LANL's failure to comply with the terms and conditions of its NPDES storm water  
11 permit as outlined in this complaint. Such harm includes, but is not limited to, harm to: (1)  
12 Plaintiffs' use of the Rio Grande watershed and its tributaries, including Los Alamos and Pueblo  
13 Canyons (the violations of water quality standards and illegal discharge of contaminants into  
14 canyons and waters by LANL, and concern over such violations and discharges, has resulted in  
15 Plaintiffs' inability to use and decision not to use the area and water for ceremonial, spiritual,  
16 farming, domestic, artistic, aesthetic, ecological, and recreational purposes, including Plaintiffs'  
17 decision to refrain from fishing in the Rio Grande and eating the fish from the Rio Grande, due to  
18 concerns about an advisory issued by NMED that PCBs are present in fish in the Rio Grande and  
19 concerns about additional pollutants from LANL being present in fish in the Rio Grande); (2)  
20 Plaintiffs' concrete interests in working to protect and restore the natural resources and biological  
21 integrity of the Rio Grande watershed; and (3) Plaintiffs' ability to inform and educate members  
22 of the public about the contamination issues emanating from LANL (LANL's failure to comply  
23  
24  
25  
26

1 with the monitoring and reporting requirements is keeping Plaintiffs from obtaining, reviewing,  
2 and providing such information to the public).

3           27. Plaintiffs bring this civil action on behalf of themselves and their adversely affected  
4 members and staff.

5           28. If the Court grants the relief requested and orders LANL to comply with the terms  
6 and conditions of its NPDES storm water permit, then the harm to Plaintiffs will be alleviated.

7           29. Defendant UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY is a federal department  
8 and owner of LANL. As the federal department that owns LANL, the U.S. Department of  
9 Energy is the federal entity with ultimate responsibility for applying and implementing the  
10 federal laws and regulations challenged in this complaint.

11           30. Defendant SAMUEL W. BODMAN is sued in his official capacity as Secretary of the  
12 U.S. Department of Energy. As Secretary, Mr. Bodman is the Department of Energy official  
13 with ultimate responsibility for all actions or inactions of LANL officials challenged in this  
14 complaint. If ordered by the court, Mr. Bodham has the authority and ability to remedy the harm  
15 inflicted by Defendants' actions.

16           31. Defendant LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL SECURITY LLC ("LANS") is sued as  
17 manager and operator of LANL. LANS is a limited liability corporation made up of Bechtel  
18 National, Inc., the University of California, BWX Technologies, Inc., and the Washington Group  
19 International, Inc. As manager and operator of LANL, LANS has responsibility for applying and  
20 implementing the federal laws and regulations challenged in this complaint. LANS took over  
21 management and operation of LANL in June, 2006 from the Regents of the University of  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

1 California.

2 32. Defendant MICHAEL R. ANASTASIO, is sued in his official capacities as President  
3 of LANS and Director of LANL. As President of LANS, Mr. Anastasio has responsibility for  
4 ensuring that the federal laws and regulations challenged in this complaint are applied and  
5 implemented. As Director of LANL, Mr. Anastasio has the responsibility for ensuring that the  
6 federal laws and regulations challenged in this complaint are applied and implemented. If  
7 ordered by the court, Mr. Anastasio has the authority and ability to remedy the harm inflicted by  
8 Defendants' actions.  
9

## 10 BACKGROUND

### 11 LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

12 33. Los Alamos National Laboratory (“the Facility” or “the Lab”) is located in Los  
13 Alamos County approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Albuquerque, New Mexico and 25  
14 miles northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico.  
15

16 34. The Lab is bordered by Bandelier National Monument to the south, the town of  
17 White Rock and the Rio Grande river to the east, San Ildefonso Pueblo to the northeast, and the  
18 Jemez Mountains and the Santa Fe National Forest to the west. The Lab is upstream from  
19 Cochiti Pueblo.  
20

21 35. The 40-square mile Facility is situated on the Pajarito Plateau, which consists of a  
22 series of finger-like mesas separated by seven deep west-to-east oriented watersheds with streams  
23 that all flow towards and into the Rio Grande, an traditional interstate navigable water.  
24

25 36. These seven distinct watersheds on the Lab property, include (from north to south):  
26

1 (1) the Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyon watershed; (2) the Sandia Canyon watershed; (3) the  
2 Mortandad Canyon watershed; (4) the Pajarito Canyon watershed; (5) the Water/Canon de Valle  
3 watershed; (6) the Ancho Canyon watershed; and (7) the Chaquehui Canyon watershed.  
4

5 37. In May, 2000 the Cerro Grande fire, the largest fire in New Mexico history, burned  
6 for sixteen days on the Pajarito Plateau. The fire destroyed over 100 structures at the Lab and  
7 many homes in the nearby community of Los Alamos. The fire also burned tens of thousands of  
8 acres of adjacent forest and Pueblo lands including major forested portions of the seven  
9 watersheds.  
10

11 38. In LANL's own words, "the Cerro Grande fire changed the water resources  
12 environment by removing vegetation and surface organic layers, and decreasing the ability of the  
13 soil to take in water. These changes caused increased surface water runoff and soil erosion to  
14 adversely affect local water resources by accelerating the movement of contaminants in  
15 sediments transported in stormwater downstream of LANL."  
16

17 39. According to NMED, "the Cerro Grande fire burned 43,000 acres of land along the  
18 eastern flanks of the Jemez Mountains and on the Pajarito Plateau. Approximately 1,200 acres,  
19 nearly 80% of the upper Pueblo Canyon watershed was subjected to a high intensity burn." The  
20 fire resulted in a "complete loss of vegetative cover (overstory, understory, and ground cover)  
21 and intense heat created conditions that reduced the soil's ability to absorb moisture, thereby  
22 increasing runoff." These conditions "led to a greater frequency and magnitude of storm water  
23 flows in the canyons on the Pajarito Plateau."  
24

25 40. Since the fire, LANL has documented a dramatic increase in the amount of surface  
26



1 water runoff and erosion levels in the canyons.

2 41. According to LANL, despite “some successful watershed rehabilitation, storm water  
3 runoff and sediment yield increased significantly after the Cerro Grande fire.”

4 42. According to LANL, “flow volumes in Pueblo Canyon remain more than 5 times  
5 higher than the pre-Cerro Grande fire average.”

6 43. According to LANL, “[p]lutionium has moved down Pueblo Canyon, through Los  
7 Alamos Canyon, off-site across San Ildefonso Pueblo lands, and reaches the Rio Grande near the  
8 Otowi Bridge.” Other, “[n]onradiological constituents detected at significant concentrations in  
9 the Los Alamos Canyon watershed include [PCBs], benzo(a)pyrene, mercury, copper, lead, and  
10 zinc.”  
11

12 44. Surface and ground water from the Lab and the Rio Grande is a major source of  
13 drinking water for the region, including the cities of Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Los Alamos  
14 County residents rely 100% on the regional aquifer for their drinking water.  
15

#### 16 LANL’S WASTE DUMP SITES

17 45. For the past sixty plus years, LANL’s nuclear weapons testing, production, and  
18 industrial activities, i.e., high explosives testing and chemical and material science research,  
19 have generated an enormous amount of solid, hazardous, and radioactive waste.  
20

21 46. The waste generated by LANL includes high explosives such as RDX, HMX, TNT;  
22 volatile organic compounds and semi-volatile organic compounds; metals such as arsenic,  
23 barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, silver,  
24 zinc; inorganic compounds such as ammonia, nitrate, and fluoride; perchlorate; and PCBs  
25

1 (“contaminants”).

2 47. Once generated these contaminants are often dumped, discharged, and stored at  
3 various tanks, unlined pits and landfills, and material disposal areas (“MDAs”) located  
4 throughout the Facility.  
5

6 48. NMED, the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), and LANL refer to such  
7 hazardous dump, discharge sites, or storage areas as Solid Waste Management Units  
8 (“SWMUs”), Areas of Concern (“AOCs”), or Potential Release Sites (“PRs”).  
9

10 49. By definition a SWMU is “any discernable site at which solid wastes have been  
11 placed at any time, regardless of whether the unit was intended for the management of solid or  
12 hazardous waste. Such units include any area at or around a facility at which solid wastes have  
13 been routinely and systematically released, such as waste tanks, septic tanks, firing sites, burn  
14 pits, sumps, landfills (material disposal areas), outfall areas, canyons around LANL, and  
15 contaminated areas resulting from leaking product storage tanks (including petroleum).”  
16 Standard Operating Procedure (“SOP”) 02.01.  
17

18 50. An AOC is “any area that may have had a release of a hazardous waste or hazardous  
19 constituent, which is not [classified] as a SWMU.” SOP -02.01.  
20

21 51. A PRS is “a site suspected of releasing or having the potential to release  
22 contaminants into the environment. A PRS is a generic U.S. Department of Energy term that  
23 includes all SWMUs, hazardous waste sites . . . and sites identified as radioactive AOCs.” SOP-  
24 02.01 at 5.

25 52. For the purposes of this complaint, all SWMUs, AOCs, and/or PRs, will  
26

1 collectively be referred to as “sites” or “storm water sites.”

2 53. Originally, there were an estimated 2,093 documented storm water sites at the Lab.

3 54. By 1995 EPA determined that approximately 542 of these sites required No Further  
4 Action (“NFA”). NMED subsequently determined that an additional 146 sites qualified for NFA  
5 status. To date, approximately 688 of the total 2,093 sites have received formal NFA status.  
6

7 55. NFA status is given by the regulatory agency (now NMED) as part of the RCRA  
8 corrective action process. NFA status indicates a decision by the regulatory agency that no  
9 further investigation or remediation of a site is warranted because: (1) the site could not be  
10 located or does not exist; (2) no waste or contamination is associated with the site; (3) no release  
11 to the environment from the site occurred; (4) a release from the site occurred, but the site was  
12 fully remediated; or (5) the site was fully characterized and remediated in accordance with all  
13 applicable laws. SOP 02.01 at 9.  
14

15 56. At present, there are approximately 1,405 sites at the Lab that have not received NFA  
16 status. These sites typically include old material and liquid disposal areas, hazardous waste  
17 landfills, old dilapidated structures, contamination areas, dumping grounds, explosive testing  
18 sites, storm drains, firing ranges (active and dormant), septic systems, and seepage pits.  
19

20 57. In an April 1, 2005 submission to EPA (individual permit application), LANL states  
21 that there are approximately 1,300 sites (950 SWMUs and 350 AOCs) at the Facility that remain  
22 “active,” i.e., have not received NFA status.  
23

24 58. Following rain or snow melting events contaminants from these approximately 1,300  
25 to 1,405 sites run off into the soils, surface water, and shallow groundwater of the Lab’s seven  
26

1 watersheds and canyons eventually traveling down-gradient to the Rio Grande. These storm  
2 water runoff events are well-documented by LANL, NMED, and EPA.

3 59. According to LANL, stormwater runoff “is the principal agent for moving  
4 Laboratory-derived constituents off-site and possibly into the Rio Grande.” Such runoff can  
5 “redistribute sediment in a streambed to locations far downstream from where [a] release or spill  
6 occurs.”  
7

8 60. Data from LANL’s water quality database, a joint study between NMED and LANL,  
9 and NMED’s own data (both from the DOE Oversight Bureau and Surface Water Quality  
10 Bureau) confirm the presence of contaminants (i.e, metals, explosive compounds, organic  
11 constituents, PCBs and even radionuclides (RADs)) in LANL’s sediments, surface water,  
12 shallow groundwater, and the Rio Grande from these sites.  
13

14 61. At present, CWA regulation of storm water discharges from the approximately 1,300  
15 to 1,405 sites at LANL is covered under a NPDES permit Storm Water Multi-Sector General  
16 Permit (“MSGP”) Nos. NMR05A734 and NMR05A735 which became effective on December  
17 23, 2000 pursuant to 65 Fed. Reg. 64746 (hereinafter “permit” or “NPDES permit” or “storm  
18 water permit”).  
19

20 62. LANL’s storm water NPDES permit expired on December 23, 2005. However, it has  
21 been administratively extended pending the issuance of a new, individual NPDES permit which  
22 is still forthcoming. LANL must comply with the terms and conditions of the NPDES permit  
23 until a new, individual permit becomes effective.  
24

25 63. In the NPDES permit, most of the approximately 1,300 to 1,405 sites at LANL fall  
26

1 within sector K (hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities) of the permit but may  
2 also include: sector L (landfills and land application sites); sector D (asphalt paving and roofing  
3 materials); sector F (primary metals); sector N (scrap recycling facilities); sector O (steam  
4 electric generating facilities); sector P (land transportation); and sector AA (fabricated metals  
5 products).

6  
7 64. LANL's storm water NPDES permit includes a number of mandatory requirements  
8 for each of the sites, such as: (1) the requirement to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention  
9 Plan ("SWPPP") with effective pollution control measures or Best Management Practices  
10 ("BMPs"); (2) a site map identifying all potential pollutant sources and outfalls; (3) monitoring  
11 requirements; (4) numeric limitations on the amount and types of pollutants discharged; (5)  
12 sector specific requirements; and (6) various reporting requirements.

13  
14 65. In the course of reviewing LANL's NPDES permit for the sites at the Facility, EPA  
15 determined that LANL was failing to comply with the terms and conditions of its permit in a  
16 number of significant respects.

17  
18 66. EPA determined that LANL was failing to effectively monitor and control runoff  
19 from all of the sites.

20  
21 67. In response, on February 3, 2005 LANL and EPA entered into a Federal Facility  
22 Compliance Agreement ("FFCA") for the sites.

23  
24 68. The purpose of the FFCA was to establish a program and schedule of compliance for  
25 regulation of storm water discharges from all sites (i.e., SWMUs, AOCs, and PRSs) at LANL  
26 until EPA issues a new individual NPDES storm water permit to regulate those discharges.

1 69. In the FFCA, EPA determined that the unique nature and sheer volume of the number  
2 of industrial storm water sites at LANL warranted the issuance of an individual NPDES permit  
3 for such sites (as opposed to a MSGP).  
4

5 70. The FFCA is designed to bring LANL into compliance with the CWA until a new,  
6 individual NPDES permit is issued.

7 71. During the time the FFCA is in effect, and until a new individual permit becomes  
8 effective, LANL must continue to comply with all terms and conditions of its current NPDES  
9 permit.  
10

11 72. The FFCA requires LANL to implement pollution control measures and monitoring  
12 at all sites that scored over 40 on LANL's Erosion Matrix Score ("EMS") assessment.

13 73. Pursuant to SOP 02.01, LANL evaluated approximately 1,336 sites using its EMS  
14 assessment to determine whether a particular site has the potential to adversely affect surface  
15 water quality. LANL initiated the EMS assessment procedure in 1997.  
16

17 74. The EMS examines whether a particular site "has the potential to adversely affect  
18 surface-water quality." SOP 02.01 at 4. This examination includes: (1) taking sediment and  
19 surface water samples (if available) to test for constituents; (2) documenting the location of the  
20 site (i.e., in the canyon floor, in channel of canyon, or on a mesa top); (3) taking photographs of  
21 the site (to document the field characteristics); (4) documenting the "percentage of canopy and  
22 ground cover" present at the site; (5) documenting the slope of the site; and (6) and applying  
23 various "runoff factors." SOP 02.01 at Attach. B. The runoff factors include looking at whether  
24 there is "visible evidence of water and/or sediment discharging from the [site]," whether the  
25  
26

1 runoff is channelized, where the runoff terminates, and whether the runoff has caused visible  
2 erosion.

3  
4 75. After completion of the EMS assessment, each of the 1,336 sites assessed were given  
5 an EMS “score” and categorized as to their low, medium, or high potential for constituents to  
6 migrate off-site. If the score was equal to or less than 40, then the site was put in the “low  
7 potential” category. This means the site is considered to have a low potential for constituents in  
8 surface water and/or sediment in storm water runoff to migrate off the site and impact surface  
9 water quality. Approximately 1,042 sites at LANL were put in this “low potential” category.  
10

11 76. Sites that scored between 40 and 60 on the EMS assessment were put into a “medium  
12 potential” category. This means that the site is considered to have a medium potential for  
13 constituents in surface water and/or sediment in stormwater runoff to migrate off the site and  
14 impact surface water quality. Approximately a 196 sites were put into this category.  
15

16 77. Sites that scored over 60 on the EMS assessment were put into the “high potential”  
17 category. These are sites that are considered to have a high potential for constituents in surface  
18 water and/or sediment in storm water runoff to migrate off the site and impact surface water  
19 quality. Approximately 98 sites were deemed to be high potential sites.  
20

21 78. In total, the EMS assessment process, required by the FFCA, identified  
22 approximately 294 sites that scored over 40 and thus, have a medium or high potential for  
23 constituents in surface water and/or sediment in storm water runoff to migrate off the site and  
24 impact surface water quality.

25 79. Pursuant to the FFCA, on April 1, 2005 LANL submitted an application for an  
26

1 individual NPDES permit to EPA to cover the sites. LANL's permit application sought coverage  
2 for approximately 1,300 sites, including sites that scored under 40 on the EMS assessment.

3 80. Since April 1, 2005, LANL has consistently revised the total list of sites to be  
4 covered by the new individual NPDES permit.

5  
6 81. According to LANL, the 2005 application required updating because "numerous  
7 corrective activities and data collection activities have been completed, site conditions have  
8 changed, and other implementation requirements of the FFCA have been fulfilled."

9  
10 82. In 2007, LANL revised the list of sites to be covered by the new individual NPDES  
11 permit, once again, after completing a new re-evaluation of most of the approximately 1,300 to  
12 1,405 sites and, in addition to the EMS assessment, applying a new "Clean Water Act Evaluation  
13 Process."

14 83. LANL's "Clean Water Act Evaluation Process" evaluates whether each site: (1)  
15 contains waste material received from "industrial" activities; (2) contains only radioactive waste  
16 which would be exempt from CWA regulation pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. §  
17 201 et seq.); (3) is exposed to storm water (e.g., not capped or subsurface); (4) contains  
18 significant industrial material (e.g., not cleaned up or remains with contamination in place); and  
19 (5) potentially impacts surface water.  
20

21 84. Following LANL's 2007 re-evaluation of the sites, and application of its new "Clean  
22 Water Act Evaluation Process," on December 26, 2007 LANL submitted a "final" list of  
23 approximately 283 sites that should be covered under the new individual NPDES permit because  
24 they meet all the criteria for regulation under the CWA. On January 18, 2008 LANL provided a  
25



1 list of approximately 153 additional sites that were not “re-evaluated” in 2007 and may need to  
2 be covered under the new individual NPDES permit.

3 85. At issue in this civil action are: (1) approximately 109 sites in the Los Alamos and  
4 Pueblo Canyon watershed that were re-evaluated in 2007 and determined to meet all the criteria  
5 for regulation under the CWA and coverage in the new individual storm water NPDES permit;  
6 and (2) any additional site(s) in the Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyon watershed that have  
7 impacted or have the potential to impact surface water quality.  
8

9 LANL’S STORM WATER SITES IN THE LOS ALAMOS AND PUEBLO CANYON  
10 WATERSHED

11 86. The Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons watershed encompasses approximately 57  
12 square miles and includes a number of sub-watersheds such as Rendija, Barrancas, Guaje, Bayo,  
13 Pueblo, Acid, Los Alamos (Upper, Middle, and Lower), and DP Canyons (hereinafter “LA/P  
14 Canyon watershed” or “the watershed”).  
15

16 87. The LA/P Canyon watershed, which is located on federal and San Ildefonso Pueblo  
17 land (the watershed crosses Pueblo land before entering the Rio Grande) contains numerous  
18 springs as well as perennial, seasonal, ephemeral, and intermittent streams all of which flow into  
19 and affect the Rio Grande.  
20

21 88. The LA/P Canyon watershed is a water of the United States that flows persistently  
22 into the Rio Grande, a traditional navigable water.

23 89. There are approximately 277 storm water sites located in the LA/P Canyon  
24 watershed. These are sites that have not received NFA status. These approximately 277 sites are  
25

1 known to LANL and were specifically identified by number in Plaintiffs' March 29, 2007 60-day  
2 notice of intent to sue letter.

3 90. Over the years, these approximately 277 active sites have generated an enormous  
4 amount of solid and hazardous waste in the Los Alamos/Pueblo Canyon watershed.  
5

6 91. When significant precipitation events occur contaminants from these approximately  
7 277 sites runoff into Los Alamos/Pueblo Canyon watershed's surface waters, soils, and shallow  
8 groundwater, and into to the Rio Grande.

9 92. According to NMED, runoff from Los Alamos/Pueblo Canyon watershed's sites has  
10 "contributed to contaminant releases within the canyon systems."  
11

12 93. Based on LANL's 2007 "re-evaluation" of all sites – including sites in the LA/P  
13 Canyon watershed – and application of CWA criteria (described above), LANL now states that  
14 there are approximately 109 sites in the watershed that meet the criteria for regulation under the  
15 CWA.  
16

17 94. The 109 sites in the LA/P Canyon watershed that meet the criteria for regulation  
18 under the CWA and are the subject of this civil action include: 1. C-00-020, 2. C-00-041, 3. 00-  
19 011(c), 4. 00-011(e), 5. 00-011(a), 6. 00-011(d), 7. 00-030(g), 8. 01-002(b)-00, 9. 45-001, 10.  
20 45-002, 11. 45-004, 12. 01-002(b)-00, 13. 73-001(a), 14. 73-004(d), 15. 73-002 , 16. 73-006, 17.  
21 00-019, 18. 00-018(a), 19. 03-055(c), 20. 00-017, 21. 00-017 (listed twice), 22. 43-001(b2), 23.  
22 C-43-001, 24. 01-001(f), 25. 01-003(a), 26. 01-003(b), 27. 01-006(b), 28. 01-001(c), 29. 01-  
23 006(c), 30. 01-006(d), 31. 01-001(d), 32. 01-003(e), 33. 01-003(d), 34. C-41-004, 35. 32-004, 36.  
24 32-003, 37. 02-003(a), 38. 02-003(e), 39. 02-006(b), 40. 02-007, 41. 02-008(a), 42. 02-009(a),  
25  
26

1 43. 02-009(b), 44. 02-009(c), 45. 02-011(a), 46. 21-013(b), 47. 21-013(g), 48. 21-018(a), 49. 21-  
2 023(c), 50. 21-027(d), 51. 21-027(a), 52. 21-024(i), 53. 26-001, 54. 53-002(a), 55. 53-008, 56.  
3 21-029, 57. 21-011(k), 58. 21-024(h), 59. 21-013(c), 60. 00-015, 61. 00-018(b), 62. 00-030(f),  
4 63. C-00-044, 64. 01-001(a), 65. 01-001(b), 66. 01-001(e), 67. 01-001(g), 68. 01-001(o), 69. 01-  
5 006(a), 70. 01-006(h), 71. 02-003(b), 72. 02-004(a), 73. 02-005, 74. 02-006(b), 75. 02-006(c),  
6 76. 02-006(d), 77. 02-006(e), 78. 02-008(c), 79. 02-011(b), 80. 02-011(c), 81. 02-011(d), 82. 10-  
7 001(a), 83. 10-001(b), 84. 10-001(c), 85. 10-001(d), 86. 10-004(a), 87. 10-004(b), 88. 10-008,  
8 89. 10-009, 90. 21-009, 91. 21-013(a), 92. 21-021, 93. 21-022(h), 94. 21-024(a), 95. 21-024(b),  
9 96. 21-024(c), 97. 21-024(d), 98. 21-024(g), 99. 21-024(j), 100. 24-024(l), 101. 21-024(n), 102.  
10 21-026(d), 103. 21-027(c), 104. 26-002(a), 105. 26-002(b), 106. 26-003, 107. 31-001, 108. 32-  
11 002(b), 109. 41-002(c), and any additional site(s) in the Los Alamos/Pueblo Canyons that have  
12 impacted or have the potential to impact surface water quality (hereinafter “109 sites” or  
13 “approximately 109 sites”)  
14

15  
16  
17 95. On December 26, 2007, and in supplements in January and February 2008, LANL  
18 provided EPA documentation on each of the 109 sites as part of its application for a new  
19 individual storm water NPDES permit.  
20

21 **COUNT I**  
**VIOLATION OF WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

22 96. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

23 97. Pursuant to section 3.3 of the NPDES permit, discharges from the approximately 109  
24 sites “must not be causing or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to a violation of  
25

1 a water quality standard.” Where “a discharge is already authorized under [a] permit and is later  
2 determined to cause or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to the violation of an  
3 applicable water quality standard . . . [LANL] must take all necessary actions to ensure future  
4 discharges do not cause or contribute to the violation of a water quality standard.” NPDES permit  
5 § 3.3.  
6

7 98. Pursuant to section 313 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1323, LANL must comply with the  
8 State of New Mexico’s regulations (20.6.2 NMAC) and the State of New Mexico’s Standards for  
9 Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters (20.6.4 NMAC).  
10

11 99. LANL has violated, and continues to violate section 3.3 of the NPDES permit and  
12 section 313 of the CWA, both of which qualify as “effluent standards or limitations” pursuant to  
13 505(a)(1) and 505(f)(6) of the CWA.  
14

15 100. Storm water discharges from the approximately 109 sites have caused, are causing,  
16 and/or have a reasonable potential to continue to cause or contribute to the violation of New  
17 Mexico’s water quality standards for PCBs in Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons.  
18

19 101. The PCB water quality standard to protect human health in Los Alamos and Pueblo  
20 Canyons is 0.00064 micrograms per liter (“ug/L”) or .64 nanograms per liter (“ng/L”) (water  
21 quality data from LANL and NMED is expressed in either ug/L or ng/L).  
22

23 102. The PCB water quality standard to protect wildlife habitat in Los Alamos and  
24 Pueblo Canyons is 0.014 ug/L or 14 ng/L.  
25

26 103. Storm water monitoring data from LANL and the New Mexico Environment  
Department (“NMED”) shows that discharges from the approximately 109 Sites have caused, are

1 causing, and have a reasonable potential to continue to cause or contribute to violations of the  
2 PCB water quality standards for human health and wildlife habitat.

3 104. LANL's and NMED's storm water monitoring data from LA-SMA-2 which  
4 monitors storm water discharges from SWMU number 01-001(f) (an old septic tank at hillside  
5 140) detected PCBs at levels up to 38,000 times the water quality standard.

7 105. On August 6, 2004, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 1,600  
8 ng/L.

9 106. On August 15, 2004, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 2,400  
10 ng/L.

11 107. On August 18, 2004, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 3,800  
12 ng/L.

13 108. On August 20, 2004, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 2,200  
14 ng/L.

15 109. On May 3, 2005, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 8,700  
16 ng/L.

17 110. On August 4, 2005, PCBs at LA-SMA-2(B) were detected at concentrations of  
18 8,100 ng/L.

19 111. On August 11, 2005, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 5,580  
20 ng/L.

21 112. On August 22, 2005, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 8,900  
22 ng/L.

1 113. On September 28, 2005, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 76  
2 ng/L.

3 114. On July 21, 2006, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 2,400  
4 ng/L.

5 115. On September 6, 2006, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of  
6 7,900 ng/L.

7 116. On May 2, 2007, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 5,100  
8 ng/L.

9 117. On May 8, 2007, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 4,900  
10 ng/L.

11 118. On May 13, 2007, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 16,300  
12 ng/L.

13 119. On August 18, 2007, PCBs at LA-SMA-2 were detected at concentrations of 24,800  
14 ng/L.

15 120. On August 18, 2004, PCBs at LA-SMA-5 were detected at concentrations of 280  
16 ng/L.

17 121. On August 1, 2006, PCBs at LA-SMA-5 were detected at concentrations of 380  
18 ng/L.

19 122. On September 11, 2006, PCBs at LA-SMA-5 were detected at concentrations of 260  
20 ng/L.

21 123. On July 24, 2004, PCBs at LA-SMA-6 were detected at concentrations of 58 ng/L.

1 124. On July 3, 2006, PCBs at LA-SMA-6.5 were detected at concentrations of 680 ng/L.

2 125. On August 8, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon near Otowi Bridge were detected at  
3 concentrations of 300 ng/L.

4 126. On July 23, 2004, PCBs at LA Canyon above DP were detected at concentrations of  
5 120 ng/L.

6 127. On August 12, 2005, PCBs at LA Canyon above DP were detected at concentrations  
7 of 880 ng/L.

8 128. On October 19, 2005, PCBs at LA Canyon above DP were detected at  
9 concentrations of 62 ng/L.

10 129. On June 29, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon above DP were detected at concentrations of  
11 3000 ng/L.

12 130. On August 1, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon above DP were detected at concentrations  
13 of 66 ng/L.

14 131. On July 15, 2005, PCBs at LA Canyon above SR-4 were detected at concentrations  
15 of 960 ng/L.

16 132. On August 7, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon above SR-4 were detected at  
17 concentrations of 59 ng/L.

18 133. On May 13, 2007, PCBs at LA Canyon above SR-4 were detected at concentrations  
19 of 156 ng/L.

20 134. On August 8, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon below ice rink were detected at  
21 concentrations of 78 ng/L.

1 135. On April 24, 2005, PCBs at LA Canyon below LA Weir were detected at  
2 concentrations of 57 ng/L.

3 136. On August 12, 2005, PCBs at LA Canyon below LA Weir were detected at  
4 concentrations of 360 ng/L.

5 137. On August 5, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon below LA Weir were detected at  
6 concentrations of 68 ng/L.

7 138. On August 7, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon below LA Weir were detected at  
8 concentrations of 44 ng/L.

9 139. On August 8, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon below LA Weir were detected at  
10 concentrations of 82 ng/L.

11 140. On March 23, 2007, PCBs at LA Canyon below LA Weir were detected at  
12 concentrations of 120 ng/L.

13 141. On July 15, 2007, PCBs at LA Canyon below LA Weir were detected at  
14 concentrations of 440 ng/L.

15 142. On August 8, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon below Omega West were detected at  
16 concentrations of 300 ng/L.

17 143. On August 19, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon below Omega West were detected at  
18 concentrations of 202 ng/L.

19 144. On October 9, 2006, PCBs at LA Canyon below Omega West were detected at  
20 concentrations of 78 ng/L.

21 145. On May 13, 2007, PCBs at LA Canyon below Omega West were detected at  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26



1 concentrations of 118 ng/L.

2 146. On August 1, 2006, PCBs at Pueblo above SR-502 were detected at concentrations  
3 of 230 ng/L.

4 147. On August 7, 2006, PCBs at Pueblo above SR-502 were detected at concentrations  
5 of 81 ng/L.

6 148. On August 11, 2005, PCBs at P-SMA-3 were detected at concentrations of 740  
7 ng/L.

8 149. On August 22, 2005, PCBs at P-SMA-3 were detected at concentrations of 220  
9 ng/L.

10 150. On July 6, 2006, PCBs at P-SMA-3 were detected at concentrations of 150 ng/L.

11 151. In addition to LANL's data, samples collected by NMED from August 23, 2003 to  
12 August 24, 2005 at LA-SMA-6.6 (E030) show PCB concentrations ranging from 250 ng/L to  
13 16,900 ng/L.

14 152. Samples collected from NMED from September 6, 2003 to August 25, 2006 at  
15 E060 in Pueblo Canyon show PCB concentrations ranging from 82 ng/L to 2,490 ng/L, well  
16 above the wildlife and human health standards.

17 153. LANL states that PCB levels in the LA/P Canyon watershed were detected at "at a  
18 concentration estimated to be 70 times greater than the New Mexico human health standard and  
19 7 times the wildlife standard . . . [and] benzo(a)pyrene [was detected] in sediment samples . . . at  
20 11 times the EPA residential soil screening level and in a sediment sample from Los Alamos  
21 Canyon below DP Canyon at 22 times the residential screening level."  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

1 154. The LA/P Canyon watershed is included on the State of New Mexico's § 303 (d)  
2 list of impaired waters. The watershed is water quality impaired for PCBs.

3 155. On August 30, 2007 NMED's Hazardous Waste Bureau drafted LANL a letter  
4 concerning contamination in the LA/P Canyon watershed. In the letter, NMED states that LANL  
5 "has failed to comply with surface water quality standards outlined in the Clean Water Act (33  
6 U.S.C. §§ 1251 to 1387), the New Mexico WQCC Regulations (20.6.2. NMAC), and the State of  
7 New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters (20.6.4 NMAC), as required  
8 in Section VIII.C. of the [Hazardous Waste] Consent Order."  
9

10 156. In the August 30, 2007 letter, NMED states that they are "particularly concerned  
11 with the recent destabilization of stream banks and remobilization of contaminants entrained in  
12 sediment in Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons . . . .NMED's data collected from 2003 through  
13 2006 document that storm water in both canyons contains detectable concentrations of  
14 polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). . . .NMED's April, 2007 report also shows that suspended  
15 sediment from Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons reaches the Rio Grande during storm events  
16 with greater magnitude and frequency than before the Cerro Grande Fire . . .at least since the  
17 1950s."  
18

19 157. LANL's failure to comply with New Mexico's water quality standards in the LA/P  
20 Canyon watershed as outlined above is a violation of section 3.3. of the NPDES permit, sections  
21 313, 505(a)(1), and 505(f)(6) of the CWA, and the CWA's implementing regulations. These  
22 violations are on-going and are reasonably likely to continue.  
23  
24  
25  
26

COUNT II  
FAILURE TO CONDUCT REPRESENTATIVE MONITORING

158. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

159. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 122.41 (j) and section 9.16.1 of the NPDES permit, all “[s]amples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring *shall be representative* of the monitored activity.”

160. LANL has violated, and continues to violate, 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j) and section 9.16.1 of the NPDES permit by: (1) failing to collect representative samples and measurements from all of the approximately 109 sites; (2) only conducting monitoring at the “site monitoring area” or “SMA” level instead of at the 109 sites; (3) using one SMA to conduct samples and measurements from more than one site (e.g., ACID-SMA-2 is used to collection samples from 4 sites, P-SMA-2 is used to collect samples at 2 sites, LA-SMA-5.5 is used to collect samples from 9 sites, and LA-SMA-5.9 is used to collect samples from 5 sites); (4) failing to demonstrate pursuant to section 5.2.4 of the NPDES permit that use of an SMA to collect samples from two or more sites is justified because the two or more sites “discharge substantially identical effluents”; (5) treating the SMA – the “monitoring area” – as the “outfall” instead of the individual site(s); (6) designing SMA monitoring devices in such a way and placing SMAs in locations and at distances from sites such that samples from the SMAs are subject to significant dilution prior to reaching the SMA (e.g., P-SMA-2 is located approximately 600 feet from 2 Sites, at the base of a large, open, and steep drainage area); (7) using one, small SMA to monitor large drainage areas in excess of 30 acres (e.g., R-SMA-2 covers 796.846 acres, ACID-SMA-2

1 covers 52.661 acres, P-SMA-1 covers 30.051 acres, LA-SMA-5.5 covers 76.088 acres, and LA-  
2 SMA-5.9 covers 49.953 acres); and (8) failing to conduct any verification and/or follow-up  
3 monitoring for the approximately 218 “other” sites in the LA/P Canyon watershed.  
4

5 161. LANL’s failure to comply with 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j) and section 9.16.1 of the  
6 NPDES permit as outlined above is a violation of CWA sections 505(a)(1), 505(f)(6) and the  
7 CWA’s implementing regulations. These violations are on-going and are reasonably likely to  
8 continue.  
9

10 **COUNT III**  
11 **FAILURE TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY VISUAL MONITORING**

12 162. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

13 163. Pursuant to section 5.1.1.1 of the NPDES permit, LANL is required to “perform and  
14 document a quarterly visual examination of a storm water discharge associated with industrial  
15 activity from each outfall” except for exempted discharges, i.e., discharges for which a waiver  
16 has been obtained. An outfall – which is a “point source” – is the place “from which pollutants  
17 are or may be discharged.” 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.  
18

19 164. The visual examinations must be conducted at each outfall and “must be made  
20 during daylight hours” (e.g., normal working hours). NPDES permit § 5.1.1.1. Visual  
21 examinations must also be made of samples collected within the first 30 minutes of a storm or  
22 snow melt event (or as soon thereafter as is practicable but not to exceed one hour of when the  
23 runoff or snowmelt begins discharging from the facility). NPDES permit § 5.1.1.2. In  
24 conducting such examinations, the examiner should look for variations in color, odor, clarity,  
25  
26

1 floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, and other obvious pollution  
2 indicators.

3 165. If “no storm event resulted in runoff from the facility during a monitoring quarter,  
4 [LANL] is excused from visual monitoring for that quarter, provided [that LANL] document in  
5 [its] monitoring records that no runoff occurred. [LANL] must sign and certify the  
6 documentation in accordance with Part 9.7.” NPDES permit § 5.1.1.2.

8 166. With respect to “inactive and unstaffed” sites, LANL may exercise a waiver of these  
9 visual monitoring requirements if: (1) the “facility remains inactive and unstaffed;”(2) LANL  
10 maintains a certificate with its SWPPP stating that the site is inactive and unstaffed; and (3)  
11 LANL determines, in the certificate, that “performing visual examinations during a qualifying  
12 event is not feasible.” NPDES permit § 5.1.1.4.

14 167. LANL has violated, is currently violating, and is reasonably likely to continue  
15 violating, section 5.1.1. of the NPDES permit by failing to conduct and document quarterly (4  
16 times a year) visual examinations of storm water discharges at each of the approximately 109  
17 sites. The date(s) of these violations are the 4 times a year that LANL has failed, and continues  
18 to fail, to conduct the requisite monitoring. LANL violated this monitoring requirement by  
19 failing to conduct quarterly visual monitoring at each of the 109 sites over the past six years, in  
20 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

23 168. LANL has not obtained a waiver of the visual monitoring requirements pursuant to  
24 section 5.1.1.4 of the NPDES permit.

25 169. LANL’s failure to comply with section 5.1.1 of the NPDES permit as outlined  
26

1 above is a violation of CWA sections 505(a)(1), 505(f)(6) and the CWA's implementing  
2 regulations. These violations are on-going and are reasonably likely to continue.

3  
4 **COUNT IV**  
**FAILURE TO CONDUCT BENCHMARK MONITORING**

5 170. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

6 171. Pursuant to section 5.1.2 of the NPDES permit, LANL is required to conduct  
7 benchmark monitoring at each of the approximately 109 sites.

8  
9 172. Benchmark monitoring at each of the 109 sites was to occur between October 1,  
10 2001 and September 30, 2002 (year two of the permit) and October 1, 2003 to September 30,  
11 2004 (year four of the permit). LANL was to "monitor quarterly (4 times a year) during at least  
12 one, and potentially both, monitoring periods." NPDES permit § 5.1.2.1.

13  
14 173. With respect to "inactive and unstaffed" sites, LANL may exercise a waiver from  
15 these benchmark monitoring requirements if: (1) the "facility remains inactive and unstaffed;"(2)  
16 LANL maintains a certificate with its SWPPP stating that the site is inactive and unstaffed; and  
17 (3) LANL determines, in the certificate, that "performing benchmark monitoring during a  
18 qualifying event is not feasible." NPDES permit § 5.1.2.3.

19  
20 174. LANL has violated, and continues to violate, section 5.1.2 of the NPDES permit by  
21 failing to conduct benchmark monitoring at each of the approximately 109 sites. The date(s) of  
22 these violations are the 4 times a year that LANL has failed, and continues to fail, to conduct the  
23 requisite benchmark monitoring. These violations occurred first during year two of the NPDES  
24 permit, from October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002, and again during year four of the NPDES  
25

1 permit (from October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004) at each of the 109 sites.

2 175. LANL has not obtained a waiver from the benchmark monitoring requirements  
3 pursuant to section 5.1.2.3 of the NPDES permit.

4 176. LANL's failure to comply with section 5.1.2 of the NPDES permit as outlined  
5 above is a violation of CWA sections 505(a)(1), 505(f)(6) and the CWA's implementing  
6 regulations. These violations are on-going and are reasonably likely to continue.  
7

8  
9 COUNT V  
10 FAILURE TO CONDUCT COMPLIANCE MONITORING

11 177. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

12 178. Pursuant to sections 5.1.4 and 6.K (including Table K-1) of the NPDES permit,  
13 LANL is required to conduct compliance monitoring to evaluate compliance with numerical  
14 effluent limitations at each of the approximately 109 sites.

15 179. LANL has violated, and continues to violate, sections 5.1.4 and 6.K (including  
16 Table K-1) of the NPDES permit by failing to conduct compliance monitoring to evaluate  
17 compliance with numerical effluent limitations at each of the approximately 109 sites. Pursuant  
18 to the NPDES permit, LANL was to conduct compliance monitoring once a year during each  
19 year of the term of the NPDES permit. See NPDES permit § 6.K.5. The date(s) of these  
20 violations are the one time a year, over the past five years, that LANL has failed, and continues to  
21 fail, to conduct the requisite compliance monitoring. LANL has violated this monitoring  
22 requirement by failing to conduct compliance monitoring in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and  
23 2007.  
24  
25

1 180. LANL's failure to comply with sections 5.1.4 and 6.K (including Table K-1) of the  
2 NPDES permit as outlined above is a violation of CWA sections 505(a)(1), 505(f)(6) and the  
3 CWA's implementing regulations. These violations are on-going and are reasonably likely to  
4 continue.  
5

6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

COUNT VI  
REPORTING VIOLATIONS

181. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

182. Pursuant to section 7.1 of the NPDES permit LANL is required to "submit  
analytical monitoring results obtained from each outfall associated with industrial activity . . . on  
a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form (one form must be submitted for each storm event  
sampled)."

183. LANL has violated, and continues to violate, section 7.1 of the NPDES permit.  
LANL has failed to submit DMRs for the approximately 109 sites. Under the NPDES permit,  
such DMRs for monitoring of numeric limitations are to be submitted to the EPA by the 28<sup>th</sup> day  
of the month following the monitoring period. For the past 6 years, LANL has failed, and  
continues to fail, to submit DMRs for the 109 sites by the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the  
monitoring period. These violations occurred approximately 12 times a year (i.e., on a monthly  
basis) in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. For benchmark monitoring, LANL is to save  
and submit its results for the first monitoring year (2001-2002) by January 28, 2003 and save and  
submit its results for the second monitoring year (2003 - 2004) by January 28, 2005. The  
violations for reporting benchmark monitoring occurred on January 28, 2003 and January 28,



1 2005 for each parameter. These violations are on-going.

2 184. LANL's failure to comply with sections 7.1 of the NPDES permit as outlined  
3 above is a violation of CWA sections 505(a)(1), 505(f)(6) and the CWA's implementing  
4 regulations. These violations are on-going and are reasonably likely to continue.  
5

6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
COUNT VII  
POLLUTION CONTROL VIOLATIONS

185. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

186. Pursuant to section 4.3 of the NPDES permit, LANL must maintain all best  
management practices ("BMPs") used to control pollution from the approximately 109 sites "in  
effective operating condition." If "site inspections . . . identify BMPs that are not operating  
effectively, maintenance must be performed before the next anticipated storm event, or as  
necessary to maintain the continued effectiveness of storm water controls." NPDES permit § 4.3.

187. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(e), LANL "shall at all times properly operate and  
maintain all . . . systems of treatment and control . . . which are installed or used . . . to achieve  
compliance with the conditions of [a] permit."

188. LANL has violated, and continues to violate, section 4.3 of the NPDES permit and  
40 C.F.R. § 122.41 (e) by failing to maintain effective BMPs for the approximately 109 sites.  
All of the 109 sites have BMPs in place but still have a medium or high potential to discharge  
pollutants to Los Alamos/Pueblo Canyons based on LANL's erosion matrix scoring (EMS)  
system. For example, Site 00-011 (a), a mortar impact area in Rendija Canyon, has BMPs in  
place but received an EMS score of 87.0. Site 01-001 (f), an old septic tank (hillside 140), has

1 BMPs in place but is still a major source of PCB contamination in Los Alamos Canyon.

2 189. LANL's failure to comply with section 4.3 of the NPDES permit and 40 C.F.R. §  
3 122.41 (e) as outlined above is a violation of CWA sections 505(a)(1), 505(f)(6) and the CWA's  
4 regulations. These violations are on-going and are reasonably likely to continue.  
5

6 COUNT VIII  
7 UNPERMITTED DISCHARGES

8 190. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

9 191. Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1311(a), prohibits the discharge of any  
10 pollutant from a point source into navigable waters of the United States, unless pursuant to the  
11 terms of a NPDES permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1342.

12 192. Pursuant to the MSGP, LANL is only authorized to discharge stormwater from  
13 those sites that are "specifically identified by outfall or discharge location in the SWPPP."  
14

15 193. LANL has discharged and continues to discharge pollutants from one or more sites  
16 in the LA/P Canyon watershed at the Lab that are not covered by its NPDES permit. These sites  
17 include the specific sites listed in Plaintiff's March 29, 2007 notice letter, additional sites that are  
18 known, or should be known, to LANL, and additional sites that will be discovered through the  
19 discovery process.  
20

21 194. Following significant precipitation events contaminants from sites not covered by  
22 an NPDES permit run off into the soils, surface water, and shallow groundwater of the LA/P  
23 Canyon watershed and into to the Rio Grande. Discharges from each of the sites represents an  
24 unauthorized discharge under the CWA because they are not covered by, or identified in,  
25

1 LANL's MSGP.

2 195. These violations will continue to occur when significant precipitation events occur  
3 (even when such events produce less than 0.1 inch of rain) and until corrective action is taken.  
4

5 196. LANL's unauthorized discharges are violations of sections 301, 505(a)(1), and  
6 505(f)(1) of the CWA and the CWA's regulations. These violations are on-going and are  
7 reasonably likely to continue.

8 PRAYER FOR RELIEF

9 196. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the allegations of all foregoing  
10 paragraphs.  
11

12 197. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court grant the following  
13 relief:

14 A. Issue a declaratory judgment that LANL's actions and/or inactions, as alleged in this  
15 complaint, have violated, and continue to violate the CWA and the CWA's implementing  
16 regulations;  
17

18 B. Issue a mandatory injunction requiring LANL to comply fully with the CWA and  
19 CWA's implementing regulations, as alleged in this complaint, including the terms and  
20 conditions of the NPDES permit and New Mexico's water quality standards in Los Alamos and  
21 Pueblo Canyons;  
22

23 C. Issue an order assessing civil penalties for violating the terms and conditions of the  
24 NPDES permit, the CWA, and the CWA's implementing regulations pursuant to section 309(d)  
25 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d);  
26

1 D. Issue such declaratory and/or injunctive relief, including remediation of the sites to  
2 ensure compliance with effluent standards pursuant to sections 505(a)(1), 505(f)(6), and such  
3 other relief as Plaintiffs may subsequently request or that this Court may deem appropriate;  
4

5 E. Retain continuing jurisdiction of this matter until LANL fully remedies the violations  
6 of law complained of herein;

7 F. Grant Plaintiffs their costs and expenses of litigation, including reasonable attorneys'  
8 fees pursuant to section 505(d) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d);  
9

10 G. Grant such other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

11 Respectfully submitted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.  
12

13 /s/ Megan Anderson  
14 Megan Anderson, *pro hac vice*  
15 Erik Schlenker-Goodrich  
16 Matthew K. Bishop  
17 Western Environmental Law Center

18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs