



CFFB01
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
27TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

DESBY
ROJ

05 APR 2001

Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas L. Desport
Commander, 27th Civil Engineer Squadron
506 N DL Ingram Blvd
Cannon AFB NM 88103-5003

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (6EN-WC)
US Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
EPA SW MSGP
PO Box 50625
Dallas TX 75205



To Whom It May Concern

In accordance with provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for industrial activities, Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) hereby notifies your agency of a discharge involving a reportable quantity. On 7 Mar 01, your agency issued Cannon AFB its NPDES storm water MSGP (NMR05A984).

Cannon AFB personnel became aware of the release on 23 Mar 01. A black, sticky petroleum product was noticed at the outfall of a storm sewer pipe. This pipe discharges to a remote, on-site playa lake. Drainage ditches leading into the lake are designated as waters of the US; the lake itself is classified as a wetland. The lake is normally dry, only containing water during storm events. Water does not discharge out of the lake. The source of the discharge was an asphalt emulsion used during an asphalt paving project. This project involved spraying an asphalt emulsion on the base course prior to laying the asphalt surface. Although sandbags were placed around the storm drain inlet closest to the project site before paving began, heavy rains shortly after the application of the asphalt emulsion carried the petroleum to a storm drain several hundred feet from the project site. The release, estimated to be well under 20 gallons, likely occurred during the 17 Mar 01 rainfall event.

In regards to our response, on 27 Mar 01 Cannon AFB reported the release to the National Response Center (Report No. 560834). On 27 Mar 01, the prime contractor, paving subcontractor and local US Army Corps of Engineers resident office (contract administrators) surveyed the condition of the drainage ditch leading to the playa lake. Following consultations with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the contractor was directed to remove heavily stained soil within the drainage ditch. In addition, stained asphalt between the project site and the affected storm drain inlet was swept to remove as much asphalt emulsion as possible. The Cannon AFB storm water pollution prevention plan will be modified to identify this unauthorized release. Since the circumstances surrounding the release could not have been

foreseen, Cannon AFB does not believe measures to prevent a similar reoccurrence are warranted. However, we will continue to implement appropriate best management practices, such as the use of sandbags, at soil disturbing sites located near storm drain inlets.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Mr. John Rebman, Environmental Flight, at (505) 784-1099.

Sincerely



NICHOLAS L. DESPORT, Lt Col, USAF

cc:

NMED, Clovis Field Office (C. Romero)

NMED, Hazardous Waste Bureau (G. von Gonten)

NMED, Surface Water Quality Bureau (T. Hensley)

NMED, Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section (P. Bustamante)