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NEW MEXICO  
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*Hazardous Waste Bureau*

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RON CURRY  
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Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

July 22, 2010

Ronald Lancaster  
27 SOCES/CEA  
506 N. DL Ingram Blvd.  
Cannon AFB, New Mexico 88103-5003

**RE: REVIEW OF AOC 36 STATUS  
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO  
EPA ID #NM7572124454  
HWB-CAFB-10-002**

Dear Mr. Lancaster:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received a letter from the Cannon Air Force Base (Permittee) on April 21, 1994 stating that possible contamination was uncovered by a contractor while preparing a site for a parking lot. The contractor reported that the site appeared to be contaminated with petroleum or solvent products. The Permittee did not locate the source of the contamination. One sample of contaminated soil was collected and was analyzed for Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP suite), volatile organic compounds (VOCs); and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX). Only barium was detected in the sample, at 1.8 mg/L. The results of this phase of work were inconclusive. The Permittee stated the site would be referred to as "Area of Concern (AOC) number 36".

NMED received *Corrective Measure Implementation Work Plan for SWMU 48a (Site ST-26) and AOC 36* on November 21, 2007. The work plan indicated that AOC 36 is 72 feet southeast of Building 214 and was currently covered by an asphalt parking lot. The Permittee stated that potential contamination could be a remnant of an old Auto Hobby Shop or a disposal site for fluids from an aircraft engine maintenance shop in the early 1950s. However, the waste

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management practices of the Auto Hobby Shop and the aircraft engine maintenance shop are unknown. NMED approved the work plan on February 6, 2009.

NMED received Site *ST-26 (SWMU 48A) and AOC 36 Corrective Measures Implementation Site Closure Report* on November 20, 2008. Seven borings were advanced to 20 feet below ground surface (bgs) within and along the perimeter of the site known as AOC 36. Two soil samples from each boring were selected for analyses based on field screening results and observations. Four of the TAL metals (aluminum, barium, lead and potassium) were detected at concentrations slightly above Cannon Air Force Base's (CAFB) background levels. VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) and target analyte list (TAL) metals were detected at concentrations less than NMED Residential Soil Screening Levels (SSLs) (Revision 5.0, updated December, 2009). NMED approved the report on November 23, 2009.

NMED conducted a Tier 1 risk screening evaluation and found that none of the chemicals or metals that were detected at depths of ten feet or less bgs pose an unacceptable risk to human health. Barium is the only detected analyte considered to be a chemical of potential ecological concern (COPEC). However, barium was detected at a concentration that slightly exceeded CAFB's background levels in only one of fourteen soil samples.

AOC 36 was adequately characterized in accordance with applicable regulations and the available data indicate that contaminants do not pose an unacceptable level of risk to human health and the environment. No corrective action is required at the site known as AOC 36.

Please contact Pat Stewart at (505) 476-6059, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Program Manager  
Permits Management Program  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
P. Stewart, NMED HWB  
H. Hanson, CAFB  
File: CAFB 2010 and Reading