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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 29, 2016

Colonel Douglas W. Gilpin
Commander, 27th Special Operations
Mission Support Group
110 E. Alison Avenue, Suite 1098
Cannon Air Force Base
New Mexico, 88103

**RE: CORRECTIVE ACTION STATUS
DEFERRAL FOR PLAYA LAKE (SWMU 103)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID # NM7572124454
HWB-CAFB-15-004**

Dear Col. Gilpin:

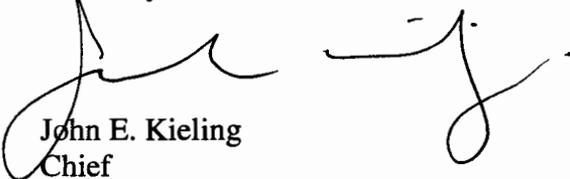
The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received Cannon Air Force Base's (Permittee) *Corrective Action Complete Proposals for Two Solid Waste Management Units and One Area of Concern [SWMU 91, SWMU 103, and AOC A]* (Proposal), dated September 2013. NMED has reviewed the presented information and has concluded that the corrective action status determination at Playa Lake (SWMU 103) will be deferred. The basis for the deferral is outlined below.

SWMU 103 was submitted to NMED for consideration for a corrective action complete without controls status. The Proposal requested that SWMU 103 be moved from Cannon Air Force Base's (CAFB) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Attachment I, Table 1, Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and Areas of Concern (AOCs) Requiring Corrective Action, to Attachment I, Table 3, SWMUs and AOC's with Corrective Actions Complete Without Controls Status. Phase I, II, and III RCRA Facility Investigations (RFIs) have been conducted and approved by NMED for the playa lake; however, historic arsenic concentrations are greater than the CAFB site specific background concentration and the NMED residential soil screening level (SSL). Based on NMED's review of Proposal Appendix C: *Geochemical Evaluation of Arsenic in Soil at SWMU-103, Cannon Air Force Base*, arsenic concentration data for sediment and soil at SWMU 103 are

not indicative of natural background concentrations. Additionally, SWMU 103 currently receives treated waste water effluent from CAFB's waste water treatment plant (WWTP) which is permitted under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES sampling requirements for the WWTP do not cover all chemical of potential concern (COPC) analyses commonly implemented for corrective action investigations. Continued effluent discharge from the WWTP may potentially contribute to contamination in the playa lake; therefore, any corrective action complete determination is deferred until SWMU 103 no longer receives waste water discharges. Additional investigation may be required by NMED at a later date when the playa lake is no longer in use.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Gabriel Acevedo at (505) 476-6043.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: B. Wear, NMED HWB
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File: CAFB 2016 and Reading, CAFB-15-004