



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER



ENTERED

June 24, 2021

Christipher N. Gierke
Remedial Project Manager
AFCEC/CZO
506 N. Air Commando Way
Cannon AFB, NM

Mr. Ricardo Maestas
Acting Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg. 1
Santa Fe NM 87505-6313

Dear Mr. Maestas

This responds to the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) reply to the Air Force's request for an extension for submission of an update to the Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan for Cannon Air Force Base. NMED's reply was dated March 21, 2021 and the Air Force's request was dated January 13, 2021. The Air Force requested the 273-day extension for submitting the Monitoring Plan because accomplishing a complete update of the monitoring plan is outside the scope of the current contract. Therefore, the Air Force had to budget, and then begin the contracting process to procure a contract to address this requirement. Once the contracting process has been completed the Air Force will then proceed to the drafting, comprehensive review, finalization, staffing for signature, and final submission to NMED. This will not affect basewide groundwater monitoring, as NMED has already directed the Air Force to continue operating under the approved Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan until a update plan is approved.

NMED's initial request for an updated plan only asked for updated regulations to be incorporated, and increased frequency to annual sampling. That is why the Air Force prepared and submitted a proposed plan addendum, which was in the scope of the contract and could address NMED's request. The Air Force submitted its proposed plan addendum on September 25, 2019. NMED disapproved that plan by letter dated December 2, 2020 and requested the Air Force prepare an updated Conceptual Site Model and full plan update. The Air Force determined that it could not prepare the update NMED's Notice of Disapproval directed within the scope of the current contract. The Air Force programmed the full update and sought funding for it. Fiscal Year 2021 funds are available now and the Air Force can award a contract by September 15, 2021.

For the foregoing reasons, the Air Force respectfully requests NMED reconsider its disapproval of the Air Force's 273-day extension request (which, if approved, would extend the due date from July 31, 2021 to April 30, 2022) so the Air Force can prepare what NMED directed. The Air Force appreciates the valued working relationship established with you and the department. If you have any further comments or questions pertaining to the referenced document, please contact me at (575) 904-6744 or at christopher.gierke@us.af.mil.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gierke', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

C.N. GIERKE, GS-12, AFCEC
Remedial Project Manager

cc:
NMED, Gabriel Acevedo
NMED, David Cobrain
NMED, Benjamin Wear