



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY CENTER AND FORT BLISS
1733 PLEASANTON ROAD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916-6816

Ed Kelly
To Review
2004

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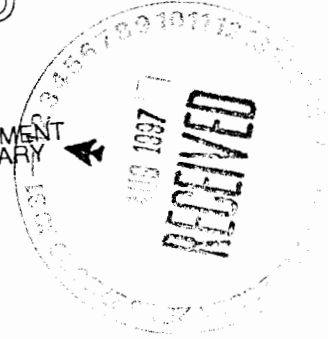
July 22, 1997

Directorate of Environment

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JUL 29 1997

NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



Dr. Ed Kelly, Director
Water & Waste Management Division
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

RE: Notification of Upcoming Compliance Sampling
US Army Air Defense Artillery Center
McGregor Range Open Detonation Unit
Operational Permit no. NM 4213720101-01

Dear Dr. Kelly:

As you know, we have been performing semi-annual compliance sampling at the McGregor Range Open Detonation (OD) Unit as required by the above-referenced Permit. Fort Bliss has now completed two years of semi-annual compliance sampling without finding significant changes in conditions at the Unit. We are now planning for the next compliance sampling event that is required in August 1997. We submitted a request for a Class II Permit Modification in February 1997 and the required fees to NMED in June 1997. The Permit modification was prepared to revise the scope of future sampling events to be more in line with historical findings, and to allow for continued assessment of conditions of the Unit as Fort Bliss experiences continued budget cutbacks.

In reference to the telephone conversation between Ms. Elda Rodriguez of my staff and Mr. Steve Pullen of your office on June 9, 1997, he indicated that the review of the modification may not be completed in time for implementation during the August 1997 sampling event. As they discussed, Fort Bliss has limited environmental funds available to continue the full sampling scope that is outlined in the Permit. Fort Bliss requests that NMED consider a waiver of certain sampling requirements for the August 1997 compliance sampling event while the Permit Modification is being reviewed and requests that the following items be waived from the August 1997 sampling:

Dr. Ed Kelly
2 July 1997
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- The deep soil boring in the middle of the Unit (4 borings have been completed to date without encountering groundwater or elevated site constituents at depth).
- Background samples (4 sets of background samples have been collected to date).
- Collection of samples for PCB's, free liquids, ignitability, pH and selected metals including arsenic, antimony, barium, beryllium, iron, mercury, potassium, selenium and silver (these constituents have not been reported above normal or background ranges during previous sampling activities).
- Blast pit sampling on the eastern side of the Unit where OD activities no longer occur and individual blast pits are not present. Thus specific sampling of the bottom, walls and perimeter of a blast pit in the eastern portion of the Unit is not possible. This would eliminate eight (8) sampling stations.

It is noted that the above items are included in the aforementioned permit modification request. Further, it is not believed that omission of the above items will compromise the August assessment of the OD Unit. Your consideration of this waiver is greatly appreciated. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Ms. Rodriguez at 915/568-6674.

Sincerely,


Dr. Jim Hartman
Director

cc: Mr. Steve Pullen, Geologist - RCRA Technical Compliance Program
Mr. Stuart Dinwiddie, Program Manager - RCRA Permits Section