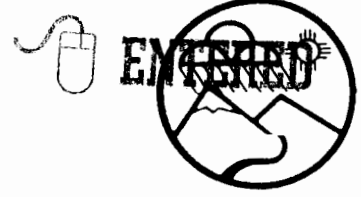




GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044 Galisteo
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505) 827-1557
Fax (505) 827-1544



MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 22, 1998

James R. Hartman, Ph.D.
Director
Directorate of the Environment
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
Attn: ATZC-DOE
Fort Bliss, TX 79916-0058

**RE: Fort Bliss (FB), McGregor Range Open Detonation (OD) Unit RCRA
Operating Permit Modification Approval: EPA Permit ID No.
NM4213720101-01**

Dear Dr. Hartman:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) has completed its processing of FB's Class II permit modification request for the above referenced hazardous waste management unit. For the reasons explained below, NMED hereby approves the requested modifications.

The OD Unit has been used to destroy expired munitions since 1965, was permitted in 1995, subsequently underwent compliance sampling and was found to have minimal environmental impact. This fact is the basis of FB's modification request to lessen permit compliance sampling requirements.

The modification request was reviewed by the HRMB and afforded public notice and comment opportunity in compliance with New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations. A public meeting was held in Alamogordo, New Mexico on February 19, 1998, and two 60-day public comment periods were held. No adverse public comment was received by either FB or NMED.

Unrelated to FB's modification request but found necessary by NMED, two sites, the McGregor Range Fire Training Area and the McGregor Range former Drum Storage Area, have been added to the HSWA Module of FB's Operating Permit. These sites were added due to evidence of hazardous constituents having been released to the environment.

James R. Hartman
Page 2

The effective date of the permit modifications referenced in this letter is the date on which you receive this letter. FB's copy of the modified HSWA Module language is provided as an attachment. You are required to incorporate the provided language into the original June 1995 permit and any copy of the permit kept at a information repository. An electronic copy in WordPerfect 5.2 is also provided. NMED has incorporated the modifications into its copy of the OD Operating Permit as of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions on this matter please contact Mr. Stephen Pullen of my staff at (505) 827-1558.

Sincerely,



Ed Kelley, Ph.D., Director
Water and Waste Management Division

enclosure

cc: Benito Garcia, Chief, HRMB
David Neleigh, Chief, EPA
Ismael Delgado, FB

Table 2: SWMUs REQUIRING AN RFI

Below is a list of the SWMUs requiring an RFI.

- SWMU 18 - McGregor "Rubble Pit" (Landfill No. 13)
 - SWMU 19 - McGregor Range Oxidation Pond
 - SWMU 20 - Inactive Open Detonation Area
 - SWMU 25 - Oro Grande "Rubble Pit" (Landfill No.14)
 - SWMU 25B- Oro Grande Oxidation Pond
 - SWMU 27 - Dona Ana "Rubble Pit" (Landfill No. 12)
 - SWMU 27B- Dona Ana Oxidation Pond
 - SWMU 29 - Landfill No. 11
 - SWMU 76 - Meyer Range Oxidation Pond

 - SWMU 21 - McGregor Range Fire Training Area *
 - SWMU 22 - McGregor Range Former Drum Storage Area *
- * - SWMUs added in 1998