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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

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August 9, 2001

John Kieling, Manager
Permits Management Program
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2044 Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, NM 87505-2100

RE: Comments on U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, TX Petition for "No Further Action" for Six New Mexico Sites, EPA ID No. NM4213720101

Dear Mr. Kieling,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, TX Petition for "No Further Action" for Six New Mexico Sites (the Petition).

Comments on the Petition are attached for your review. If you have any questions or require additional information on EPA's comment and review of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, TX Petition for "No Further Action" for Six New Mexico Sites please contact James Harris of my staff at (214) 665-8302.

Sincerely Yours,

David Neleigh, Chief
New Mexico and Federal
Facilities Section (6PD-N)

**Comments on U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and
Fort Bliss, TX Petition for "No Further Action" for Six
New Mexico Sites, EPA ID No. NM4213720101**

Section 3.7.1 Rational

The HQ values were exceeded for Barium. High concentrations of naturally occurring barium have been documented in New Mexico and West Texas.

Section 6.5.1 Nature and Extent of Contamination

1st Paragraph, Typographical Error: "Low concentrations or organic compounds..."

2nd Paragraph: Is the deterioration of the steel well casing a potential release mechanism to ground water?

Section 6.6.2.1 Human Health

2nd Paragraph: Typographical Error: "The UCL values are listed in the summary tables a the end of..."

Section 6.6.3.1

The section references elevated metals above EPA screening levels that may originate from deteriorated well materials. This indicates a well restoration or replacement program may be required.