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SANTA FE, NM -- The New Mexico Health and Environment Department will hold two public information meetings concerning the application for a hazardous waste storage permit submitted by Holloman Air Force Base. These meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 20 at 3:00 and 7:00 pm at the Alamogordo Civic Center, 800 First Street, Room AB, in Alamogordo. They will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about hazardous waste generation and storage activities at Holloman Air Force Base, and to comment on the permit application.

According to David Morgan of the Environmental Improvement Division's Hazardous and Radioactive Waste Bureau, Holloman Air Force Base currently operates a hazardous waste storage facility at the base under the "interim status" granted to facilities already operating when the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations became effective. The base is, however, required to apply for and receive a permit to continue hazardous waste operations.

The wastes generated and stored at Holloman result primarily from the painting of military aircraft and vehicles, and from parts cleaning operations in connection with the maintenance of aircraft, other vehicles, and electronic equipment. A maximum storage capacity of 12,760 gallons has been requested. Only waste generated on Holloman Air Force Base will be stored there. Some of the wastes are usable surplus solvents that are sold for commercial applications, some wastes are recycled, and some are treated and disposed of at commercial hazardous waste facilities.

Questions regarding the public information meetings may be directed to David Morgan in Santa Fe at 827-0582.