



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS 49TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO

25 MAR 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
Groundwater Protection & Remediation Bureau
Attn: Mr David Morgan
1190 St Francis Drive
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502



FROM: 49 CES/CEVE
550 Tabosa Ave
Holloman AFB, NM 88330-8458

SUBJECT: Disposal Alternatives - Unknown Chemical Materials

1. Holloman AFB recently accomplished a Remedial Action at Site OT-04, the Acid Trailer Burial Site. This is to advise you of recent actions taken at the site and to request your concurrence of the proposed disposal method for containers of unknown chemicals discovered at the site.
2. From 8-17 March 1994, Human Factors Applications, Inc., under contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, removed the acid trailer, 7,300 pounds of metal scrap (rocket motors, pressure cylinders, and miscellaneous surface debris) from Site OT-04. One trench, which formerly contained bottles of picric acid and other chemicals that were removed in 1991, was excavated further to determine if any other dangerous substances were present; none were found.
3. However, in the process of back-filling the trenches, five bottles of unknown chemical substances were uncovered: one quart bottle containing several ounces of liquid, two 16-ounce bottles containing solid substances, one 2-ounce bottle of an unknown substance, and one small vial containing a crystalline substance.
4. After being thoroughly examined with a geiger counter, and no radiation above background levels was detected, the containers were placed in a designated area at Site OT-04 and carefully examined by representatives from the base Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight (EOD) and Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight. A six-foot tall steel mesh fence, with barbed wire strands attached to the top, was erected to completely enclose the site. All trenches on the site were back-filled with clean soil.

- David faxed me this letter. I asked (copy) if this Bureau had any concerns and he told me that such small quantities could be handled by the SWRB.

5/9/94

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To STEVE PULLEN	From DAVID MORGAN
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5. Since some of the materials appear to have crystallized in the containers, and because picric acid was found in this location in 1991, EOD recommends these materials be treated on site with Plastic Explosive (C-4). EOD states that moving the materials from the site would be very risky. Because Site OT-04 is isolated from the main base area and the access roads are very rough, the materials cannot be safely transported in a vehicle. Further, hand carrying the materials would pose an unacceptable risk to EOD personnel. For the purpose of safety, we request your concurrence to thermally treat these materials on site.

6. Direct any questions or comments on this matter to Mr Warren Neff or Mr Randy Louvier at 475-3931.


HOWARD E. MOFFITT
Deputy Base Civil Engineer