



## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

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



MEMORANDUM FOR NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau  
Attn: Mr Ron Kern  
525 Camino de Los Marquez  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-6610

FILE  
NAFC/Kern/94

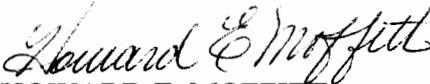
FROM: 49 CES/CEV  
550 Tabosa Ave  
Holloman AFB, NM 88330-8458

SUBJECT: Groundwater Monitoring for Holloman AFB Lagoons

1. This is in regard to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) groundwater monitoring program for the Holloman AFB Lagoons. We have collected no new groundwater sampling data during the past year; therefore, we will not submit an annual groundwater monitoring report this year. Sampling was delayed by the need to develop a site-specific monitoring protocol for the lagoons, and because of the implementation of the Total Environmental Restoration Contract (TERC) at Holloman AFB. (The TERC is now in place and will reduce contracting delays and increase the efficiency of the investigation and clean-up processes in the future.) The site-specific monitoring protocol is necessary because the lagoons have always been used to manage primarily domestic wastewater, which is rich in organic carbon. As you know, under the standard detection monitoring protocol, an increase in the levels of organic carbon in groundwater triggers the more intensive assessment monitoring phase. A current inventory of discharges to the wastewater system indicates less than 1% of the wastewater is industrial. Organic carbon in groundwater is thus a poor indicator of releases of hazardous constituents. In lieu of the annual monitoring report, we will submit a long-term monitoring plan which will provide a protocol for detecting and responding to releases of hazardous constituents. We plan to submit the monitoring plan, currently in internal review, in March 1995.

2. This course of action will be protective of human health and the environment for several reasons: (1) the lagoons are not receiving hazardous wastes, (2) the movement of groundwater is less than 50 feet per year, (3) the water is naturally unsuitable for human consumption, with total dissolved solids exceeding 10,000 ppm, and (4) the chemicals of concern, polychlorinated biphenyls and organochlorine pesticides, are relatively insoluble in water and, therefore, are unlikely to move. The Secretary of the Environment has already approved biennial monitoring schedules for several other sites at Holloman AFB. A release of hazardous constituents is exceedingly unlikely until closure activities beginning in 1997 disturb the materials in the lagoons, at which time it will be important to have an effective monitoring program in place.

3. Please direct questions to Dr. Fred Fisher of the Civil Engineer Environmental Flight at (505) 475-3931.

  
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49 FW/JA  
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