



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

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

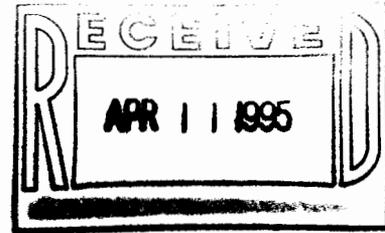
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07 APR 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR US EPA REGION VI (6H-CS)

Attn Mr Barry Feldman  
First Interstate Bank Tower  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

FROM: 49 CES/CEV  
550 Tabosa Ave  
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SUBJECT: Compliance Agreement Quarterly Report

XI



1. Pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section X--REPORTING AND EXTENSION section of the Compliance Agreement signed on 20 December 1988, we hereby submit the 25th Quarterly Progress Report (Atch 1). This report will provide a brief outline of events from 1 January-31 March 1995.

2. Documentation for the contents of the attached report is available upon request from the 49 CES/CEV office at Holloman AFB. If you have any questions or comments, contact Dr Fred M. Fisher (505) 475-3931.

*Howard E. Moffitt*  
HOWARD E. MOFFITT  
Deputy Base Civil Engineer

Attachment:  
Compliance Agreement Report

cc: w/Atch  
HQ ACC/JA (LtCol Cliff McKinstry)  
HQ ACC/CEVCM (Mr Larry Isaacs)  
HQ ACC/CEVRC (Mr Jim Haggins)

49 FW/JA (Mr Charles MacDonald)  
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Mr Ron Kern, and  
Ms Stephanie Kruse

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**Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement  
Twenty-Fifth Quarterly Progress Report, 1 January 1995-31 March 1995  
Civil Engineer Environmental Flight, 49 CES/CEV, 6 April 1995**

10 Jan 1995: Provided comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers (CoE), Albuquerque District, on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit application and New Mexico Discharge Plan for the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

12 Jan 1995: Headquarters Air Combat Command (HQ ACC/CEV) notified HAFB that release of the Final Environmental Assessment for the proposed WWTP will be delayed 90-120 days while a water balance study is completed to refine estimates of the effluent disposal capacity needed by the new WWTP. The goal of the study is to determine if the proposed evaporation ponds can be reduced in number or eliminated by making more use of existing wetlands associated with the natural floodplain (where Lagoon G is located) and by using irrigation or constructed wetlands. HQ ACC will hire a contractor directly through their Environmental Compliance and Analysis Services (ECAS) contract.

9 Feb 1995: Kickoff meeting for the water balance study with the ECAS contractor, Parsons Engineering Science, Inc (Parsons ES). Parsons ES indicates they will estimate effluent disposal requirements by constructing a hydrologic simulation model of the Lake Holloman watershed.

13-17 Feb 1995: Parsons ES in the field at HAFB collecting samples and background data. Samples are collected from various locations in the sewer system and the wastewater treatment plant to gauge the effectiveness of the sewer upgrade program in reducing infiltration/inflow into the sewer lines. Water samples from Lagoon G, Lake Holloman and Lake Stinky will indicate if these waters are, or could be made, suitable for irrigation. They also collected data on groundwater and surface water hydrology, 9 years of data on wastewater flow into the old WWTP, and 59 years of precipitation and evaporation pan data from several weather stations.

6-8 Mar 1995: CoE, Omaha District, contractors (Radian Corp, AGEISS Environmental, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corp) conducted a supplemental sampling of Lagoons A, B, C and D. Samples from A, B and C are intended to verify conditions in locations not sampled since 1990. The sampling of Lagoon G was intended to characterize newly accumulated sludge in locations where soil was sampled in 1992.

13 Mar 1995: Submitted the Project Assessment Report to New Mexico Environment Dept (NMED), US Environmental Protection Agency Region VI (USEPA), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This report summarizes activities and findings at the lagoons during the period of August 1990 to February 1995. The report supplements the previous Project Assessment Report published in August 1990.

14 Mar 1995: Received the draft of the Sample Quality Control and Summary Report for field sampling of the lagoons and lakes conducted by CoE, Omaha District, contractors during October 1994. Results will be submitted to regulatory agencies in the Site Characterization Report (see schedule of documents below).

24 Mar 1995: Received the draft Lake Holloman Water Balance Study from Parsons ES. The report indicates wastewater flow into the plant has dropped from 1.5 MGD in 1986 to 1.1 MGD in 1995. Improvements in sewer line integrity as a result of replacement and rehabilitation programs, and the installation of low water-use fixtures in housing units and other buildings, probably account for most of the reduction in flow. The model shows that storm flows produced in unusually wet periods are much larger than wastewater flows, and that overflow from Lake Holloman to Lake Stinky cannot be prevented under these conditions. Commitments for water to maintain wetlands and Lake Holloman as wildlife habitat prevent the use of effluent for irrigation during warm, dry periods in late spring and early summer. The model suggests that a combination of Lake Holloman, Lagoon G and downstream constructed wetlands may be sufficient to receive wastewater effluent. Further analysis is required to determine the size of the constructed wetlands. A meeting to review the report and determine the final configuration of the effluent disposal system for the WWTP is scheduled for 3 April 1995.

28 Mar 1995: Site visit by Parsons ES wildlife biologist, Dr Don Koehler, to evaluate the effects of effluent disposal options on wildlife habitat. Also present were representatives of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (Dr Gordon Ewing), the New Mexico Natural Heritage Program (Mr Charles Black), and HAFB (Dr Fred Fisher). The USFWS was invited but was unable to send a representative. The HAFB wildlife biologist, Dr Hildy Reiser, was also unable to attend.

The Mesilla Valley Audubon Society has a long-standing interest in maintaining waterfowl habitat at Lagoon G, Lake Holloman and Lake Stinky. The New Mexico Natural Heritage Program is under contract to HAFB to develop a plan to manage threatened, endangered and sensitive species at HAFB. As part of this contract, they have been conducting monthly observations of wildlife at Lagoon G, Lake Holloman and Lake Stinky for the past year.

Management for wildlife habitat was generally consistent with effluent disposal requirements. However, management for wildlife habitat does constrain the water level and the extent of fluctuation, especially during migratory seasons. Dr Ewing and Mr Black indicated they would provide written guidance to HAFB and Parsons ES. Management practices discussed are generally consistent with recommendations made by USFWS in a letter previously received 4 Aug 1994.

28 Mar 1995: Received a letter from NMED requiring submittal of a revised closure plan by 15 May 1995.

30 Mar 1995: Responded to 28 Mar letter from NMED that 15 May 1995 date was reasonable. Provided the following schedule of documents:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Document</u>	<u>Recipients</u>
14 Mar 95	Project Assessment Report	NMED, USEPA, USFWS
11 Apr 95	Groundwater Monitoring Plan	NMED (Mr Ron Kern), USEPA
15 May 95	Closure Plan	NMED, USEPA
6 Jun 95	Site Characterization Report	NMED, USEPA
20 Jun 95	Biological Assessment Report	USFWS
11 Jul 95	Risk Assessment Update	NMED, USEPA, USFWS
10 Oct 95	Corrective Measures Study	NMED, USEPA