

HAF B O O

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State of New Mexico

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 9, 2006

Kurt A. Chchowski  
49 FW/PA  
490 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 2800  
Holloman AFB  
N.M. 88330-8277



Dear Mr. Chchowski:

**RE: HOLLOWAN AFB, MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING (MFH) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

This transmits New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) staff comments concerning the above-referenced Environmental Assessment (EA).

Ground Water Quality

The proposed project at HAFB will involve the demolition of 730 existing housing units, construction of 597 new housing units, and renovation of 582 existing housing units over a period of 10 years.

Domestic wastewater generated at HAFB is treated in an aeration-activated sludge wastewater treatment plant. This treatment plant operates under a NPDES permit (NM0029971) and a ground water discharge permit (Discharge Permit 1127) issued by the NMED's GWQB. Wastewater generated by new and renovated housing units will be sent to the wastewater treatment plant. The volume of wastewater generated is expected to decrease by approximately 1.4 percent due to fewer family housing units at the base after completion of the project, and is not expected to have an adverse impact on the wastewater treatment facility. Wastewater service lines associated with demolished units that will no longer be used should be removed or properly abandoned.

Demolition and construction activities associated with the proposed project will involve the use of heavy equipment, thereby leading to the possibility of contaminant releases (e.g., fuel, hydraulic fluid, etc.) associated with equipment malfunctions. The GWQB advises all parties involved in the project to be aware of discharge notification requirements contained in Section 20.6.2.1203 NMAC. Compliance with the notification and response requirements will ensure the protection of ground water quality in the vicinity of the project.

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#### Air Quality

The Military Family Housing (MFH) Demolition, Construction, Renovation and Leasing Program is located on Holloman Air Force Base, Alamogordo, New Mexico. Holloman Air Force Base is located in Otero County, which is currently considered to be in attainment with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

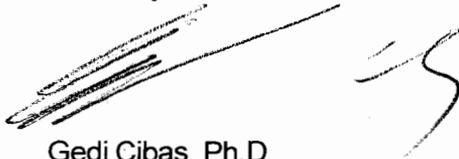
The project as proposed should have no long-term significant impacts to ambient air quality. During construction activities, dust control measures should be taken to minimize the release of particulates. Areas disturbed by the construction activities, within and adjacent to the project area should be reclaimed to avoid long-term problems with erosion and fugitive dust.

All asphalt, concrete, quarrying, crushing and screening facilities contracted in conjunction with the proposed project must have current and proper air quality permits. For more information on air quality permitting and modeling requirements, please refer to 20.2.72 NMAC.

Please be advised that older buildings may contain asbestos. Demolition of these buildings is regulated through the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart M. If you have any questions concerning asbestos please call (505) 827-1494 and ask for Ronald Duffy or Royce Wyrick or visit the New Mexico Environment Department website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/index.html> and click on the Asbestos link for more information. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gedi Cibas', is written over a horizontal line.

Gedi Cibas, Ph.D.  
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator

NMED File No. 2226ER