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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 17-01

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
January 25, 2017**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND INTENT TO APPROVE A PERMIT
MODIFICATION TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE/HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE
BASE'S RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT PERMIT
EPA ID# NM6572124422**

Under authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Section 74-4-1 *et seq.*, NMSA 1978, as amended) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) can approve or deny hazardous waste permits, closure plans, permit modifications, and amendments. Under this authority, NMED intends to approve, pending public input into this decision, a Class 3 permit modification to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Permit (the Permit) issued to the United States Air Force/Holloman Air Force Base (the Permittee) to change the status of 32 Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern from Corrective Action Required to Corrective Action Complete.

Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) is located in south central New Mexico, in the north-central part of Otero County, approximately 75 miles north-northeast of El Paso, Texas. HAFB has a population of approximately 3,050 (U.S. Census, 2010) and occupies approximately 59,639 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 17 South, Range 8 East. The U.S. Army's White Sands Missile Range testing facilities and White Sands National Monument occupy additional land extending north and west from the base. Private and publicly-owned lands border the remainder of HAFB. The major highway servicing HAFB is U.S. Highway 70, which runs southwest from the town of Alamogordo and separates HAFB from publicly-owned lands to the south. The City of Alamogordo is located approximately 7 miles east of the base.

HAFB was first established in 1942 as Alamogordo Army Air Field (AAF). From 1942 through 1945, Alamogordo AAF served as the training grounds for over 20 different flight groups, flying primarily B-17s, B-24s, and B-29s. In 1947, Air Material Command announced the air field would be its primary site for the testing and development of un-manned aircraft, guided missiles, and other research programs. On January 13, 1948, the Alamogordo installation was renamed Holloman Air Force Base. In 1968, the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing arrived at HAFB and has remained since. Today, HAFB also serves as a training location for the German Air Force's Tactical Training Center.

The Permittee is located at the following address: Department of the Air Force, Headquarters, 49th Wing, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, 88330. The Permittee's primary contact for the action is: Mr. Adam Kusmak, Chief, Installation Management Flight, 49 CES/CEI, 550 Tabosa Avenue, Holloman AFB, NM, 88330.

At HAFB, investigation and remediation of Solid Waste Management Units/Areas of Concern (SWMUs/AOCs) is conducted under both the Air Force's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) and the RCRA Corrective Action Program. The ERP program (formerly the Installation Restoration Program [IRP]) was initiated in 1983 and the RCRA Facility Assessment was conducted in 1987. The Permit was issued in 1991, became effective on September 25, 1991, and was reissued on February 24, 2004. A Permit renewal application was submitted to NMED on February 26, 2015. Since the Permit became effective, investigations and remediation of SWMUs/AOCs at the facility have been conducted under the Permit's RCRA Facility Investigation and Corrective Action guidelines. Table A of Appendix 4-A of the Permit identifies SWMUs/AOCs at the facility requiring corrective action. Table B of Appendix 4-A of the Permit identifies SWMUs/AOCs with corrective action complete (CAC) without controls. Table C of Appendix 4-A of the Permit identifies SWMUs/AOCs with CAC with controls. Initially, 265 potential SWMUs/AOCs were listed on Table A. Currently, 59 sites remain on Table A. The remaining sites have been transferred through the permit modification process to Table B. No sites are currently listed on Table C.

If approved, a proposed Class 3 permit modification would grant CAC without controls status for 28 SWMUs/AOCs and move these sites from Table A to Table B. It would also grant CAC with controls status for four SWMUs and move these sites from Table A to Table C. In addition, ten previously unidentified sites potentially requiring corrective action will be added as AOCs to Table A and one site, AOC-RR, will be moved from Table B to Table A because groundwater contamination has been confirmed at this site since its placement on Table B.

NMED's approval of the 32 SWMUs/AOCs proposed for CAC by the Permittee is on the basis that either no release to the environment has occurred or is likely to occur in the future from the SWMU/AOC, or the SWMU/AOC has been characterized or remediated in accordance with current applicable state and/or federal regulations, and the available data indicate that contaminants do not pose an unacceptable level of risk under current and projected future land use.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Administrative Record for this proposed action consists of the HAFB Permit Modification Request, Fact Sheet/Statement of Basis, this Public Notice, the draft Permit that consists of the proposed Tables A, B and C, and the referenced supporting documentation. The Administrative Record may be reviewed at the following location during the public comment period with prior appointment.

NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
(505) 476-6000
Monday - Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Contact: Pam Allen

A copy of the Fact Sheet/Statement of Basis, the Public Notice, and the draft Permit that consists of the proposed Tables A, B and C are also available electronically on the NMED website at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/HWB/hafbperm.html> under Corrective Action Complete. To obtain a copy of the Administrative Record or a portion thereof, in addition to further information, please contact Ms. Pam Allen at (505) 476-6064, or at the Santa Fe address given above. NMED will provide copies, or portions thereof, of the administrative record at a cost to the requestor.

NMED issues this public notice on **January 25, 2017** to announce the beginning of a 45-day comment period that will end at **5:00 p.m., March 26, 2017**. Any person who wishes to comment on this action or request a public hearing should submit written or electronic mail (e-mail) comment(s)

with the commenter's name and address to the address below. Only comments and/or requests received on or before **5:00 p.m., March 26, 2017** will be considered.

Dave Cobrain, Program Manager
NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
Or via e-mail: dave.cobrain@state.nm.us
Ref: Holloman AFB – 32 Corrective Action Complete (January 26, 2017)

Written comments must be based on the administrative record. Documents in the administrative record need not be re-submitted if expressly referenced by the commenter. Requests for a public hearing shall provide: (1) a clear and concise factual statement of the nature and scope of the interest of the person requesting the hearing; (2) the name and address of all persons whom the requestor represents; (3) a statement of any objections to the proposed action, including specific references; and (4) a statement of the issues which such persons propose to raise for consideration at the hearing. Written comment and requests for Public Hearing must be filed with Mr. Dave Cobrain on or before **5:00 p.m., March 26, 2017**. The NMED will provide a thirty (30) day notice of a public hearing, if scheduled.

The NMED must ensure that the approved final Permit is consistent with the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations. All written comments submitted on the draft Permit will become part of the administrative record, will be considered in formulating a final decision, and may cause the draft Permit to be modified. NMED will respond in writing to all significant public comment. The response will specify which provisions, if any, of the draft Permit have been changed in the final Permit decision, and the reasons for the change. This response will also be posted on the NMED website in addition to NMED notifying all persons providing written comments.

After consideration of all written public comments received, NMED will issue, or modify and issue, the Permit. If NMED modifies and issues the Permit, the Permittee shall be provided by mail a copy of the modified Permit and a detailed written statement of reasons for the modifications. The NMED Secretary will make the final Permit decision publicly available and shall notify the Permittee by certified mail. The Secretary's decision shall constitute a final agency decision and may be appealed as provided by the Hazardous Waste Act. All persons on the mailing list, or that provided written comments, or who requested notification in writing, will be notified of the final decision by mail.

The final decision will become effective thirty days after service of the decision, unless a later date is specified or review is requested under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, 20.4.1 NMAC, Section 901.F, *Hearings*.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Any person with a disability and requiring assistance or auxiliary aid to participate in this process should contact Vince Velarde, NMED, Room S-4303, P.O. Box 5469, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502-6110, TDD or TDY users please access Mr. Velarde's number via the New Mexico Relay Network at 1-800-659-8331.