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GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

January 31, 2022

Mr. Adam Kusmak
Chief, Installation Management Flight
49th CES/CEI
550 Tabosa Avenue
Holloman AFB, NM 88330

**RE: GROUNDWATER MONITOR WELL INSTALLATION, GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE
WATER SAMPLING, AND BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING ACCESS REQUEST, WINTER 2022-
SUMMER 2023
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID # NM6572124422
HWB-HAFB-21-005**

Dear Mr. Kusmak:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) hereby requests that the U.S. Air Force (Permittee) grant access to on-site surface water and existing and future groundwater monitoring wells on Holloman Air Force Base (AFB) for the purpose of collecting soil/sediment, groundwater and surface water quality samples, and biological (small mammal and bird) samples. The water quality samples will be collected by Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A), a NMED contractor, and the biological samples will be collected by University of New Mexico (UNM) Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB) personnel, under subcontract to DBS&A.

We are requesting access from the U.S. Air Force for the following activities, to be conducted between February 2022 and June 30, 2023:

1. Complete installation of up to ten new monitoring wells on Holloman AFB property, at locations to be determined with input from Holloman AFB personnel. NMED plans to complete all of the new monitoring wells during one drilling event, and estimates that the drilling, well installation, and development will take approximately 30 days. DBS&A will contact the U.S. Air Force at least 30 days prior to mobilization for coordination purposes.
2. Collect groundwater quality samples from approximately 25 to 30 monitor wells on a quarterly basis in 2022 and 2023. NMED will analyze these samples for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (collectively referred to as PFAS) and general chemistry parameters. NMED conducted the first Holloman AFB monitor well sampling event during the week of January 10, 2022, under a separate approved access request. The current request includes five additional

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groundwater sampling events to be conducted during spring 2022, summer 2022, fall 2022, winter 2022/2023, and spring 2023. NMED estimates that each water quality sampling event will take up to ten days. DBS&A will manage the purge water from the monitoring well sampling events, including containerizing, analyzing, and proper disposal. DBS&A will contact the U.S. Air Force at least 30 days prior to each sampling event for coordination purposes. NMED will coordinate with the U.S. Air Force to exercise its option to collect split samples during the sampling events, if desired.

3. NMED's contractor may also collect surface water samples at locations to be coordinated with Holloman AFB personnel.
4. Biological sampling of birds and small mammals will be conducted by UNM-MSB, as well as avian field observation. Locations for the biological sampling will include at and around Lake Holloman/Raptor Lake, the Sewage Lagoon Area Outfall, including Lagoon G, and the Apache Mesa golf course. These areas will be accessed from the U.S. Air Force Base (rather than by US-70). UNM has obtained collecting permits from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish that allows it to take protected wildlife for scientific purposes. These permits list the sub-permittees, means of taking wildlife, disposition, species, maximum number per site, and maximum number per year. NMED's contractor will provide the permits to Holloman AFB, in addition to reports providing the location, number, and species of animals collected during each trip.

NMED appreciates the U.S. Air Force cooperation in this effort. Please contact John Bunch of DBS&A at 505-353-9138 or Dr. Patrick Longmire of NMED at (505)-699-9015 if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Rick Shean, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Cc:

Rose Johnson, Innovation Coordinator
Dr. Patrick Longmire, Principal Aqueous Geochemist
Chris Atencio, Attorney Supervisor
Chris Catechis, Resource Protection Division Director
John Bunch, DBS&A
Amy Ewing, DBS&A