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GOVERNOR

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ENTERED

JUDITH M. ESPINOSA  
SECRETARY

RON CURRY  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 16, 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE-KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE *EH*

FROM: Edward L. Horst, Program Manager  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

SUBJECT: WATER WELL #9 - MERCURY METER SPILL

Located on the northeast side of an area known as "obstacle course 48100" is well #9. Well #9 is contained within pump house #30110 and is capable of producing 800 gpm of water. This water is stored inside water reservoir # 30119 which has a capacity of 33,960 gallons. The water that is produced services an area known as the "Manzano Area", which is a DOE training area, and is use for all purposes. Part of the water is sent up over the mountain range to another facility used by DOE but I am not sure what that area is called.

On Wednesday, June 10, 1992, about 3:00 p.m., Marsha Carra, Kirtland AFB employee contacted this office and informed us that a small mercury spill had occurred at well #9. The spill was contained within the pump house and there was about a pound of mercury spilled. Ms. Carra, also informed me that all necessary safety/health precautions have been taken and she was preparing to go to the site.

Thursday, June 11, 1992, Ms. Carra called back and stated that the situation was worse than expected and there was an estimated 8 pounds spilled and some mercury appears to have escaped from the pump house. Ms. Carra stated that a contractor by the name of Gary Williams was on site to evaluate the extent of the contamination and she would keep me updated. I stated that I would try and get over to see her and would like to visit the site on Friday, June 12, 1992, work load prevented me from going over on.

Friday, June 12, 1992, Walter Darr, manager of environmental affairs Kirtland AFB, contacted me and informed me that Gary Williams had completed an initial investigation with unpleasant results. It appears as though there is major mercury contamination inside the pump house and outside. According to Mr. Williams, Level A suite up was required for entering the pump house and Level

KAFB1225



B for the area contaminated outside the pump house.

Because of the conflicting reports, I asked Mr. Darr if they planned to work through the weekend and if so I would be over to see the area to talk with Mr. Williams. Mr. Darr call back and left a message stating that they were not going to work through the weekend.

Monday, June 15, 1992, I arrived at Mr. Darr's office and was escorted to the contamination site. Mr. Darr and Mr. Williams were informed that the contaminated area needs to be secured in a manner better than what was being done at the time. I suggested that signs be posted as to the contamination and not to enter the area and place some form of marker tape around the contaminated area. They agreed to better define the contaminated area and to post signs at all entrance points. Mr. Williams is in the process of developing a plan to remediate this site in accordance with the "mercury meter house sites" that the gas companies were cleaning up and to meet the same level of clean up, that is 15 ppm.

One major area of concern was that there is standing water, which is contaminated. Mr. Darr and Mr. Williams both requested that a pit be dug, properly lined and all the stand water be pumped into this tank, I agreed. I wanted them to be sure that the tank (surface impoundment) was properly built to prevent causing another area of contamination due to leakage or splashing over the berm, they agreed.

All water to the "Manzano Area" was stopped on Thursday, June 11, 1992, and all effected area personnel were notified not to drink any of the water. In checking with Mr. Don Jewell, Assist. Director for the training facility, found that bottled water is in use and that up until 11:00 of Monday all water was shut off and portable toilets were being used. Throughout the Manzano facility signs were posted "DO NOT DRINK THE WATER".

At present Kirtland is in the process of by passing well #9 and its pump house. There is a 6 inch line being place and was half completed during my visit. This line will service those areas that were serviced by well #9.

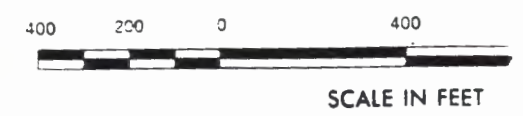
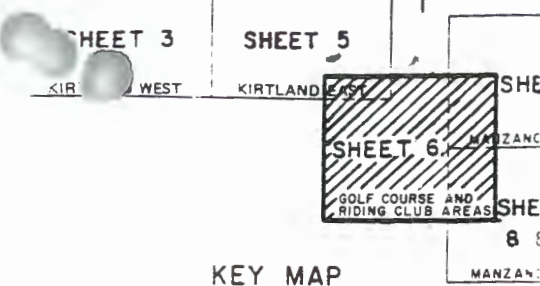
Most of the information obtained as done through the use of a mercury vapor meter (a screening device only). Additional water, soil and plant samples were taken to be analyzed. Some results have come in an the water samples taken from the "Manzano Area" appeared to be clean. I have not seen these results or the QA/QC on the sample gathering or the lab.

When additional information is obtained it will be forwarded.

cc: Kathleen Sisneros, Director  
Matt Baca, Director  
Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief

Garth Graves, Dist. I  
Herb Grover, HRMB  
Robert Gallegos, GWB





AIRFIELD ELEVATION 5

INWS = INTERSERVICE NUCLEAR

REV	DATE	DESCR
10	30 SEP 86	UPDATE
9	30 SEP 84	UPDATE
8	30 SEP 83	UPDATE
7	30 SEP 82	UPDATE
6	30 SEP 81	UPDATE
5	30 SEP 80	UPDATE
4	30 SEP 79	UPDATE
3	30 SEP 78	UPDATE
2	30 SEP 77	UPDATE
1	30 JUN 76	UPDATE

PLAN REVISIONS

20		
19		
18		
17		
16		
15	12 MAR 91	UPDATE RHS
14	30 SEPT 90	UPDATE RHS
13	30 SEPT 89	UPDATE RHS
12	30 SEPT 83	UPDATE RHS

**DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING**  
**MILITARY AND COMPREHENSIVE**  
**WATER SUPPLY**  
**KIRTLAND GOLF COURSE & RIDING CLUB AREA**  
 SCALE: AS SHOWN DATE:

**CONTAMINATION AREA**

**HEAD LINE**

**MANZANO AREA**

(ABANDONED WELL NO. 9)  
6" WATER METER INSIDE PUMP HOUSE 30110, NO. 1  
800 GPM

33,960 GAL. WATER RESERVOIR - 30119

OBSTACLE COURSE 48100

ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

YA DUMP SITE

