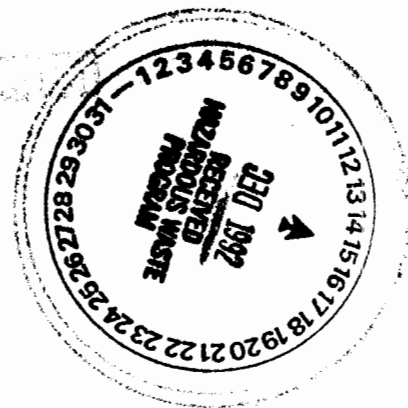


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**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**
Ecological Services
Suite D, 3530 Pan American Highway, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107



December 10, 1992

Cons.# 2-22-93-I-052

Ms. Barbara Hoditschek
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
State of New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Ms. Hoditschek:

This responds to your letter dated October 30, 1992, concerning final closure of the Battery Shop French Drain surface impoundment on Kirtland Air Force Base, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the draft closure plan, and offer the following comments for your consideration.

The primary contaminant of concern in the French Drain was lead, and boring samples of the site have determined that a localized "hot-spot" of this substance exists directly below the French Drain, at a depth of approximately 30 feet. According to the Closure Plan, no horizontal or vertical migration of lead was detected in samplings, and the French Drain has since been filled with concrete, precluding further sampling of the immediate site.

Sampling of the site also revealed noticeable levels of organic solvents believed to have originated from an adjacent, vehicle storage and repair area. Toluene, xylene, and methylene chloride were apparently detected in the area of the French Drain.

It is the determination of the Service that no federally listed or candidate species, or areas of critical habitat, exists in the immediate vicinity of the French Drain. However, the Rio Grande riparian area could be adversely affected by hydrocarbon contamination if this contaminant moves down gradient from the French Drain. The Service believes that clean closure of this site cannot be accomplished until all contaminant issues are resolved. This would entail verification that no lead plume exists, and cessation and treatment of the hydrocarbon contamination.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on this draft closure plan, and we hope that our comments are helpful in formulation of a Final Closure Plan.

KAFB1272




Ms. Barbara Hoditschek

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If you have any questions regarding these comments, or if we can be of further assistance, please call Clent Bailey at (505) 883-7877.

Sincerely,


for Jennifer Fowler-Propst
Field Supervisor

cc:

Ms. Michelle Miller, New Mexico Environment Department, Ground Water Section,
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Dallas, Texas