

July 2, 1994

Mr. Christopher B. DeWitt
Chief, Restoration Branch
377 ABW/EM
2000 Wyoming Blvd. SE
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5669

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

The New Mexico Environment Department has reviewed the Draft Tijeras Arroyo Limited RFI report, and we offer the following comments.

We believe a much clearer discussion of the laboratory QA/QC issues surrounding the data ought to be included in the text of the report. It is not explained why, for instance, one of the "background" results indicated 165,000 mg/kg chromium (p. 25), or why "anomolistically" high levels of various analytes in some of the samples are attributed to laboratory bias. I must admit that to date I have not had time to go over the appendices in detail, but even if this information is in the appendices, the key issues should be accurately summarized at the appropriate places in the text.

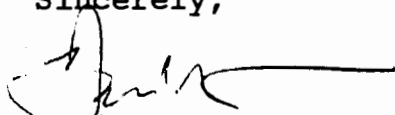
Similarly, it is perplexing that on p. 27, statistical scenario 1 is said to offer a better representation of background values, but maximum background concentrations were to be determined using the other scenario.

The QA/QC problems with lead at Study Area 3, the firing range, should be explained with particular care since obviously it is a principal potential contaminant there.

It seems surprising that methylene chloride could have been introduced during sample handling in the field, as suggested at Study Areas 5, 11, 12, and perhaps 6,7,9, and 10. Its absence in lab blanks suggests a little more attention be given to the question of where it came from.

If, however, these issues can be explained adequately and do not cast doubt on the validity of the data, we concur that the data in the report do seem to support the conclusions reached in Section 4.

Sincerely,



David Morgan
NMED DSMOA Group



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