



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 377TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)

ENTERED



377 ABW/EM
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE
Kirtland AFB NM 87117-5659

Ms. Nancy Morlock, Environmental Engineer
RCRA Permits Branch
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Ave, Ste 1200
Dallas TX 75202-2733

Dear Ms. Morlock

The Restoration Branch (377 ABW/EMR) has identified an area that has the potential to be a Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU), a previously unknown landfill near the Manzano Weapons Storage Area (MWSA).

The MWSA site was discovered by workers from Kelly AFB, Texas, during a trench excavation for a fiber optic line. Mr. Chris DeWitt, EMR, and Mr. Paul Baye, Natural/Cultural Resources Branch, viewed the area and noted a portion of the trench encountered a buried landfill. The natural material exposed by the excavation is a well-cemented, poorly sorted calcareous breccia/conglomerate. It represents a relatively extensive gravel sequence from an ancient channel of the Coyote Arroyo, and cementation may be the result of geothermal spring-related travertine deposition. It appears all the alluvial overburden was removed from above the conglomerate over a two-acre area; the removed overburden was then used to berm the area and cover disposed material. Materials exposed during excavation include wood, railroad ties, abundant metal fragments, cans and other storage containers, glass and general construction/demolition debris. The excavated soil is discolored by iron oxide staining. The actual area of the dump is approximately 400 feet in diameter, of an unknown depth. However, if the old channel cuts the conglomerate (observable in the present channel), burial depth could exceed 20 feet.

For your information, trenching and excavations around the MWSA site have ceased. The workers diverted the trench to a more westerly location.

KAFB1451



We will submit a SWMU assessment report within 90 days of this letter. Please contact Mr. DeWitt at (505) 846-2773/0053 if you have any questions.

Sincerely


THOMAS A. NORRIS, Colonel, USAF
Director
Environmental Management Division

cc:
377 ABW/EMN (Mr. Baye)
NMED-HRMB (Ms. Hoditschek)