

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Headquarters 377th Air Base Wing (AFMC)

ENTERED

11 Oct 94

MEMORANDUM FOR HQ AFMC/CEV

4225 Logistics Ave, Suite 8
Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-5747

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

SUBJECT: Combined Department of Energy (DOE) and Air Force Citizens
Advisory Board for Kirtland

1. Some of our local citizen groups want us to join with DOE in setting up a combined DOE-AF citizens advisory board for the base. DOE is already setting up a Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) under DOE guidelines. We are experiencing increased concern from the local community to establish a joint advisory board here because we and DOE are on the same base. We can understand the citizen groups wanting to attend only one set of advisory board meetings, even though we are two separate agencies.
2. The DOD/EPA and AF guidance we have received thus far directs us to set up a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) instead of a SSAB. However, we've heard that Ms. Marcia Read at Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Environmental Security) and Mr. Donald Beck at HQ DOE think a combined DOE-AF approach for Kirtland might be a good idea. Please provide us guidance on whether we should proceed with our own RAB or merge with DOE's SSAB here.
3. Additionally, DOE is paying an independent facilitator, the New Mexico Conference of Churches, to establish the SSAB at Kirtland, with the first official SSAB meeting set for January 1995. We have heard that the SSAB will address non-restoration issues like land use, new projects, changes in use for any facility or land, expansions, public safety and health, and even budgets. Under this SSAB arrangement, DOE will fund for a full range of technical assistance services, including independent advisors, office space, administrative and personnel costs, etc. We assume that, if the AF were to join in the SSAB group, we could be asked to provide some funding as well. Also, the SSAB is being established under Federal Advisory Committee Act guidelines, which we have been told should not apply to RABs. As you can see, several critical issues need to be addressed.



4. According to the draft charter, the SSAB wants government agencies to serve as *ex-officio* (nonvoting) members for their organizations. The Board also wants government representatives who serve on the SSAB to be "empowered to commit their agencies to take effective action or make policy commitments and to hold their agencies to such commitments." DOE has told the community organizers that this is unrealistic. The SSAB charter is still being written so the final language is uncertain.

5. We had hoped to modify our existing Bernalillo County/Kirtland AFB Environmental Working Group (EWG) to satisfy the requirements of a RAB. Currently, the EWG is a requirement under our Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit. Presumably, EPA would have to approve any changes related to our permit. This would include decisions about merging with DOE's SSAB. The New Mexico Environment Department is not in favor of such a merger; EPA Region 6 has not issued an opinion.

6. Request guidance regarding what direction we should take--establish a RAB or merge with DOE's SSAB. We also need clarification on the ground rules of merging with the SSAB. We can fully support the merger if that is the decision, but now is the time to direct our efforts, not after we've gotten our RAB up and running. If you require any additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Ms. Kari Paseur, DSN 246-0053.


SCOTT E. STREIFERT, Maj, USAF
Director
Environmental Management Division

cc:
HQ AFMC/PA
EWG Members