



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

OCT 03 1996



Mr. Benito Garcia, Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044A Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, NM 87505

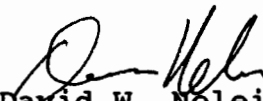
Dear Mr. Garcia:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the July 8, 1996, notification letter from Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) concerning two abandoned cesspools located in the Blast Over Pressure Area. KAFB proposes to investigate the cesspools during the Appendix III Phase 2 RFI and incorporate the results in the Appendix III Phase 2 RFI Report instead of submitting a SWMU Assessment Report.

Although EPA agrees with the proposal to investigate the cesspools during the Appendix III Phase 2 RFI, EPA recommends that approval of this approach be granted only after the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) review and approval of a detailed sampling plan. The only sampling information currently available is KAFB's commitment in its notification letter to "...bore through the cesspools and collect soil samples for analysis." KAFB should submit a detailed site-specific sampling plan for the two abandoned cesspools to NMED for review and approval.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Nancy Morlock of my staff at (214) 665-6650.

Sincerely yours,


David W. Neleigh, Chief
New Mexico and Federal
Facilities Section

cc: Mr. Steve Pullen
New Mexico Environment Department

SP - CA File
- My file
- To Do Box

