



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 377TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)
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31 MAR 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MARK WEIDLER, SECRETARY
NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 26110
SANTA FE NM 87502

FROM: 377 ABW/CC
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE
Kirtland AFB NM 87117-5606

SUBJECT: Oversight Delays Cost New Mexico

1. Kirtland AFB and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) have had a relatively successful partnering relationship working together to identify and clean up contaminated sites on our base. We have enjoyed good support from the Defense State Memorandum Of Agreement (DSMOA) staff as they assisted you in providing oversight for our Installation Restoration Program (IRP) activities. As you know, the Department of Defense (DoD) funds the DSMOA oversight provided by NMED.
2. Within the last year, we have experienced document review times that exceed reasonable expectations. As a result, we may have to slip the cleanup schedule for many of our sites (several are high relative risk). Sadly, New Mexico is the real loser every time the clean up schedule slips.
3. As the DoD budget shrinks, every delay jeopardizes our ability to get Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA) funding to award clean up contracts. Without regulatory-driven milestones, we expect to face budget cuts as we compete for limited DERA funds; this could cost New Mexico \$4 to \$6 million in cleanup funds for every year we cannot justify our requirements.
4. Since DSMOA funding is based primarily on document review effort, future funding to augment your staff may be in jeopardy. Frankly, I see no valid reason why the current level of DSMOA funding is not adequate to provide more timely NMED oversight. In addition, I don't understand a recent decision to remove DSMOA funding from a position assigned to the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau. Without DSMOA support in this bureau, I expect review times will get even longer, increasing the impact on New Mexico. I have attached a list of documents currently at the NMED for review (many were submitted over 12 months ago).

KAFB1842



KAFB DOCUMENTS AT NMED FOR REVIEW

DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE* SUBMITTED	NMED COMMENTS RECEIVED	RESPONSE SUBMITTED	COMMENTS RECEIVED	FINAL APPROVAL
Appendix II RFI Report	30 Dec 94	30 May 95	06 Jul 95	24 Nov 95	
Appendix IV, 2D-1, RFI Report	08 Dec 94	07 Nov 95	22 Jan 96		
Base-Wide Plans	03 Mar 95	13 Dec 95	10 May 96		
Appendix II Phase 2 RFI SAP	14 Aug 95	25 Sep 95	14 Dec 95		
ICM Action Plan	22 Aug 95				
Appendix III Wasteline RFI Report	23 Oct 95	25 Jul 96	21 Aug 96		
Appendix III Non-Wasteline RFI Report	23 Oct 95	25 Jul 96	21 Aug 96		
SWMU 6-30 (FT-14) ICM Plan		22 Jan 96			
Appendix V RFI Report	22 Feb 96				
Appendix I Phase 2 RFI SAP	14 May 96				
Appendix III Phase 2 RFI SAP		20 May 96			
Appendix IV, 2D-2, RFI Report	08 Jul 96				
Appendix III Phase 2 SAP Addendum	16 Dec 96				
SWMU OT-74 RFI SAP	23 Dec 96				

*Documents submitted to date in 1997 are not included.