



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

21 APR 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR MS. MARCY LEAVITT, CHIEF
GROUND WATER QUALITY BUREAU
NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 26110
SANTA FE NM 87502

FROM: 377 ABW/EM
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE, Suite D4
Kirtland AFB NM 87117-5659

1. We are discontinuing sampling of the groundwater in monitor wells KAFB 0501 and 0504 at the Sewage Lagoons (SL) due to declining groundwater levels. In our 8 Nov 96 letter to you, we anticipated this action following the discontinuation of groundwater sampling at monitor wells KAFB 0502 and 0503, also located at the SL, for the same reasons.
2. Although we sampled KAFB 0501 and 0504 in Mar 97, during the fourth quarter sampling event of our Long-Term Groundwater Monitoring Plan (LTM), continued monitoring of these two wells is no longer feasible based on economic and technical reasons. Both wells have approximately four feet of saturated screen interval remaining and recharge at a very slow rate. As a result, sampling requires one day for each well; normally, as part of the LTM, three or four wells can be sampled in one day. We are also concerned that the validity of the analytical results will be compromised by the well conditions. The potential for volatilization exists, due to prolonged exposure to the atmosphere, because of both the extended time required for recharge and consequent cascading effect. As a result, the analytical results for Volatile Organic Compounds would be potentially affected.
3. Because groundwater sampling will be discontinued at KAFB 0501 and 0504, in addition to KAFB 0502 and 0503, we will no longer be able to monitor the groundwater conditions at the SL. We will abandon all four wells in FY98. Results for the third and fourth quarters of the LTM for KAFB 0501 and 0504 will be submitted to you in May and Jul 97, respectively.
4. Please call my point of contact, Mr. Christopher B. DeWitt at (505) 846-0053, or me at (505) 846-2751, if you have any questions.


JAMES K. FRASER, Lt Col, USAF
Director
Environmental Management Division

cc:
NMED - HRMB (Mr. Pullen)
EPA Region 6 (Ms. Morlock)
GTI (Ms. Liakos)

KAFB1851

