

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

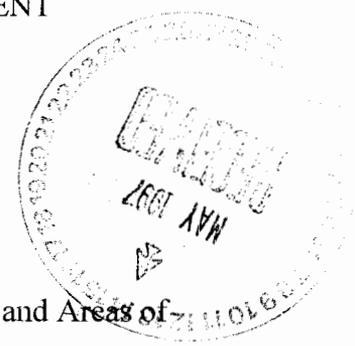
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ENVIRONMENT

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13 MAY 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BENITO GARCIA, CHIEF  
HAZARDOUS & RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS BUREAU  
NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
PO BOX 26110  
SANTA FE NM 87502

FROM: 377 ABW/EM  
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE, Ste D-4  
Kirtland AFB NM 87117-5659



SUBJECT: Newly Identified Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and Areas of Concern (AOCs)

1. As required in Section F to Module IV of our RCRA Part B Permit, we are reporting recently discovered areas that have released or exhibit evidence of a release into the environment:

a. ALECS Facility:

(1) Phillips Laboratory is currently in the process of transferring an Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Test Facility from the U. S. Army, who previously controlled the facility under a permit from the Air Force. This EMP facility, known as the ALECS Facility, is located near Bldg 622. The Air Force and Phillips Laboratory utilized the facility prior to permitting it to the Army. Prior to signing the permit, the Army and Phillips Laboratory were required to address environmental concerns found during the standard environmental assessment conducted prior to real property transfers. This included removal of stained soil noted around the pump shed, reclaiming shed, pulsar building, and enclosure and replacement with clean soil. Laboratory tests indicated the soil removed ranged to 640 mg/Kg TPH. There are no records of the volume of soil removed/replaced. The Phillips Laboratory directorate is interested in re-obtaining the ALECS facility for R&D.

(2) To determine the nature and extent of any remaining contaminated soil, Kirtland AFB proposes this site be added as SWMU SS-82, ALECS Facility (SS-82), to the HSWA Module IV of our RCRA Part B Permit. We will submit the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) by 31 December 1997, and the RFI Report by 31 December 1998. This will be an Environmental Compliance Program (ECP)-funded SWMU.

KAFB1858



b. Skeet Range and Landfill Road:

(1) On 15 May 1996, Kirtland AFB Environmental Management (EM) staff was notified that the Sandia Skeet Range was being cleaned and graded by the base Civil Engineers (CE) Group. During this operation, CE removed soil containing clay pigeons and lead shot, and placed it as bedding along 2.5 miles of road (within the floodplain of the Tijeras Arroyo) leading from Pennsylvania Avenue to the base construction and demolition landfill. Subsequent sample analyses of the transported material indicated lead concentrations up to 375 mg/Kg. In response to the incident report, NMED inspected the area on 3 June 1996 and noted that lead shot also was being released from the skeet range through a drainage ditch/arroyo which bisects the site. The NMED issued Kirtland AFB a Compliance Order on 28 February 1997.

(2) Kirtland AFB proposes this site be added as SWMU SS-83, Skeet Range and Landfill Road (SS-83), to the HSWA Module IV of our RCRA Part B Permit. We will submit the SAP by 31 December 1997, and the RFI Report by 31 December 1998. This will be an ECP-funded SWMU.

c. Bldg 907 Detention Pond and Yard:

(1) In March 1997, Phillips Laboratory submitted a plan to excavate for underground utilities near its facilities at Bldg 907. As the excavation was close to SWMU 9-20, EM staff conducted a site visit on 15 April 1997 to survey the site. An area which appears to have been a detention pond (approximately 50 ft x 100 ft) was noted, as well as an area where above-ground storage tanks were utilized. A drain line from a janitorial/industrial sink located in Bldg 907 emptied into to the pond. During subsequent interviews, previous tenants indicated the pond contained water and was even stocked with fish (as part of a picnic/recreation area). They stated the fish were killed as a result of overuse of copper sulfate for algae control. The area north of the pond contained storage tanks used to store hydraulic fluid. Aerial photos from 1970 show the pond, but it is not present in photos from the late 1980s.

(2) Kirtland AFB proposes to designate this site as Environmental Restoration Account (ERA)-funded AOC SS-81, Bldg. 907 Detention Pond and Yard. We will submit an enhanced SWMU assessment report (SAR) by 30 April 1998.

d. Former Small Arms Range:

(1) During recent reviews of historical aerial photographs, EM staff noted an area that appeared to be an abandoned small arms range. A subsequent records search and interviews indicated that a small arms range was located approximately 1,700 ft east of the existing east-west runway at the Albuquerque International Airport. There were at least four berms located at increasing distances from the south-facing firing line out to approximately 1,000 ft. The range was used in the 1960s and 1970s.

Analysis of the photographs indicates the range was demolished and the berms removed prior to 1983. There are no records to indicate the level of use or if lead was reclaimed prior the closing of the range.

(2) Kirtland AFB proposes to designate this site as ERA-funded AOC OT-86, Former Small Arms Range. We will submit an enhanced SAR by 30 April 1998.

e. MWSA Maintenance Building:

(1) We submitted the Appendix IV Stage 2D-2 RFI Report for AOC 6-A2 on 28 June 1996. This AOC consists of six underground emergency holding tanks located in the former Manzano Weapons Storage Area (MWSA). One tank, RW-17, contained water with tritium concentrations of 5,500 pCi/L, +600 pCi/L. No tritium was detected in any soil samples; however, the inflow line to the tank and the maintenance building that drained into it were not investigated during the RFI.

(2) Kirtland AFB proposes to designate this site as ERA-funded AOC RW-85, MWSA Maintenance Building, a potential low-level radioactive, non-RCRA site. We will submit a site characterization report by 30 December 1998.

f. Addition to SWMU 10-21:

(1) During a recent meeting with the company contracted to remove the oil/water separator at the Trestle Facility (SWMU ST-66), a previously unknown septic tank was noted on the facility's as-built drawings. The septic tank was utilized by personnel operating from instrument trailers located on a concrete pad at the facility.

(2) Kirtland AFB has designated this septic tank as ECP site ST-346 and proposes to include it with the other septic tanks in SWMU No. 10-21. We will submit a SAP for this site, as an addendum to the existing Appendix III Wasteline RFI Work Plan, by 30 December 1997 and a RFI Report by 30 December 1998.

g. Manzano Burial Sites:

(1) Sandia National Laboratories forwarded a letter, dated February 1996, to EM from a retired Air Force officer who worked at "Sandia Base" in 1950 and 1951. A portion of the letter discusses an incident involving the removal and burial of carbon tetrachloride-saturated radioactive Chemwipes® at the MWSA (then called "Manzano Base"), which had been transported to the former base depot via rail cars. The EM staff interviewed the letter's author and the former depot commander, who validated the incident and indicated additional burial sites may be located in the same area. These burial sites, reportedly in the northwest portion of the MWSA, appear to be separate from AOC 6-A1 (RW-21) (in the northeast portion of the MWSA).

(2) Kirtland AFB proposes to designated the burial sites as ERA-funded AOC RW-84, Manzano Burial Sites, and will submit an enhanced SAR by 30 April 1998.

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h. Active Pistol Range:

(1) Kirtland AFB maintains an active pistol range located adjacent to Southgate Ave, 1,500 feet south of the east-west runway at the Albuquerque International Airport. This range has been in operation since the 1950s. Although current design and operations prevent off-site lead releases, there are no records from previous years regarding use or reclamation activities.

(2) Kirtland AFB proposes to expand SWMU OT-74, Former Pistol Range, to include the area outside the active pistol range. This area will be investigated as part of the OT-74 RFI and included in the RFI report we will submit by 30 December 1998. This area will also be included in the revised OT-74 SAP we will submit in June 1997. The SWMU will be redesignated as Former Pistol Range and Area Outside Existing Range.

2. Please contact Mr. Christopher DeWitt, (505) 846-0053, or me, (505) 846-2751, if you have any questions.



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

cc:

EPA Region 6 (Ms. Morlock)  
NMED-HRMB (Mr. Pullen)  
NMED-GWQB (Mr. Rogers)  
HQ AFMC/CEVR (Mr. Sims)  
HQ AFMC/CEVC (Mr. Kumar)  
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AFMOA/SGOR (Maj Feeser)  
377 ABW/JA  
377 ABW/PA  
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377 AMDS/SGPB