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

2 September 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS, BERNALILLO COUNTY/KIRTLAND AIR
FORCE BASE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

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

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Bernalillo County/Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB)
Environmental Working Group (EWG)



- 1. PLACE: Wyndham Albuquerque Hotel, 2910 Yale SE, Albuquerque
- 2. TIME/DATE: 1730, 20 August 1997
- 3. CHAIRPERSON: Chris DeWitt, 377 ABW/EMR
- 4. ATTENDANCE: See Attachment 1

5. INTRODUCTION: Mr. DeWitt called the meeting to order and introduced himself, Nancy Morlock of EPA Region 6, and Steve Pullen of NMED. Mr. DeWitt also noted and applauded the increase in attendance at this, the first meeting to combine the EWG with the DOE-Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB). Mr. DeWitt also stated that Capt David Martin, the Director of the Environmental Management Division, will be leaving Kirtland AFB. He will be replaced by the first civilian to hold the post, Mr. James Leatherwood, transferring from Okinawa, Japan. The post of EM Director will no longer be held by military personnel. In addition, the minutes from the previous meeting were approved without comment and the agenda reviewed.

6. STATUS OF CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING:

a. Mr. DeWitt reported on the status of various Air Force (AF) cleanup projects. The Phase 2 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigations (RFI) at all appendix sites have been completed. Some additional characterization will be required at certain sites, but 377 ABW/EM has submitted Phase II RFI reports to regulators. Corrective Measures Studies (CMS) and risk assessments are to be completed.

b. Kirtland AFB and EM will perform relative risk evaluations of all sites now that investigations have been completed. A public training session on the relative risk evaluation

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process will be held some time in November prior to the reevaluation of the sites. A date for this training and evaluation session will be determined at the next EWG meeting in November.

c. Mr. DeWitt announced that the FY98 budget for Kirtland AFB, which was distributed during the last EWG meeting, had been submitted to Command for review and approval. The budget was approved in its entirety, except for the last two of the requested projects and areas of concern. The budget for EM of \$9.3 million for 27 projects is higher than expected due to the addition of two projects by Command. The original Environmental Restoration Account (ERA) budget for Kirtland AFB was estimated at \$4.8 million. The added projects involve an additional investigation of potential burial sites at the Manzano site, a corrective measures study (CMS) at the radium dump, and a construction job to line the Tijeras Arroyo to protect Landfill 2 (LF-02) from erosion during the 100-year flood. The listing of projects on the validated FY98 ERA program budget was ranked according to relative risk and is available for public review.

7. FY99 - FY00 COSTS AND SCHEDULE: Mr. DeWitt distributed the first draft of the FY99 and FY00 budgets for public review at this EWG meeting in order to give stakeholders even more time to provide input for next year. The majority of projects listed for FY99 will include feasibility studies (FS) for cleanup since the investigation phase at all EM sites is winding down. The FY00 budget includes an expected \$12 million of ERA funds to complete cleanup projects. As always, Kirtland retains \$3 million in alternate funding for sites which present themselves to require investigation. The estimates of costs and projects for the FY99 and FY00 budgets are based on Command assumptions that Congress will continue to commit the same funding to ER programs for the DoD over the next ten years.

8. PROBLEMS WITH NMED OVERSIGHT

a. Several partnering meetings have been held between the NMED and Kirtland AFB EM to discuss the problem of review delays for site investigation reports. The NMED, DoD branch, employs five people who are responsible for 18 facilities, and the work load is significant. In addition the EPA transferred HSWA/RCRA oversight duties to the NMED, which includes approximately 95% of all Kirtland AFB work. The governor did recently approve funds to hire six additional people at the NMED, a process which should take approximately six months. More than two years of documents submitted by Kirtland AFB have not yet been reviewed or approved by the NMED and thus any cleanup work performed by Kirtland AFB is being performed at risk, since official state approval for investigation work plans has not yet been received. Even with the additional hires planned for the state, the NMED still doesn't have the resources to provide the current level of oversight. An additional problem may surface with budget issues in the future because Kirtland AFB will not appear to have priorities in its cleanup work due to a lack of regulatory drivers, since the site work has not been reviewed or approved by the state regulators. Command will not see the regulatory driver present to justify additional funds for cleanup.

b. The New Mexico State Legislature recently passed legislation stating that the NMED would have to institute fee and pay schedules for its services in order to finance additional

personnel. The NMED is currently developing these fees schedules, although the method by which to institute and charge these fees is still under consideration. Both the state and Kirtland AFB are working hard to maintain a dialogue regarding this issue, especially regarding the fee schedules since Kirtland does not present have any funding for regulatory oversight. A question was posed by Kevin Donnelly of Brown and Root Environmental regarding the possibility that the NMED not reviewing two-year old documents and simply beginning its review process with current RFI reports. Mr. Pullen, NMED, responded that the agency is considering this mode of action but it will be difficult to publish certain documents, such as Notices of Deficiency, without first reviewing a site's work plan. Ms. Nancy Morlock, EPA Region 6, suggested (and Mr. Pullen agreed) that the public and the NMED consider the issue of whether or not to review past plans at the next EWG. Ms. Morlock also noted that the EPA has provided unofficial comments for several documents submitted to the NMED and will continue to do so to support the state's regulatory needs. Mr. DeWitt ended the discussion by pointing out that Kirtland AFB will likely have to perform some additional investigation following regulatory review of documents and the DoD does have concerns about funding these future site activities, despite some funding for unexpected investigation work. Kirtland AFB and the NMED do work together, meeting once a month, to foster input from state regulators on the expected direction for Kirtland AFB during current cleanup projects. It was suggested that the EPA provide Kirtland with estimates of the potential cost of investigative services during remedial design phases of site work. Mr. DeWitt stated that this and other contingencies are being taken, with investigation phase sample borings often left unfilled so that future sampling can take place at a site during cleanup. In addition, future land use is also taken into account when sampling and preparing cleanup goals.

9. RELATIVE RISK EVALUATIONS (RREs): Mr. DeWitt said all of Kirtland's IRP sites will be re-evaluated in November to see if the rankings determined last year are still current and valid. the RREs categorize the Kirtland sites as high, medium, or low relative risk and help to concentrate funding to the worst sites first. The next round of RREs are expected to be much less subjective because of the data being generated during the investigation process. Citizens are encouraged to be involved in the evaluation process. Kirtland AFB will offer another RRE training session in November in order to ensure public involvement in the evaluations.

10. AGENDA ITEMS/HOST/DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next EWG meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 26, 1997, before the CAB, at the Wyndham Hotel at 5:30 p.m. Mr. DeWitt did note that the EWG may need more than an hour for some quarterly meetings, especially when contractors present cleanup status for individual projects. Anyone interested in receiving additional information about the EWG should contact Chris DeWitt at Kirtland AFB at (505) 846-0053.

CHRISTOPHER B. DeWITT, R.P.G.
Chief, Restoration Branch
Environmental Management Division

Attachments:

1. Attendance List

ATTENDANCE LIST

BERNALILLO COUNTY/KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP MEETING,
WYNDHAM HOTEL, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
20 August 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Paul Aarmodt	
Paul Catacosinos	Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB)
Warren Cox	DOE
Chris DeWitt	377 ABW/EMR
Kevin Donnelly	Brown and Root Environmental
William Foley	
Malu Gawthrop	Jacobs Engineering
John Gould	DOE-KAO
Augustine Grace	Synergy Engineering
Betsy Hovda	
Mark Jackson	DOE
Jeff Johnston	Brown and Root Environmental
Hubert Joy	CAB
Roger Kennett	NMED
John Kinker	
Mike Martin	377 AMDS/SGPB
Roy McKinney	International Technology Corp.
Rich Meixner	
Steve Milligan	377 ABW/PA
Maria Montalvo	International Technology Corp.
Nancy Morlock	Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
Steve Pullen	NMED/HRMB
John Rogers	NMED/GWQB
Steve Rowe	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Bruce Vernado	Ogden
Stephanie Viruse	NMED/HRMB
Jamie Welles	CAB