

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

Steph
ENTERED

31 Oct 97

MEMORANDUM FOR: ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (EWG)/
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) AND DOE/SANDIA CITIZENS
ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

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

SUBJECT: Cancellation of quarterly meeting

1. We will be canceling the quarterly EWG/RAB meeting for November due to the uncertainty of funding because of appropriated funds not yet released. Congress and the president are in dispute of certain line items and until resolved moneys will not be available. Also, we have received no input regarding agenda items for this or the last meeting.
2. We will resume our meetings in January. We are still negotiating with the Department of Energy/Sandia CAB to come up with some sort of combined meeting that will be mutually beneficial to both boards. We are desperately trying to increase public participation and would welcome any ideas. If not, we plan to recommend disbanding the RAB due to lack of interest. We will keep everyone informed of any developments and will notify you when we have determined the date and location of our next meeting. We have a number of extremely important issues to present, including new relative risk evaluations and future program schedules and costs.
3. If you have any questions or issues you would like to discuss or propose for our next meeting, please contact myself or Chris DeWitt, Chief of the Restoration Branch. My number is 846-9003 and Mr. DeWitt can be reached at 846-0053.

Steve Milligan

R. STEVE MILLIGAN, GS-11, USAF
377 ABW/Environmental Public Affairs Officer

KAFB1900



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Kelley
THROUGH: Mr. Garcia THROUGH: Dr. Dinwiddie
THROUGH: Mr. Bober
FROM: Steve Pullen
SUBJECT: **Cancellation of Kirtland's public meetings**
DATE: November 19, 1997

Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) has informed us that they are canceling their quarterly public environmental meetings due to a lack of both funding and interest on the part of the public (see attached letter). The purpose of this memo is to ask your advice regarding our Department's position on the elimination of this public forum for the discussion of cleanup activities at the facility.

It is true that public participation at KAFB's Environmental Working Group (EWG) is currently almost nonexistent. I would guess that at the last four quarterly meetings there has been no more than two concerned citizens at any one meeting. The vast majority of the participants are consultants, and I find it disturbing having to answer their questions given their mixed agendas.

Originally, numerous organizations such as Isletta Pueblo, Southwest Organizing Project, East Mountain Alliance, and multiple neighborhoods were part of the EWG charter, including NMED. But my impression is that the specific site cleanup issues the group was chartered to discuss were not the issues the organizations were really interested in. For example, the East Mountain Alliance is more interested that the "withdrawn area" against the Manzano Mountains be returned to public use.

I personally have no reservations about the elimination of the quarterly meetings. I concur that there is a general lack of interest and I believe that the EWG has accomplished what public forums can do most for the cleanup process. The EWG has been instrumental in helping establish the future land use of the facility for risk assessment purposes, and helped establish the priority schedule of site cleanup. Furthermore, there are no regulatory requirements for the reoccurring meetings.

We might suggest that the meetings be held annually instead of being canceled. Please advise me if you have any interest in this matter.