



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

22 Dec 97

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

FROM: 377 ABW/EMR  
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE, Ste D-6  
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. Transportation Yard:

(1) Construction of a utility channel is currently nearing completion at the Kirtland AFB Transportation Yard located east of Wyoming Blvd and south of "I" Ave. During recent excavation, a caliche layer was encountered at a depth of 2 to 3 feet. The upper portion of caliche and the soil above it were heavily stained with copper oxide, indicating a potential for metals contamination. The source of the copper is not known at this time, but we are conducting a records search to identify any historical activity at the site which may have resulted in a release of copper or other metals.

(2) Kirtland AFB proposes to designate this site as an Environmental Compliance Program Area of Concern, AOC SS-89, Transportation Yard. We will submit an enhanced SWMU assessment report (SAR) by 30 June 1998.

b. Trestle Site Disposal Area:

(1) Upon completion of investigations at the septic tank located at this facility in November 1997, a notice was sent to the current user. During discussions with the user, U. S. Army W.S.M.R. "Big Crow", the facility custodian reported that a former employee who work at the facility when it was operated by the Air Force Weapons Lab-Phillips Lab indicated that an area located adjacent to the facility to the south was used for the disposal of chemicals. The employee indicated the general area but insists on remaining anonymous. This area was not identified by any other previous employees during initial records searches and interviews. Based on this unsubstantiated report, an area of possible surface and burial disposal has been identified for further investigation. The facility was operated primarily in the 1980s.

KAFB1918



(2) Kirtland AFB proposes to designate this site as an Environmental Compliance Program Area of Concern, AOC DP-88, Trestle Site Disposal Area. We will submit an enhanced SWMU assessment report (SAR) by 30 June 1998.

c. JATO Rocket Motor Disposal Site:

(1) During a survey of ER Site No. 7, Sandia National Laboratory EM personnel discovered an area adjacent to Arroyo del Coyote and upstream of ER Site No. 7 which had been used for the surface disposal of what appeared to be rocket motors. They provide a photo of the items disposed of at the site. Based on a review of the photo and a site visit in December 1997, we have determined that an area of less than one acre was used for the surface disposal of spent JATO rocket motors. The motors were identified by base EOD personnel as those used with the B-47 bomber in the early 1950s.

(2) Kirtland AFB proposes to designate this site as an Installation Restoration Program Area of Concern, AOC SD-90, JATO Rocket Motor Disposal Site. We will submit a SWMU assessment report (SAR) by 30 June 1998.

2. Please contact me at (505) 846-2751 if you have any questions.



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

cc:

EPA Region 6 (Ms. Morlock)  
NMED-HRMB (Mr. Pullen)  
NMED-GWQB (Mr. Rogers)  
HQ AFMC/CEVR (Mr. Sims)  
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