

BFF

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
377TH AIR BASE WING (AFGSC)

JUL 27 2016

Colonel Eric H. Froehlich  
377 ABW/CC  
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE  
Kirtland AFB NM 87117-5000

Mr. John Kieling  
Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB)  
New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe NM 87505-6303



Dear Mr. Kieling

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and their contractor, EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. (EA) performance base contracting (PBC), have made a determination that EA personnel cannot safely perform sampling and well modification activities at wells KAFB-106026 and KAFB-106230. This determination is supported by the Air Force. The location of these wells are located in the City of Albuquerque's right-of-way adjacent to Mr. John L. Esquibel's home on the northeast corner of Florida Street and Anderson Street at 836 Florida Street Southeast (KAFB-106026); and northwest corner of Anderson Street and Georgia Street (KAFB-106230). By direction of your office, the wells are currently scheduled for semiannual sampling in support of the ongoing site monitoring and interim measure activities associated with the Bulk Fuels Facility (BFF), Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) ST-106-SS-111. Site conditions and events at these well locations are as follows:

1. On 7 April 2016, EA personnel attempted to perform their first Q2 2016 semiannual sampling under this contract and were confronted by Mr. Esquibel who ordered them to leave. Mr. Esquibel then called the police dispatch and informed them that he would shoot the EA staff with his gun if they did not leave immediately. The EA staff stood down and moved their vehicles to a location further down the street until the police arrived to diffuse the situation.
2. EA staff familiar with the homeowner (from work on previous BFF contract) indicated that this has been a recurring issue that has escalated over time. The EA staff report that they were unable to engage the homeowner rationally when they attempted to give the homeowner an adequate explanation of who they were and what they were doing at the well locations. Kirtland AFB staff (Ms. Kathryn Lynnes, Senior Program Manager and Major Brenton Pickrell, 377th Security Forces Group Commander) separately notified the Albuquerque Police

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Department (APD) and requested that a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) perform a site visit to assess the severity of threats and site security.

3. On 20 June 2016, APD Southeast Area Commander, J.J. Griego notified Ms. Lynnes that the CIT had performed a site visit but that the CIT did not have sufficient probable cause to develop, implement or evaluate further. Due to privacy laws, no further information was provided to the Installation. Commander Griego recommended hiring off-duty police for police security to serve as escorts during sampling.

Based on the available information to date, it is not possible to properly assess the threat level and/or risk classification posed by Mr. Esquibel. Given these uncertainties, USACE has requested that EA suspend all activities at wells KAFB-106026 and KAFB-106230 to ensure the safety and well-being of sampling personnel. In addition, the Air Force is diligently working with USACE in pursuing a new contract with a contractor who is experienced with high risk situations to abandon these two wells.

I thank you in advance for your understanding. We will continue to work closely with your office regarding the path forward in the removal of these wells from the groundwater monitoring network. If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Wayne Bitner at (505) 853-3484 or at [ludie.bitner@us.af.mil](mailto:ludie.bitner@us.af.mil).

Sincerely



ERIC H. FROEHLICH, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

cc:

NMED-EHD (Roberts, McQuillan, Agnew)

NMED-OGC (Hower)

NMED-GWQB (Hunter, Pullen)

EPA Region 6 (King, Ellinger)

AFCEC/CZ (Bodour, Clark)

HQ-SAF/IEE (Lynnes)

USACE-ABQ District Office (Simpler, Phaneuf, Dreeland, Sanchez, Salazar)

Public Info Repository (Central New Mexico Community College)

Administrative Record/Information Repository (AR/IR) and File