



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

~~MOORE~~ ~~SECRETARY~~ 05
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 18, 2005

A.S. Elliott
Managing General Partner
El Bigote Cattle Co., L.L.C.
Post Office Box 58
Fort Sumner, New Mexico 88119-0058

**RE: ALLEGED DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTES BY CANNON AIR FORCE BASE
DEFENSIVE TRAINING INITIATIVE OPERATIONS**

Dear Mr. Elliott:

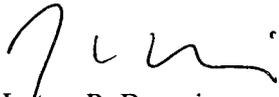
Cabinet Secretary Ron Curry has received your letter of December 24, 2004, in which you allege that Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB) occasionally releases flare and chaff canisters on your ranch property in DeBaca County. Secretary Curry has forwarded your letter to me for response.

Under separate cover, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has contacted CAFB to serve them notice of our concerns about these alleged operational practices. NMED also requested that CAFB fully document any operational activities that may have resulted in releases of chaff, flares, or other solid waste. CAFB should also have documented any cleanups conducted to mitigate the hazards posed by the debris to human or animal health and the environment. Finally, NMED asked CAFB to submit copies of any documentation they may have for review. A copy of NMED's request to CAFB is enclosed. Once NMED receives this documentation, a determination will be made about any further action.

On behalf of Secretary Curry, thank you for bringing these issues to our attention. Please do not hesitate to contact David Cobrain of my staff at 505.428.2553 should you have any questions.

A.S. Elliott
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Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: Ron Curry, NMED Cabinet Secretary
Charles Lundstrom, WWMD Director
David Cobrain, HWB
Sandra Martin, HWB