ENTERED

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.env.nm.gov

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Howie C. Morales
Lt. Governor

James C. Kenney
Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruett
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 30, 2021

Colonel Robert A. Masaitis
Commander, 27th Special Operations Wing
100 Air Commando Way, Suite 100
Cannon Air Force Base
New Mexico 88103-5214

RE: DISAPPROVAL
GROUNDWATER MONITORING FIELD SAMPLING PLAN REVISION 1
MELROSE AIR FORCE RANGE
EPA ID# NM5572124456
HWB-MELR-19-002

Dear Colonel Masaitis:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Air Force (Permittee) *Groundwater Monitoring Field Sampling Plan Revision 1* (FSP), submitted on behalf of Melrose Air Force Range and dated October 16, 2020. NMED hereby issues this Disapproval. NMED's comments are provided in the attachment to this letter. The Permittee must address all comments in the attachment.

The Permittee must submit a revised FSP that addresses all comments contained in this Disapproval. In addition, the Permittee must include a response letter that cross-references where NMED's numbered comments were addressed. The Permittee must also submit an

electronic redline-strikeout version of the revised FSP showing all changes made to the FSP. The revised FSP must be submitted no later than **July 30, 2021**.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Gabriel Acevedo at (505) 690-5760.

Sincerely,

Kevin Pierard

Digitally signed by Kevin Pierard
Date: 2021.04.30 13:36:34 -06'00'

Kevin M. Pierard, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
B. Wear, NMED HWB
G. Acevedo, NMED HWB
L. King, EPA Region 6 (6LCRRC)
C. Gierke, CAFB
C. Soto-Lorenzo
S. Jennings
J. Burgoon

File: CAFB 2021 and Reading

Attachment

COMMENTS

GENERAL COMMENT

1. Electronic Copy of Groundwater Monitoring Field Sampling Plan (FSP)

NMED Comment: The PDF copy of the FSP only includes section bookmark links to Tables 1-1 through 1-5. The PDF copy of the revised FSP must include bookmark links to all document sections, subsections, tables, figures, and appendices that match the FSP table of contents. The revised FSP must also be completely searchable by keyword. Revise the electronic copy of the FSP accordingly.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

2. Section 1.7, Applicable Regulations/Standards, Pages 1-9 and 1-10

NMED Comment: As previously explained in NMED's July 2, 2020 *Disapproval Groundwater Field Sampling Plan 2019* (July 2020 Disapproval) response, the applicable cleanup levels for evaluation of all chemicals of concern (COCs) in groundwater at Melrose Air Force Range (MAFR) shall be the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) groundwater quality standards, 20.6.2.3103 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), the cleanup levels calculated for toxic pollutants listed in 20.6.2.7.T(2) NMAC, and the drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) adopted by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f to 300j-26). If both a WQCC groundwater quality standard and an MCL have been established for an individual COC, then the lower of the levels shall be the cleanup level for that substance. The most recent version of the NMED's Tap Water Screening Levels listed in Table A-1 or as specified in other sections of 2019 NMED *Risk Assessment Guidance for Site Investigation and Remediation* (RA Guidance) (as updated) shall be used to establish the cleanup level, if neither a WQCC standard or an MCL has been established for a specific COC. In the absence of an NMED tap water screening level or other cleanup level listed in the RA Guidance, the USEPA Regional Screening Levels for Chemical Contaminants at Superfund Sites (RSLs, as updated) for tap water shall be used as the cleanup level. As an exception, hexavalent chromium concentrations must be evaluated using the WQCC groundwater quality standard for dissolved chromium.

All regulatory cleanup and screening levels specified by NMED in the July 2020 Disapproval (Comment No. 5) and this comment are requirements and must be incorporated into the FSP for MAFR without exception. The specified regulatory groundwater quality standards are required by NMED for protection of human health and the environment and are non-negotiable, authorized under the Hazardous Waste Act and RCRA Section 3004(u), and as specified by 40 Code of Federal Regulations 270.32 (b)(2). Groundwater monitoring at

MAFR is required as an interim measure under the MAFR 1994 RCRA Hazardous Waste Permit (Permit), has been agreed to by the Permittee, and was approved by NMED in the June 19, 2007 *Deferment for Submittal of the Revised RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plan* in response the Permittee's May 9, 2007 request. Groundwater monitoring is currently conducted under the NMED-Approved October 2014 *Groundwater Monitoring Field Sampling Plan* and is an enforceable component of the Permit per Module IV, Section B.8, Plans and Schedules Incorporated Into the Permit. Continued failure by the Permittee to update and revise the FSP as required by NMED constitutes noncompliance and may result in an enforcement action. The FSP must be revised in accordance with this comment.

3. Section 2.3, Laboratory Analysis, Pages 2-2

NMED Comment: Proof of selected contract laboratory accreditation must always be provided in a project work plan. If the Permittee has not awarded the contract for chemical analysis for the proposed groundwater sampling, proof of laboratory accreditation must be provided in each Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report (AGMR) as an appendix and appropriately referenced and discussed in each report. Revise the FSP accordingly.

4. Section 3.3, Quality Assurance Objectives and Measurements, Pages 3-2 and 3-3

Permittee Statement: "The sampling program is designed to produce concentration data for the chemicals of interest that are of the appropriate quality to inform future actions. Quantitative and qualitative measures of quality include: precision, bias, accuracy, representativeness, completeness, comparability, and sensitivity. These terms are presented in the USEPA QA/G4, Guidance on Systematic Planning Using the Data Quality Objectives Procedures."

NMED Comment: The reference to terms included in the cited USEPA guidance document does not provide the level of detail required to define and outline data quality assurance objectives. Section 3.3 must be revised to include subsections that discuss the objectives, methods, and measurements proposed to ensure that data precision, accuracy, representativeness, completeness, comparability, sensitivity, and evaluation of bias is appropriately implemented and documented in each AGMR. Revise the FSP accordingly.

5. Section 4, Reporting Requirements, Page 4-1

Permittee Statement: "As previously requested by NMED, annual reports are to be written and organized in general accordance with the NMED Position Paper: General Reporting Requirements for Routine Groundwater Monitoring Activities at RCRA Sites (New Mexico Environment Department, 2003)."

NMED Comment: General report and work plan requirements have been updated and are outlined in the August 2020 *NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau Position Paper: General Reporting Guidelines* (Reporting Guidelines) and supersede NMED's 2003 Position Paper. The minimum reporting requirements for periodic monitoring are outlined in the Reporting Guidelines, Section 4, Periodic Monitoring Report. A copy of the Reporting Guidelines is available at NMED HWB's webpage under Regulations and Policy. The same requirements have been outlined in the MAFR May 2020 *Draft Corrective Action Only Hazardous Waste Permit* and are standard reporting and work plan requirements for all hazardous waste facilities in New Mexico. Revise the statement to cite use of NMED's updated Reporting Guidelines for proposed periodic monitoring reporting.

6. **Table 2-6, Metals Target Analyte List, Page B-10**

NMED Comment: The following table issues must be addressed as follows:

a. The table lists the WQCC groundwater quality standard for barium as 1,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L). The cited WQCC groundwater quality standard is incorrect. As required by Comment No. 2 of this Attachment, the current WQCC groundwater quality standard and USEPA MCL for barium is 2,000 µg/L and is the applicable screening level.

b. The table lists the WQCC groundwater quality standard for lead as 50 µg/L and is incorrect. As required by Comment No. 2 of this Attachment, the current WQCC groundwater quality standard and USEPA MCL for lead is 15 µg/L. Revise the table accordingly.

c. As required by Comment No. 2 of this Attachment, the applicable screening level for vanadium is the NMED tap water screening level 63.1 µg/L. Revise the table accordingly.

d. Revise the table and table notes to reference each regulatory source for the screening level for each COC in accordance with Comment No. 2 of this Attachment.

7. **Table 2-7, Wet Chemistry List Plus Hexavalent Chromium and Perchlorate, Page B-11**

NMED Comment: The following table issues must be addressed as follows:

a. As required by Comment No. 2 of this Attachment, the applicable screening level for perchlorate is the USEPA MCL 15 µg/L. Revise the table accordingly.

b. Revise the table and table notes to reference each regulatory source for the screening level for each COC in accordance with Comment No. 2 of this Attachment.