



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 23, 2013

Colonel John Kubinec
Base Commander
377 ABW/CC
2000 Wyoming Blvd. SE
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5606

John Pike
Director, Environmental Management Services
377 MSG
2050 Wyoming Blvd. SE, Suite 116
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5270

**RE: PARTIAL APPROVAL
LETTER CONCERNING BUBBLES IN GROUNDWATER SAMPLES, BULK
FUELS FACILITY SPILL, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS ST-106 AND
SS-111, KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO,
MARCH 29, 2013
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, EPA ID# NM9570024423
HWB-KAFB-13-MISC**

Dear Colonel Kubinec and Mr. Pike:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the U. S. Air Force's (Permittee) letter dated March 29, 2013, concerning the sampling of gas bubbles in groundwater at six monitoring wells associated with the Bulk Fuels Facility Spill, Solid Waste Management Units ST-106 and SS-111. NMED has identified deficiencies with the sampling plan described in the subject letter. Except as noted below, the deficiencies must be corrected before the plan is implemented.

The March 29, 2013 letter states that Attachment B will be updated with first quarter 2013 data and delivered to the NMED on March 29, 2013, which is the same date as the subject letter. NMED has not received an update Attachment B as a formal submittal. An updated Attachment B was provided by e-mail on April 5, 2013, by Ms. Diane Agnew of CBI (formerly Shaw). The Permittee must formally submit this table to the NMED under the Permittee's signature and

certification as required by Permit Sections 1.32, 1.36, and 6.2.4.11 of the Permittee's Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility Operating Permit.

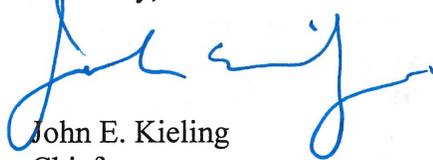
Regarding item #4, bubbles have been observed in groundwater samples at well 1069 only once and at well 10694 only three times. Until recently (first quarter 2013), bubbles have not been observed in groundwater samples at the latter well over the past year. Both of the aforementioned wells are shallow wells. Different wells should be chosen as the primary and secondary sampling locations. NMED recommends wells KAFB-106051 or KAFB-106104, which are deep wells located near KAFB-106107 and KAFB-106090, respectively, but outside of the estimated shallow EDB plume boundary. Groundwater samples obtained from these wells have exhibited bubbles in at least the past four quarters, as indicated in Attachment B.

NMED notes that in Attachment B, KAFB-106206 is labeled as an "intermediate" well. This data should be verified, and if necessary, corrected before Attachment B is submitted under the Permittee's signature and certification.

The Permittee may proceed to collect the initial two bubble samples at wells KAFB-106205 and KAFB-106206 at this time.

The Permittee must submit to the NMED revisions to the sampling plan that is described in the subject letter that corrects the above noted deficiencies no later than **June 26, 2013**. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. William Moats of my staff at (505) 222-9551.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: T. Skibitski, NMED RPD
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
W. Moats, NMED HWB
W. McDonald, NMED HWB
S. Brandwein, NMED HWB
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S. Reuter, NMED PSTB
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File: KAFB 2013 Bulk Fuels Facility Spill and Reading