



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous Waste Bureau



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FACT SHEET
September 28, 2018

**INTENT TO APPROVE A CLASS THREE PERMIT MODIFICATION FOR A
REVISED CLOSURE PLAN FOR THE OPEN BURN AND OPEN DETONATION
TREATMENT UNITS**

**KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, BERNALILLO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID # NM9570024423**

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) intends to approve, pending public input into this decision, a Class 3 permit modification to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility Operating Permit (Permit) issued to the United States Air Force, Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB or Permittee) for a revised combined Closure Plan for the Open Burn and Open Detonation (OB and OD) Treatment Units. If approved, the combined Closure Plan will authorize the Permittee to investigate, decontaminate and close the OB and OD Units, which were previously used to treat explosive ordnance, pursuant to the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act, NMSA 1978 §§74-4-1 through 74-4-14 and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, 20.4.1. NMAC. The Closure Plan is subject to the regulations at 20.4.1.500 NMAC, incorporating 40 CFR § 264.111 through § 264.116. Prior to approving the Closure Plan, NMED is required to release the proposed Closure Plan for public comment pursuant to 20.4.1.900 and 901.A (3) NMAC. This Fact Sheet is intended to facilitate public review of the proposed Closure Plan.

NMED issued a Permit to operate the OD Unit on December 20, 1994 and a Permit to operate the OB Unit on July 25, 1995. The Permittee ceased operation of the OB Unit in May 2008 and ceased operation of the OD Unit in August 2010. In May 2004, a Permit renewal application was submitted for the OB and OD Unit, but the OB Unit was withdrawn from the application in October 2009. A Permit for the continued operation of the OD Unit, which included a Closure Plan, was issued on July 15, 2010.

Due to the operational changes, the Permittee submitted a Class 3 permit modification request (PMR) on February 17, 2010 to amend and update the Closure Plans presented in the 1995 OB Unit Permit and the July 2010 OD Unit Permit. The Permittee provided public notice of the

Class 3 PMR from June 19, 2010 through August 20, 2010. A public meeting regarding the PMR was held on November 16, 2010.

As a result of several NMED requests for supplemental information regarding the proposed revisions to the Closure Plans, the Permittee submitted a final Class 3 PMR for the Closure Plan for the OB Unit on March 19, 2013 and a final PMR for the OD Unit was submitted on May 19, 2015. Since the units are co-located, a decision was made in consultation with the NMED to combine the two revised Closure Plans into a single Class 3 PMR to the OD Hazardous Waste Treatment Permit for a combined OB-OD Unit Closure Plan.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

KAFB is located south of and adjacent to the City of Albuquerque in Bernalillo County, north-central New Mexico. It is located on land owned by the U.S. Air Force. KAFB encompasses 52,223 acres (approximately 82 square miles) and is bounded on the north and northwest by the City of Albuquerque, on the east by the Cibola National Forest, on the south by the Pueblo of Isleta, and on the west by land owned by the State of New Mexico, and the Albuquerque International Sunport. KAFB is classified as a hazardous waste treatment facility under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (HWA), Sections 74-4-1 through 74-4-14, NMSA 1978, as amended, and RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6901 through 6992.

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The OB and OD Treatment Units are co-located within the KAFB explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) range in the south-central portion of the facility. The EOD Range is located southeast of the former Manzano Base, east of the demolition Range Road, and approximately two miles north of the southern perimeter of KAFB.

The OD Unit, which contains the OB Unit within its southwestern corner, is circular in shape with a diameter of 1500 feet. Typical excavations (craters, pits) where treatment took place were rectangular and approximately 30 feet long, 15 feet wide and 12 feet deep. The EOD Range occupies generally flat, gently west-sloping land located between the Rio Grande Valley to the west and the base of the Manzano Mountains to the east. The OB and OD Units are scheduled to undergo final closure activities simultaneously.

The OB and OD units were used to treat (i.e., by open burning or open detonation) explosive and explosive-contaminated hazardous waste to remove the characteristics of reactivity (D003) and ignitability (D001). The wastes treated were explosives, propellants, and pyrotechnics in the form of pure substances, expired or unserviceable munitions, and explosive-contaminated waste items. The EOD Range was also used for training in demolition and explosives-handling methods.

MAXIMUM EXTENT OF OPERATIONS AND MAXIMUM WASTE INVENTORY

The OB Unit permit issued in July 1995 allowed 80,000 pounds Net Explosive Weight (NEW) of hazardous waste munitions to be treated annually. Small arms ammunition and spent flare casings were treated in the OB Unit. Based on the operating record, the total weight of material burned under the OB Unit Permit was approximately 60,466 pounds of NEW.

The OD Unit permit issued in December 1994 allowed 100,000 pounds of NEW to be treated annually. Rocket motors, large caliber munitions, explosive wastes and firearms were treated at the OD Unit. Based on the operating record, the maximum inventory treated under the OD Unit Permit was approximately 316,012 pounds of NEW. After every detonation event, munitions debris and kick-out was collected for disposal and the detonation area graded level.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Administrative Record for this proposed action consists of the permit modification requests, the OB and OD Unit Closure Plan, this Fact Sheet, the Public Notice, and the supporting documentation referenced in the Closure Plan. The Administrative Record may be reviewed at the following location during the public comment period with prior appointment.

NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
(505) 476-6000
Monday - Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Contact: Pam Allen

Copies of the revised Closure Plans and the administrative record are also available electronically on the NMED website at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/kafb> under Closure Plan Permit Modification. To obtain a copy of the Administrative Record or a portion thereof, in addition to further information, please contact Ms. Pam Allen at (505) 476-6000. NMED will provide copies, or portions thereof, of the administrative record at a cost to the requestor.

NMED issued a public notice on **September 28, 2018** to announce the beginning of a 60-day comment period that will end at **5:00 p.m., November 27, 2018**. Any person who wishes to comment on this action or request a public hearing should submit written or electronic mail (e-mail) comment(s) with the commenter's name and address to the address below. Only comments and/or requests received on or before **5:00 p.m., November 27, 2018** will be considered.

The NMED contact to submit comments/requests or for additional information is:

Dave Cobrain, Program Manager
NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
Or via e-mail: dave.cobrain@state.nm.us
Ref: Kirtland AFB – Permit Modification, Closure Plan, OB/OD

Written comments must be based on the administrative record. Documents in the administrative record need not be re-submitted, if expressly referenced by the commenter. Requests for a public hearing shall provide: (1) a clear and concise factual statement of the nature and scope of the interest of the person requesting the hearing; (2) the name and address of all persons whom the requestor represents; (3) a statement of any objections to the proposed action, including specific references; and (4) a statement of the issues which such persons propose to raise for

consideration at the hearing. Written comment and requests for Public Hearing must be filed with Dave Cobrain on or before **5:00 p.m., November 28, 2018**. The NMED will provide a minimum thirty (30) day notice of a public hearing, if scheduled.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Any person with a disability and requiring assistance or auxiliary aid to participate in this process should contact Donna Wright, NMED, Room S-4303, P.O. Box 5469, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502-6110. TDD or TDY users please access Ms. Wright's number via the New Mexico Relay Network at 1-800-659-8331.

Non-Discrimination Statement

NMED does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.

If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

Kristine Pintado, Non-Discrimination Coordinator
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2855
nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above or visit our website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/non-employee-discrimination-complaint-page/> to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.