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Cabinet Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 25, 2020

Colonel Ryan S. Nye, USAF
Vice Commander
377th Air Base Wing
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE
Kirtland AFB NM 87117

**RE: APPROVAL - REQUEST FOR EXTENSION
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FOR THE MARCH 4, 2020 DISAPPROVAL ETHYLENE
DIBROMIDE IN SITU BIODEGRADATION PILOT TEST REPORT
BULK FUELS FACILITY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS ST-106 AND SS-111
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID# NM6213820974
HWB-KAFB-19-011**

Dear Colonel Nye:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received Kirtland Air Force Base (Permittee) *Response to Comments for the March 4, 2020 Disapproval Ethylene Dibromide In Situ Biodegradation Pilot Test Report, Bulk Fuels Facility, Solid Waste Management Units ST-106/SS-111* (RTC), dated September 8, 2020 and received on September 11, 2020.

The RTC raises several points of concern that I would like to address. The first and second issues pertain to concerns regarding the scope of the Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) Biodegradation Pilot Test. This issue was raised previously and responded to by NMED. Rather than restating our response I have enclosed an e-mail to your staff as well as a letter to Colonel King that speaks to this issue. NMED concluded that the comments in the Notice of Disapproval (NOD) were consistent with the scope of the approved work plan.

The RTC goes further to suggest that the NOD does not reflect the agreement that the

Permittee may rely upon commitments and directions from NMED. The comments contained in the NOD relate directly to the NMED approved work plan and, as such, are consistent with our agreement. The NOD does not contain comments unrelated to the scope of the approved work plan nor is the NOD based on a “failure” of the pilot to address delineation of light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) as suggested in the RTC. In fact, in NMED’s letter to Colonel King, it was noted that the questions and concerns raised during the pilot do not represent a failure of the pilot. Addressing these issues and concerns early in the process will allow NMED to collaboratively consider the viability, scalability, and potential deployment of this technology in a robust, data-driven corrective measures evaluation (CME).

The third issue raise in the RTC is the inclusion of “global issues” for future work. This issue was raised by your staff in regard to other NMED correspondence related to the Facility. NMED agreed to provide a consolidated, stand alone, listing of such issues to assure they can be broadly addressed in future correspondence to NMED. This letter was issued by NMED in September 2, 2020.

Regarding the fourth issue associated with technical comments and clarifying questions, NMED is anxious to discuss these items in order to assist the Permittee in responding to the NOD.

Finally, the RTC states, “[t]o allow time for NMED's review of the RTC table, a meeting between NMED and the Air Force to discuss the RTC table and for the Air Force to revise the ISB [In Situ Biodegradation] Pilot [R]eport the Air Force respectfully requests an additional extension to 20 November 2020. This date was based on the assumption that the meeting would be held before the end of September.” Although we welcome the opportunity to discuss the response to comments contained in the RTC, NMED is not able to commit to a meeting on this topic in September due to the late request and competing priorities at NMED. My staff will work with your staff to set up a call focused on the technical issues raised in our NOD. Your request for an extension of time to submit the revised report to **November 20, 2020** is approved.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 476-6035.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Pierard, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Enclosures

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB

B. Wear, NMED HWB
M. Suzuki, NMED HWB
L. King EPA Region 6 (GLCRRC)
S. Kottkamp, KAFB
K. Lynnes, KAFB
C. Cash, KAFB

File: KAFB 2020 Bulk Fuels Facility Spill and Read