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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 16-05

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO May 2016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT CLOSURE PLAN FOR THE LIQUID PROPELLANT EVAPORATION/NEUTRALIZATION PITS, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS 92A/B THROUGH 100 AT WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NEW MEXICO, EPA ID NO. NM2750211235

Under the authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Section 74-4-1 et seq., New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978, as amended, 1992) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 [New Mexico Administrative Code] NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) intends to issue, pending public input into this decision, a Closure Plan received from White Sands Missile Range (WSMR or the Permittee) for ten Interim Status Hazardous Waste Management Units (HWMUs) designated as the Liquid Propellant Evaporation/Neutralization Pits. The units are labeled as Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) 92A/B through 100 on Table 4-4 of the 2009 WSMR RCRA Permit. The units are being closed in accordance with 20.4.1.600 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR 265 subpart G).

WSMR is a United States Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Installation established in 1945. WSMR is the largest land area military installation in the United States, encompassing approximately 3,200 square miles of land in Doña Ana, Socorro, Lincoln, Otero, and Sierra Counties in south-central New Mexico. The installation is approximately 99 miles long (north to south) and 25 to 40 miles wide (east to west). WSMR was established on July 9, 1945, as White Sands Proving Ground (the name was changed in 1958) to be the nation's testing range for newly developed missile weapons. WSMR is located in the Tularosa Basin of south-central New Mexico, and portions of WSMR extend west into the Jornada del Muerto Basin. The headquarters (Main Post) area of WSMR is located at the southwestern corner of the installation, approximately 27 miles east-northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and 45 miles north of El Paso, Texas. The main entrance to WSMR is on U.S. Highway 70, east from Interstate 25 at Exit 6.

The HWMUs are located approximately three miles east of the Main Post area and were constructed in the mid- to late 1950s. Each HWMU was an unlined earthen pit that provided secondary containment for a specific product storage area. The pits were associated with storage

areas that contained Inhibited Red Fuming Nitric Acid; liquid propellants such as monomethyl hydrazine (MMH), unsymmetrical dimethyl hydrazine, ammonia; and petroleum, oil, and lubricants. The Closure Plan proposes investigation at each HWMU to verify that there is no residual contamination at any of the units at concentrations that could pose an unacceptable risk to human health or ecological receptors.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

A copy of the administrative record may be reviewed at the following location:

NMED - Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Contact: Pam Allen
(505) 476-6000

A copy of the Closure Plan is also available on the NMED website at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/wsmrperm.html. To obtain a copy of the administrative record or a portion thereof, or for further information, contact Mr. Dave Cobrain at (505) 476-6055 or at the address given below.

The 30-day public comment period begins on **May 5, 2016 and ends on June 4, 2016**. 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 respective address below. Only comments or requests received on or before **5:00 p.m. June 4, 2016** will be considered. Written comments may be sent to:

Dave Cobrain, Program Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau - New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Ref: White Sands Missile Range, SWMUs 92A-100 Closure Plan
email: dave.cobrain@state.nm.us

Written comments must be based on the information available for review and include, to the extent practicable, all referenced factual materials. 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 requester represents; (3) a statement of any objections to the Closure Plan; and (4) a statement of the issues which the commenter proposes to raise for consideration at the hearing. NMED will provide a minimum 30 days notice of a Public Hearing, if scheduled.

NMED must ensure that the approved Closure Plan consistent with the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations. All written comments submitted will be considered in formulating a final decision and may result in NMED modifying the Closure Plan. NMED will

respond in writing to all public comments received. This response will specify which provisions, if any, of the Closure Plan have been changed in the final decision and the reasons for the change, and will provide a brief description of all public comments. All persons presenting written comments or who request notification in writing will be notified of the decision by mail. The final decision will also be posted on the NMED website.

After consideration of all the written public comments received, NMED will issue or modify and issue the Closure Plan. If NMED modifies the Closure Plan, NMED will provide to the Permittee a copy of the modified Closure Plan and a detailed written statement containing the reasons for the modifications by mail.

NMED will make the final decision publicly available and will notify the Permittee by certified mail. The final decision will constitute a final agency decision and may be appealed as provided by the HWA.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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