



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY CENTER AND FORT BLISS
1733 PLEASANTON ROAD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916-6816

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 **ENTERED**

January 14, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Directorate of Environment

RCRA Permits Program Manager
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

RE: Notification of Construction Activities
US Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
Fort Bliss Open Detonation Treatment Unit
EPA ID No. NM 4213720101-01

JAN 1998
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Dear Program Manager:

In response to the discussions of our 19 November 1997 meeting, this letter is intended to serve as notification of construction activities that were performed at the McGregor Range Open Detonation (OD) Treatment Unit. These construction activities were conducted according to the requirements of the Part B Permit that was issued in June 1995. The completed activities and reference to the Part B Permit Provisions are listed below.

a. Permit Module II, Provision D, Security Plan. As required, a 6-foot tall chain-link (cyclone) fence was constructed around the OD Treatment Unit. The fence was topped with barb-wire strands and is equipped with two gates that are locked when the Unit is not in use. The entrance road entering from the south side of the Unit was extended to allow for exit of the vehicles that transport the waste munitions to the Unit. The exit road was added because of the difficulty in maneuvering within the Unit. Large (3' X 4') bilingual warning signs were installed approximately 150 feet from each corner of the Unit. Smaller (1' X 1.5') warning signs have also been mounted on the security fence at approximately 300 foot intervals around the Unit.

b. Permit Module III, Provision C.1. In order to minimize the possibility of a fire, the bottom of the Unit was graded in early 1996 to remove vegetation.

c. Permit Module III, Provision C.6 and C.7. As required, a storm water diversion system (runon/runoff system) was designed and constructed at the Unit in early 1996. The system is composed of a protective berm, drainage channels, and corrugated metal pipes that divert storm water runoff around the Unit. The Certification of Construction and Modification for this system and as-built drawings were provided to NMED and dated 24 June 1996.

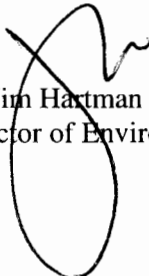
d. Permit Module III, Provision C.9. The historical blast pits within the Unit were graded to prevent accumulation of precipitation within the Unit.

e. Permit Module III, Provision C.10. Bilingual warning signs were placed approximately 150 feet from each of the four corners of the Unit.

f. Permit Attachment I, Page 4, Handling and Preserving Explosives. This section of the Permit relates to safe handling of explosives while loading and unloading activities. To mitigate the safety hazards (old pits, rough terrain) during unloading operations, the bottom of the OD Unit was graded and the historical blast pits were filled. Note that the regrading operation only involved scraping the surface and smoothing the area of historical blast pits.

OD treatment activities, compliance sampling, and Unit inspections are currently conducted at the Unit. This information is available upon request and a summary is contained in the biennial report (Permit Module II, Provision J.2.) that is submitted to your office. Fort Bliss continues to operate the OD Unit in accordance with the Operational Permit, and this letter is intended to summarize the construction related activities that have been completed to date. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. David Felix (915 568-0931) or Mr. Ismael Delgado (915 568-6993) if you have any questions or need additional information on the items in this letter.

Sincerely,


Dr. Jim Hartman
Director of Environment

Copies Furnished:

Stephen Pullen - NMED
LTC Jack Frost, CDR 1st CAS BN