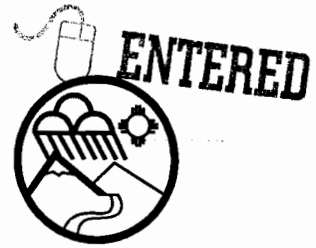




GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
2044 A Galisteo, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-1557
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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

PAUL R. RITZMA
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 12, 2001

Mr. James Harris
EPA Region 6
(6PD-N)
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

**RE: Petition for No Further Action Petition for Six New Mexico Sites
Fort Bliss
EPA ID No. NM4213720101**

Dear Mr. Harris:

As we discussed, I am sending you a copy of Fort Bliss's NFA Petition. In accordance with our Public Participation requirements, Fort Bliss opened a 60-day public comment by publishing a legal notice in local newspapers on October 15, 2000; the public comment period ended on December 14, 2000. Fort Bliss also placed a copy of this permit modification request and supporting documents at the Las Cruces Branigan Memorial Library and the Alamogordo Public Library. Fort Bliss held a public meeting at their Restoration Action Board Meeting on November 15, 2000; no verbal comments were entered into the public record at the public meeting and no written comments were submitted to either Fort Bliss or HWB by the close of the public comment period on December 14, 2000.

I intend to send Fort Bliss a Admin Completeness letter in the next week or so. They will have 60 days to submit their fees. In the interim, I will have completed my first technical review. As usual, we will be happy to incorporate any comments that EPA wishes to make in our "Request for Supplemental Information".

There are several problems with their Risk Assessment, but I think that when they correctly recalculate background concentrations and mean concentrations for the COCs, they will be able to screen out most constituents. More detailed site-specific eco-risk assessments may be required, but I expect that we will be able to NFA most of these sites.

Red FB/2001

James Harris
Page 2

If you have any questions, please call me at 505-827-1558 (extension 1024).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn von Gonten", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Glenn von Gonten
Fort Bliss Project Leader
RCRA Permits Management Program

GVG
[FB-00-004]

cc: Pam Allen, NMED-HRMB
Reading File, Red FB File