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**RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT
HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY
CLOSURE PLAN
EPA ID No. NM6572124422**

to the

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE**

for the

**CLOSURE OF AN OPEN BURNING TREATMENT UNIT
at the
300-POUND OPEN BURN TREATMENT UNIT IN OTERO
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

JANUARY 1997

Prepared by the

**New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
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CLOSURE PLAN APPROVAL

COPY

Permittee: Holloman Air Force Base

EPA Identification Number: NM6572124422

Pursuant to the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 6901, et seq., NMSA 1978) and regulations promulgated thereunder by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board (codified in the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20 NMAC 4.1 Revised November 1, 1995) this Closure Plan is approved for the Open Burn (OB) Unit at Holloman Air Force Base hereafter called HAFB. The OB Unit is located 9 miles west of the city of Alamogordo, New Mexico.

HAFB must comply with all terms and conditions of this approved Closure Plan. The approved Closure Plan consists of the activities described herein (including any appendices) and the applicable regulations contained in 20 NMAC 4.1, as specified in the approved Closure Plan. Applicable regulations are in effect on the date of issuance of this approved Closure Plan approval in accordance with 20 NMAC 4.1 Revised November 1, 1995.

This Closure plan approval is based on the assumption that information presented in the Part B, Closure Plan submittal and the Administrative Record is accurate and that the activities will be conducted as specified in the Closure Plan and Administrative Record.

Any inaccuracies found in the submitted information may be grounds for the modification or amendment of the approved Closure Plan in accordance with 20 NMAC 4.1 Revised November 1, 1995 in Subpart VI incorporating 40 CFR §265.113, and for enforcement action. HAFB must inform the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) of any deviation or changes in the information in the Closure Plan submittal which would affect HAFB's ability to comply with the applicable regulations or conditions of the approved Closure Plan under the provisions of 20 NMAC 4.1 Revised November 1, 1995 Subpart VI at 40 CFR §265.113.

This approved Closure Plan is effective from the date of signature by the Division Director and shall remain in effect until Closure Certification Verification is approved or an approved Post-Closure Care Permit is issued under the provisions of 20 NMAC 4.1 Revised November 1, 1995.

Signed this 11th day of February 1997

by Ed Kelley
Ed Kelley, Ph.D., Director
Water and Waste Management Division
New Mexico Environment Department

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SECTION 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Holloman Air Force Base (**HAFB**) has thermally treated a variety of waste ordnance (i.e., munitions, incendiaries, and propellants) at their 300-Pound Open Burn (**OB**) Unit. Waste ordnance was thermally treated in four excavated trenches at the 300-pound OB Unit. The ordnance materials became waste because they had exceeded their intended shelf life, had deteriorated, had been damaged, or had failed to attain specifications that rendered them nonserviceable. This waste ordnance was considered to be characteristically hazardous under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (**RCRA**) because of ignitability (D001) or reactivity (D003). The reactive waste thermally treated on site at any one time was less than 250 pounds net explosive weight.

1.1 Closure Objectives

This closure plan, presents a comprehensive approach to close the 300-pound OB Unit permanently. The clean closure strategy presented in this plan is designed to ensure that the 300-pound OB Unit:

- will not require further maintenance;
- will minimize any threat to human health and the environment; and
- will control or eliminate the escape of any hazardous waste, hazardous constituents, leachate, contaminated runoff, or decomposition products.

SECTION 2

2.0 SITE CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 Site Location

The 300-Pound OB Treatment Unit is located in the east-central portion of the HAFB boundary, 9 miles west of Alamogordo in New Mexico, and 75 miles northeast of El Paso, Texas. Figure 2-0 is a large-scale topographic map showing the location of HAFB, the four trenches that were previously active, and the Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) in its vicinity. Figure 2-1 presents a location map of HAFB and the location of the 300-Pound OB Unit.

2.2 Detailed Site Description

The 300-Pound Open Burn Unit comprises of the Open Burn Area (OBA) and Trench Number 4. The OBA is a cleared circular area with a diameter of approximately 800 ft (≈11.5 acres). The cleared circular area is encircled by an earthen berm and the entire OB Unit, including Trench Number 4 is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence as shown Figure 2-1. Access to the OB Unit is controlled by a locked gate. The OB Unit was active from 1988 to 1994, and was operated under interim status.

The 300-Pound OB Unit was formerly called a Moving Trench area in that when one trench was filled with treatment residuals resulting from thermally treating waste ordnance, a new trench was excavated nearby and used until filled. There are four trenches at the OB Unit (See Figure 2-2).

Each of the four trenches numbered 1 to 4 in figure 2-2 is approximately 20 ft long, 10 to 12 ft deep, and 6 ft wide. Trenches 1, 2, and 3 are located within the originally designated 800-ft open burn area. Trench 4 is located outside of this 11.5-acre area to the east of the cleared area. Trenches 1 and 2 were the most recently active trenches, but neither is currently in use. Trenches 1 and 2 contain treated residuals and have not been backfilled. Each is temporarily covered by a metal sheet to prevent wind disturbance of the residuals infiltration by precipitation. Trench 1 was filled with treatment residuals before Trench 2 was excavated for use.

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MAPS WITH THIS DOCUMENT,
PLEASE CALL THE
HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU
AT 505-476-6000 TO MAKE AN
APPOINTMENT**