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HAFB 2000
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Reading
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7/13/00
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregory J. Lewis, Water and Waste Management Division
THROUGH: James P. Bearzi, Chief, Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
John E. Kieling, Manager, Permits Management Program, HRMB *JK*
FROM: Stephanie Kruse, Supervisor, RPMP *SK*
SUBJECT: VERIFICATION OF CLOSURE: PONDS A THROUGH G,
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE
DATE: June 29, 2000

Ponds A through G are interim status former sewage lagoons at Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB), required to close under a 1989 Federal Facility Compliance Agreement signed by HAFB, EPA, and NMED. Closure was delayed until the new sewage treatment plant was constructed and permitted.

Some industrial hazardous wastes were discharged to the old sewage treatment plant prior to 1985, making the sludge itself a hazardous waste. The ponds also received pesticide run-off from the golf course and other areas of the Base. Over 4,000 tons of PCB-contaminated sludge were removed from Ponds A and B in 1990.

Closure for Ponds A through F was approved based on a restricted open space land use. The site has been dewatered, covered, restored to natural contours, and revegetated.

A No Action closure was approved for the 40-acre Pond G. Although DDT derivatives, DDD and DDE, were ecological COCs for Pond G, these hazardous constituents are well below action levels and are decreasing significantly yearly. The ecological risk assessment performed showed that the aquatic food chains examined were unlikely to be threatened by the COCs and that there had been no decrease in the surviveability or productivity within the aquatic species examined.

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The No Action decision for Pond G was based on the low potential for adverse impacts to wildlife, the importance of Pond G as habitat for aquatic species, the importance of Pond G in maintaining the existing and new wetlands as well as Lakes Holloman and Stinky, and the fact that the use of the constructed wetlands and Pond G as part of the new wastewater treatment system was necessary for a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society agreed that adverse environmental effects would be greater from clean-up efforts (drying the pond and removing the sludge) than from the No Action alternative.