



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



ENTERED
ANTHONY DENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

January 19, 2023

Mr. Adam Kusmak
Chief, Installation Management Flight
49th CES/CEI
550 Tabosa Avenue
Holloman AFB, NM 88330

**RE: RESPONSE TO RESPONSE TO APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION
FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2020 GROUNDWATER MONITORING REPORT,
SS-039 - MISSILE FUEL SPILL AREA (SWMUS 177, 179 & 181), DECEMBER 2020
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID # NM6572124422
HWB-HAFB-21-001**

Dear Mr. Kusmak,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the U.S. Air Force (Permittee) Holloman Air Force Base (Facility) *Response Letter To Approval With Modifications - Final Fiscal Year 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Report, SS-039 - Missile Fuel Spill Area (SWMUs 177, 179 & 181), December 2020 (Response)*, on August 9, 2021.

NMED does not agree with the Permittee's assertion that installing a new monitoring well would not impact the site risk assessment or management of risk at the site. The temporary monitoring wells MW36-08 through MW39-12 were last sampled in 2012, more than 10 years ago. Current TCE and perchlorate concentrations south of the existing monitoring wells are unknown and the total extent of the TCE plume is undefined. The installation of at least two monitoring wells in the 100-meter buffer of the Lost River Basin area is necessary. NMED recognizes that the timeline for installation may be delayed due to the need for review and consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NM Department of Game and Fish. Alternatively, the Permittee may propose another method to define the extent of contamination, such as the use of temporary wells. Regardless, a minimum of four sampling events must be conducted in any newly installed well to confirm data validity.

A review of the Final SS-039 – Missile Fuel Spill Area (SWMUs 165, 177, 179 & 181) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation Report – Revision 2, dated March 15, 2019, and recent monitoring reports indicates that a Tier 2 ecological risk evaluation has not been completed. Corrective action complete status for the site cannot be determined until the

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Hazardous Waste Bureau - 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
Telephone (505) 476-6000 - www.env.nm.gov

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Permittee evaluates ecological risk at the site and updates the ecological risk assessment report.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Naomi Davidson at (505) 690-7567.

Sincerely,

Rick Shean

Digitally signed by Rick
Shean
Date: 2023.01.19 10:02:07
-07'00'

Rick Shean
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
B. Wear, NMED HWB
N. Davidson, NMED HWB
L. King, EPA Region 6 (6LCRRC)
G. Lyssy, EPA Region 6 (6LCRRC)
C. Schick, HAFB
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