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**Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested**

September 26, 2023

Mr. James Scott Dorton  
Chief, Environmental Compliance and Conservation  
550 Tabosa Avenue  
Holloman AFB, NM 88330

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION  
FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 GROUNDWATER MONITORING REPORT SS-039 – MISSILE  
FUEL SPILL AREA (SWMUS 177, 179, & 181) AUGUST 2023  
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE  
EPA ID # NM6572124422  
HWB-HAFB-23-005**

Dear Mr. Dorton,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the U.S. Air Force (Permittee) Holloman Air Force Base (Facility) *Final Fiscal Year 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report SS-039 – Missile Fuel Spill Area (SWMUs 177, 179, & 181) August 2023*, (Report) on August 14, 2023. NMED has reviewed the Report and hereby issues this Approval with the following modification:

**MODIFICATION**

**1. MONITORING WELL SAMPLE PROCEDURE**

**NMED Comment:** Table 4-2 and the Field Data Forms in Appendix B of the Report indicate that monitoring well MW39-01 was sampled without purging due to an insufficient amount of water in the water column. The Permittee must follow the *Final Groundwater Monitoring Plan SS-039 – Missile Fuel Spill Area (SWMUs 177, 179, & 181), Revision 1, September 2019* (Work Plan), approved by NMED on November 6, 2019, or other established monitoring well sampling techniques, such as those described in *Use of Low-Flow and Other Non-Traditional Sampling Techniques for RCRA Compliant Groundwater Monitoring*, which can be found at [https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/08/11-7low-flow\\_final.pdf](https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/08/11-7low-flow_final.pdf), or get NMED approval prior to deviating from the approved Work Plan. The Permittee is reminded that sampling

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stagnated groundwater will not produce groundwater samples that are characteristic of local aquifer conditions.

In the future, ensure that all monitoring wells are fully purged; if a well has insufficient well column to purge, either fully purge the well and sample after the well recovers or use a low flow sampling technique. Additionally, in future monitoring reports, if there are monitoring wells with insufficient water for a complete purge, include a discussion in the monitoring report detailing the purging and sampling activities, or indicate that a low flow sampling method was used.

No response or revision to the Report is necessary or requested. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Naomi Davidson at (505) 690-7567.

Sincerely,

**Ricardo Maestas**

Digitally signed by Ricardo  
Maestas  
Date: 2023.09.26 15:21:08 -06'00'

Ricardo Maestas  
Acting Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
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