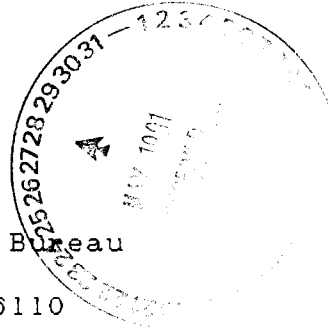




DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS 1606TH AIR BASE WING (MAC)
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO 87117-5000

ENTERED



22 MAY 1991

Dr Bruce Swanton
Geologist
Hazardous and Radioactive Waste Bureau
NM Environment Department
1190 St Francis Drive, PO Box 26110
Santa Fe NM 87502

Dear Dr Swanton

This letter constitutes the quarterly report on the compliance agreement status for the fifth quarter following the signing of the agreement between Kirtland and ED in February 1990.

As in the February 1991 report, the only outstanding issue is the adequacy of the groundwater monitoring systems installed at the sewage lagoons and the golf course pond, and the possibility that ED may approve an alternate groundwater monitoring system for these sites.

The request for an alternate monitoring system approval is being prepared at this time. We have recently received a report from the US Geological Survey which includes an opinion from the USGS on the ability of the existing systems to detect a release of contaminants to groundwater (this report was delayed by the fact that statement of such an opinion by the USGS requires high-level internal review by the Survey). We also intend to include in the alternate monitoring system request information currently being prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation on risk assessment of the sewage sludge. We think this information will have a bearing on the overall environmental threat from the units and the appropriateness of an alternate monitoring system. This information from the Bureau is expected soon.

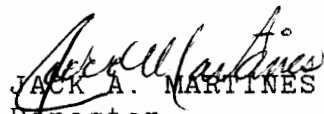
With each sampling event chromium levels continue to drop, indicating that the chromium was a result of remnant drilling fluid, fine-grained formation material, or well construction materials rather than wide-spread contamination of groundwater. Data to support this conclusion is included in the USGS report which will be submitted to ED with the alternate monitoring system request.

KAFB1123



If you have any questions, please contact Mr John Gould at 846-2773.

Respectfully



JACK A. MARTINES, Colonel, USAF
Director
Environmental Management Division

cc: NMED (Tracy Hughes)