



BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505) 827-2850

ENTERED

JUDITH M. ESPINOSA
SECRETARY

RON CURRY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 28, 1992

RED
Col. Thomas A. Norris, Director
Environmental Management Division
1606 ABW/EM
Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico 87117-5000

RE: Contingency Planning for Building 1024
NM9570024423

Dear Col. Norris:

The Albuquerque Fire Department has informed the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) has failed to cooperate with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) by not providing all pertinent information necessary concerning hazardous waste management at Building 1024 to assist the LEPC in meeting its duty to create a contingency plan for emergency response to incidents potentially affecting the community. KAFB's hazardous waste storage permit (Section III. M.) requires KAFB to provide such information to the LEPC within one year of January 1, 1991. The expiration date for this requirement has passed.

Please respond to our office in writing within thirty calendar days of receipt of this letter as to how KAFB plans to meet this permit requirement. If KAFB feels that it has met this requirement, a description of how this has been met must be submitted to our office. If KAFB does not respond as requested in this letter, NMED will issue a Notice of Violation letter to KAFB requiring compliance with its permit.

Concerning a hazardous waste incident involving a bulging drum containing acetic acid that occurred at Building 1024 on or about May 20, 1992, NMED believes that KAFB did not violate the terms of its permit (Section III. N.) in that the incident reportedly did not involve an actual release of hazardous waste. However, NMED does feel that it would have been appropriate for KAFB to inform the Albuquerque Fire Department in addition to informing the hospital. The failure of KAFB to notify one party but not all other interested parties apparently led to a significant and potentially costly emergency response activation procedure on the part of the Albuquerque Fire Department.

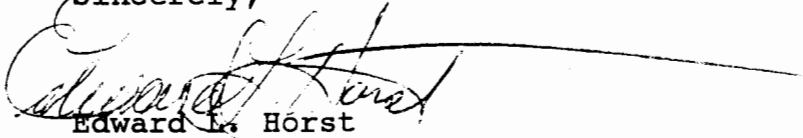


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NMED appreciates KAFB's effort to notify NMED of this incident, but feels that notification of all parties is important once a decision to make any notification is made.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Coby Muckelroy or myself at (505)827-4300.

Sincerely,



Edward L. Horst
RCRA Program Manager
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

ELH:CGM:cm

cc: Garth Graves, NMED District I Office
Herb Grover, Permitting Supervisor, HRMB
Elizabeth Gordon, Permitting Group, HRMB
Jesse O. Waddles, Assistant Chief, Albuquerque Fire Dept.