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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Headquarters 377th Air Base Wing (AFMC)
2000 Wyoming Boulevard SE
Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico 87117-5659

10 Mar 94

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS

FROM: 377 ABW/EMN

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Bernalillo County/Kirtland Air Force
Base Environmental Working Group (BC/KAFB EWG) -
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

1. PLACE: Mountainview Fire Station, 4401 Broadway SE
2. TIME/DATE: 0915, 3 Mar 94
3. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Michael Guerrero, Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)
4. ATTENDANCE: See Attachment 1
5. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES: Mr. Guerrero called the meeting to order at 0925 and asked that all attendees introduce themselves. Mr. Guerrero reviewed the purpose of the working group, as stated in the charter. Copies of the November 1993 minutes were available to members and attendees at the meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.
6. KIRTLAND INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM (IRP) ACTIVITIES UPDATE: Mr. Harry Davidson, KAFB, reported on the IRP activities that are underway at Kirtland. The RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) report for the Appendix I solid waste management units (SWMU) was submitted to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 on 21 Dec 93. The Appendix I RFI Report was prepared from data gathered from the Stage 2/2A field activities. The Appendix I RFI Report was sent to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and SWOP in February 1994 after additional copies were made. On 28 Jan 1994, Kirtland submitted the Draft Stage 2C Workplan (WP) for Appendix III solid waste management units (SWMU) to the EPA for review. On 24 Jan 94, the plan to create a stage 2D Workplan was proposed for addressing RB-7 and RB-11 separately. Halliburton NUS (HNUS) is the new Kirtland contractor for the Stage 2B field work and report, and Stage 2C WP field work and report. Ms. Morlock, EPA, reported that EPA review of the Stage 2C WP should be completed by April. Mr. Paul Robinson, South West Research and Information Center (SWRIC), asked for a meeting with Kirtland Environmental Management Division staff to discuss specific questions on the

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Stage 2A RFI Report. Colonel Norris agreed to arrange a meeting for this purpose.

7. NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT (NMED) STUDY ON TRUCK FARMING CONTAMINATION IN THE MOUNTAINVIEW COMMUNITY: Mr. Dennis McQuillan (NMED) has completed a study of the South Valley Mountainview area nitrate contamination. He made two significant discoveries in researching the issue: 1) Hell's Canyon Arroyo, on Isleta Pueblo, and Tijeras Arroyo share similar natural geologic origin; and 2) a large Mountainview truck farm which operated during the 1940s.

a. Hell's Canyon wash shows a high nitrate level, similar to the Tijeras Arroyo. One of Mr. McQuillan's hypotheses is that in summer, pulses of nitrate-enriched rainwater drain in the arroyo and fan out. The water seeps down and evaporates. His other hypothesis is that nitrate is leaching out of the arroyo soil by natural processes. Only about five flows a year cross Kirtland through the Tijeras Arroyo and make it to the west Kirtland boundary. The high concentration of nitrates in arroyos may occur in other watersheds.

b. In 1936, Tyse and Scofield made a series of water quality samples along the railroad tracks from Cochiti to Socorro for a report to Congress. An extraordinary geochemical groundwater condition of over 10,000 grams total dissolved solids/milliliter was discovered in the Mountainview area, which is very salty. In addition, Mr. McQuillan discovered evidence of the operation of a large truck farm which utilized an unlined liquid fertilizer pond at the Barr Avenue cul de sac. The movement of the identified plume indicates that the nitrate contamination is the result of a specific contamination source. Mr. McQuillan concluded from the results of his study that Kirtland Air Force Base can be almost completely ruled out as a contributor to nitrate contamination in the Mountainview area.

c. The best remediation for the nitrate-enriched water in Mountainview would be to pump it and use it to irrigate crops. The meeting received television coverage on this issue.

8. REPORT FROM DOE/DOD ON HUMAN IONIZING RADIATION EXPERIMENTS AT KIRTLAND. Ms. Linda Ericson, Occupational Health Director at Sandia National Labs (SNL), reported that, in response to DOE Secretary, Ms. Hazel O'Leary, SNL instituted a Human Studies Board. In January 1994, the DOE task force directed all DOE labs to complete a records review and inventory on human radiation experiments. The scope of the review was to search for evidence of intentional experiments of ionizing radiation on individuals. An estimated 425,000 linear feet of SNL files were checked. Interviews were conducted with SNL retirees and research directors. No documents show that SNL ever conducted deliberate

biomedical ionizing research on humans. Vice presidents at SNL discouraged this kind of testing. The task force report will be sent to DOE by mid-April 1994. The inventory will be made available to the President's Advisory Committee.

Mr. Harry Davidson researched the question of Air Force human ionizing radiation experiments at Kirtland. He interviewed the former historians for the Air Force Weapons Lab (AFWL), now called the Phillips Lab (PL), Dr. Minge and Dr. Alberts. AFWL conducted hardware experiments; human ionizing radiation experiments were not within the scope of the DOD research at Kirtland. Dr. DeBoer, AFWL researcher, was also interviewed and concurred that no human ionizing radiation experiments were conducted at AFWL. The PL Technical Library is computer indexed and the largest report repository at Kirtland. Responding to an information request from the Surgeon General, the PL librarian searched the file and did not find any indication of human radiation exposure experiments conducted at AFWL.

9. UPDATE ON DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) CONTAMINATED SITES AT KIRTLAND. Ms. Caroline Byrd, SNL, reported that of 66 SNL environmental restoration (ER) sites with potential DU, 41 sites (480 acres) have been surveyed for surface radiation, which is 63 percent of field work completed. Field work surveys will be completed by the end of April. Thirty sites were identified to have radiation that exceeded background levels but do not exceed allowable dose levels. Verification of geologic anomalies and radionuclides will be undertaken next. The field monitoring shows that the radiation is less than 10 percent of OCSHA standards. The survey was started in July 1993 with surveyors in protective clothing. Throughout the survey individual monitoring was conducted. However, the levels encountered were low enough not to require full protective clothing during the latter portion of the field work.

10. UPDATE ON FORMATION OF A LOCAL SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (SSAB). Ms. Stephanie Stoddard, NMED, reported that a meeting will be held to discuss the formation of an SSAB on 9 Mar 94 at the UNM Continuing Education Building. Currently, the scope with DOE would be environmental restoration and related waste management. Chartered SSABs would have budgets. Ex-officio members would be DOE and regulators. Ms. Stoddard is part of a planning subcommittee for information outreach to determine mission, scope, and charter.

Lt Colonel Pratt reported that to his knowledge, the Air Force position is to keep the BC/KAFB EWG function. The additional costs associated with the proposed SSAB is a concern at Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command. The Air Force is willing to be an observer at the DOE SSAB. Mr. Guerrero, SWOP, felt that the BC/KAFB EWG is flexible enough to accommodate related issues, such as the NMED report on Mountainview nitrate

contamination and, as such, works effectively. Mr. Robinson, SWIRP, noted that Kirtland provides administrative support through the writing of meeting minutes. Ms. Kathie Leyendecker, representative of Congressman Steve Schiff, was asked to arrange a meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the BC/KAFB versus the proposed SSAB. Colonel Norris expressed concern that the proposed SSAB may expand beyond his ability to respond, and that the SSAB could take some of the positive interchange of the EWG meetings away with greater formalization.

10. REPORT ON THE FEDERAL FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION DIALOGUE COMMITTEE. Mr. Guerrero, SWOP, attended a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on the subject. He would like to involve issues of environmental justice. Future meetings will be held in April.

11. PRESENTATION BY HALLIBURTON NUS (HNUS), NEW FIELD IRP CONTRACTOR FOR THE AIR FORCE. The HNUS contractor staff introduced themselves. HNUS established an Albuquerque office in 1992, and has 50,000 employees worldwide. Mr. Kevin Walter explained the upcoming activities regarding the RCRA Part B permit (Atch 2). Public involvement will be solicited within the work plan approval process. Ms. Garland, CARD, asked about where any removed radioactive contaminated soil would be disposed. Mr. Walter explained that document investigation indicated that RB-7 was cleaned by SNL in the early 1960s, but that must be confirmed. The second site of animal carcass burial, RB-11, is still an open question. One recommendation in the corrective measures study may be to contain the site in place. Disposal is an open question.

12. The next BC/KAFB EWG will be Wednesday, 25 May 94; the Air Force will be the chair. Mr. Guerrero proposed that the meeting be held at 7 pm at the UNM Continuing Education Building. The DOE meeting will be on 24 May 94.

13. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1215.

George K' Pratt
 THOMAS A. NORRIS, Colonel, USAF
 Director
 Environmental Management Division

3 Attachments

1. List of Attendees
2. HNUS RCRA activities
3. Forest Service info

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