



**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

ENTERED



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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 4, 2016



Mr. L. Wayne Bitner
Chief, Environmental Restoration
2050 Wyoming Blvd SE
Kirtland AFB, New Mexico 87117-5600

RE: DP-1770 Modification Application and Termination

Dear Mr. Bitner:

On December 4, 2015, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) received Kirtland Air Force Base's (KAFB) application (Application) to modify Discharge Permit 1770 (DP-1770). The Application requested authorization to apply treated groundwater as an irrigation source to the KAFB Tijeras Arroyo Golf Course (Golf Course), to utilize the treated groundwater for dust suppression, and to infiltrate a portion of the water. The source of this discharge is groundwater contaminated with ethylene dibromide (EDB) extracted from wells KAFB-106228R, KAFB-106233 and KAFB-106234, which is then treated using granular activated carbon (GAC) for EDB removal to below the constituent's 0.05 µg/L Maximum Contaminant Level prior to discharge. KAFB has established a treatment goal for the GAC system of non-detectable EDB. The proposed discharge is on or near the northwest edge of the Golf Course, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque in Section 9, Township 9N, Range 4E, Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

In addition to the land application procedures addressed in the Application, KAFB has requested authorization to utilize underground injection wells as a means to dispose of the treated groundwater in a separate discharge permit application (DP-1839). The groundwater that is the subject of DP-1770 is undergoing remediation, *i.e.*, extracted and treated, pursuant to KAFB's Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility Operating Permit, EPA ID No. NM9570024423, and meets Federal Drinking Water Standards. The GWQB also notes that KAFB has been irrigating the Golf Course with water of similar chemistry and quality for over fifteen years, with no adverse effects to public health or the environment.

KAFB4405



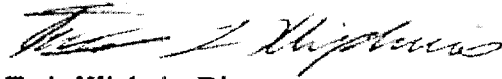
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KAFB is abating water pollution under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) authority delegated to NMED, pursuant to a hazardous waste permit and the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, 20.4.1 NMAC. Therefore, KAFB is exempt from abatement plan requirements for this activity pursuant to 20.6.2.4105.A(2) and (3) NMAC. As would be the case if the abatement was occurring strictly under an abatement plan approved pursuant to the Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations, 20.6.2 NMAC, a discharge permit for land application of treated effluent is not required. Therefore, the GWQB hereby terminates DP-1770 as it is not required for the activity of irrigating the Golf Course with treated effluent regulated pursuant to Hazardous Waste Permit No. NM9570024423.

Should any of these circumstances change, please contact NMED immediately so that we may re-evaluate the regulatory status of this activity. DP-1839 is not impacted by this determination.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Pullen of the Ground Water Quality Bureau's Pollution Prevention Section at (505) 827-2962.

Sincerely,



Trais Kliphuis, Director
Water Protection Division

Cc: (via e-mail)

Kathryn Roberts, NMED Resource Protection Division
Dennis McQuillan, NMED Chief Scientist
Michelle Hunter, NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
John Kieling, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau
Steve Huddleson, NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
Steve Pullen, NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
Jennifer Hower, NMED Office of General Counsel
John Verheul, NMED Office of General Counsel