DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
377TH AIR BASE WING (AFGSC)

Received
MAR 13 2024
NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau

10 March 2024

ENTERED

Colonel Michael J. Power, USAF
Commander
377th Air Base Wing
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE
Kirtland AFB NM 87117

Mr. Quang Nguyen
NPDES Permitting and Wetlands Section (6WD-PE), Water Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

Dear Mr. Nguyen

This letter is provided to notify EPA Region 6 that the Air Force wishes to terminate National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. NM0031216 before its expiration on October 31, 2024. This Permit authorizes Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB) to discharge to the Tijeras Arroyo treated groundwater from the Groundwater Treatment System (GWTS), which is part of the interim measure designed to address groundwater contamination from the Bulk Fuels Facility spill, Solid Waste Management Units ST-106/SS-111.

Kirtland AFB wishes to terminate this Permit based on the cause for termination stated in 40 CFR 122.64(a)(4), "A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of any discharge or sludge use, or disposal practice controlled by the permit (for example, plant closure or termination of discharge by connection to a POTW)." The changes in condition relevant to this Permit are (1) the installation of Underground Injection Control (UIC) well KAFB-106IN2 as a third primary discharge location and (2) the identification of naturally occurring nitrate present in Tijeras Arroyo.

1. Per the conditions of Permit No. NM0031216, discharge to Tijeras Arroyo was only permissible in the event of infrastructure failure at both of the primary GWTS discharge locations, UIC well KAFB-7 and the Golf Course Main Pond. Since the Permit became effective on November 1, 2019, a third primary discharge location, UIC well KAFB-106IN2, was installed and became active in November 2020. As of the date of this correspondence, Kirtland AFB has not discharged to the Tijeras Arroyo from the GWTS and does not intend to prior to Permit expiration. Because the Tijeras Arroyo discharge point has not been used to date and there are now three primary discharge points, Kirtland AFB no longer requires Tijeras Arroyo as a backup discharge location.

2. The Fiscal Year 2022 Long-Term Monitoring Report for ST-105 Nitrate Impacted Groundwater, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, identified the Tijeras Arroyo as contributing to nitrate in groundwater from naturally occurring sources found within the arroyo

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floodplain soils. To prevent artificially mobilizing this naturally occurring nitrate, Kirtland AFB does not intend to discharge to Tijeras Arroyo and therefore no longer requires this Permit.

In accordance with 40 CFR 122.64(c), Kirtland AFB certifies that it is not subject to any pending State or Federal enforcement actions including citizen suits brought under State or Federal law related to NPDES Permit No. NM0031216.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Ryan Wortman at commercial line (505) 853-3484 or email ryan.wortman.3@us.af.mil.

Sincerely

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MICHAEL J. POWER, Colonel, USAF
Commander

cc:
EPA Region 6 NPDES Water Enforcement (Andrews)
EPA Region 6 (King, McKinney), letter and CD
NMED Resource Protection Division (Shean), letter and CD
NMED HWB (Maestas, Dhawan, Eads, Davidson), 2 Hard Copies/2 CDs
NMED GWQB (Romero, Pullen), letter and CD
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