



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-9
600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600

August 10, 2021

Mr. Ricardo Maestas
Acting Chief Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313

SUBJECT: Coordination Efforts Related to Fort Wingate Depot Activity (FWDA), McKinley County, New Mexico. EPA #NM6213820974

Dear Mr. Maestas:

In my position as the new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Branch Chief, I would like to assure you that the Army is committed to addressing environmental issues that remain at Fort Wingate and ensuring protection of human health and the environment.

In this effort, we will continue to work closely with New Mexico Environment Department to advance the progress that has been made over the past 18 months to resolve issues related to the administration of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit for the FWDA. Since our last exchange of letters in 2019, I believe we have made significant efforts to understand your concerns and identify solutions to address those concerns associated with the application of the RCRA Permit. I believe we are on the same page with respect to that progress made. A good example is addressing the groundwater mounding situation in the Administrative Area. A contract to abandon and plug wells 68 and 69 is scheduled for award by 30 September 2021. Additionally, NMED recently issued several "Approval with Modification" letters, allowing the Army to proceed the various groundwater monitoring requirements and projects and we anticipate additional groundwater monitoring contract actions this year. The Army appreciates NMED's collaboration as we address challenges presented at FWDA.

I also believe that the interactions between our respective technical teams have improved the relationship between our agencies, our virtual meetings are productive, and we are making forward progress together. We appreciate the cordial interactions. These interactions are positive steps in resolution of past disagreements related to FWDA, and have produced tangible results. The Army will continue to encourage dialogue among the agencies to foster improved understandings between our staffs, so that progress continues until all issues are resolved.

George Cushman, Ian Thomas and I will be in NM visiting FWDA on 25 August with the Army G9 leadership, Lieutenant General Jason T. Evans and Mr. Michael E. Reheuser, and we would like to meet with you if possible while there. Please confirm if you will be available to meet by phone or video conference. I can be reached at email richard.c.ramsdell2.civ@mail.mil or phone at 703-830-8663.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Ramsdell
BRAC Branch Chief