



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CEMP-CR

NOV 03 2009

Mr. Tom Gow
Bureau of Land Management
Rio Puerco Field Manager
435 Montano NE
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Dear Mr. Gow:

In 1988, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission authorized the closure of Fort Wingate. Subsequently, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Relinquish was submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on March 13, 1990. A second NOI was submitted on 28 June 1995, and an amended notice was submitted on January 26, 2007 (encl 1). The amendment, which superseded the 1995 NOI, included parcels 4B, 5B, 8, and 25. However, these parcels required environmental remediation and were not considered suitable for return to the public domain at that time. Environmental restoration of the parcels has now been completed and it is our intent that parcels 4B, 5B, 8 and 25 be returned to the public domain. A copy of the Record of Environmental Consideration is enclosed (encl 3).

On December 11, 2008, requests were submitted to the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) to remove parcels 4B, 5B, 8 and 25 from the RCRA Permit; on January 6, 2009, NMED approved removal of parcel 25 from the RCRA Permit; and on March 16, 2009, NMED approved the removal of parcels 4B, 5B and 8 (encl 2).

On March 23, 2007, Assistant Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Weimer, assigned the lead responsibility for the Department of Interior's (DOI's) coordination on transfer of lands from the Army to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) (encl 4). This responsibility included preparing the Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) associated with acceptance of the lands from the Army. The lead responsibility for the preparation of the public land order for the transfer from the Army to DOI remained assigned to the BLM. We would appreciate coordination between BLM and BIA for the preparation of the ESA and public land order to complete the transfer of property from the Army to DOI.

It should be noted that the Army continues to own parcels of land at Fort Wingate adjacent to parcels 4B, 5B, 8 and 25. The Army parcels are permitted to the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) for use through May of 2010. Requirements for easements and rights of way for these parcels are addressed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Army and Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) dated March 12, 1999 (encl 6) and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of Interior and BMDO dated June 13, 2000 (encl 7).

CD - 2009/103 - BIAT - BLM - USACE

We want to complete the transfer of these parcels to the public domain as soon as possible. Upon publication of the public land order, please sign the enclosed DD Form 1354 (encl 5) and return it to this office for our records. The point of contact for this action is Ms. Mary J. Beck, (202) 761-5172.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

SCOTT L. WHITEFORD
Director of Real Estate

CF:

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BIA Southwest Regional Director
PO Box 2657
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