

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS P. O. BOX 17300 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

FORT WORTH DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CESWF-PER-D

30 November 2012

SUBJECT: Action No. SPA-2011-00548-ABQ, Fort Wingate, Dry Lake Soil Sampling, South Fork Rio Puerco Tributary, McKinley County, NM

Mr. William Oberle Albuquerque District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 4101 Jefferson Plaza NE Albuquerque, NM 87109-3435 505-342-3284 FAX 505-344-1514

Dear Mr. Oberle:

A contractor for the Fort Worth District will be obtaining several soil samples from numerous small diameter holes in the bottom of a dry lake bed formerly known as Lake Knudson at Fort Wingate. Samples will be taken by hand tools, small power tools, or small equipment at the contractor's discretion to a depth of one foot. Excess soil will be placed back in the hole. See the attached maps for more information. Fifty of these holes will be taken in each green box on Figure 5-3 and one at each blue dot. Sampling is being performed under an NMED approved work plan under a RCRA Permit. Lake Knudson is known as Area of Concern (AOC) 53 in the work plan.

Work plans for the activity have been reviewed by the Navajo Nation and Pueblo of Zuni. They had 60 days to review document. This consultation occurred between February 21 and April 23 2012 and neither tribe provided comments. The NMED approved the work plans on July 26, 2012. In addition, the Army provided the SHPO and both tribes cultural consultation (30 day review time) on the approved work plans. The Zuni concurred. The SHPO and Navajo did not comment within the review window, implying concurrence. There are no documented cultural sites in Lake Knudson. These reviews were performed under Fort Wingate's Programmatic Agreement with both tribes and the SHPO as signatories. Fort Wingate's standard procedure is avoidance of cultural sites.

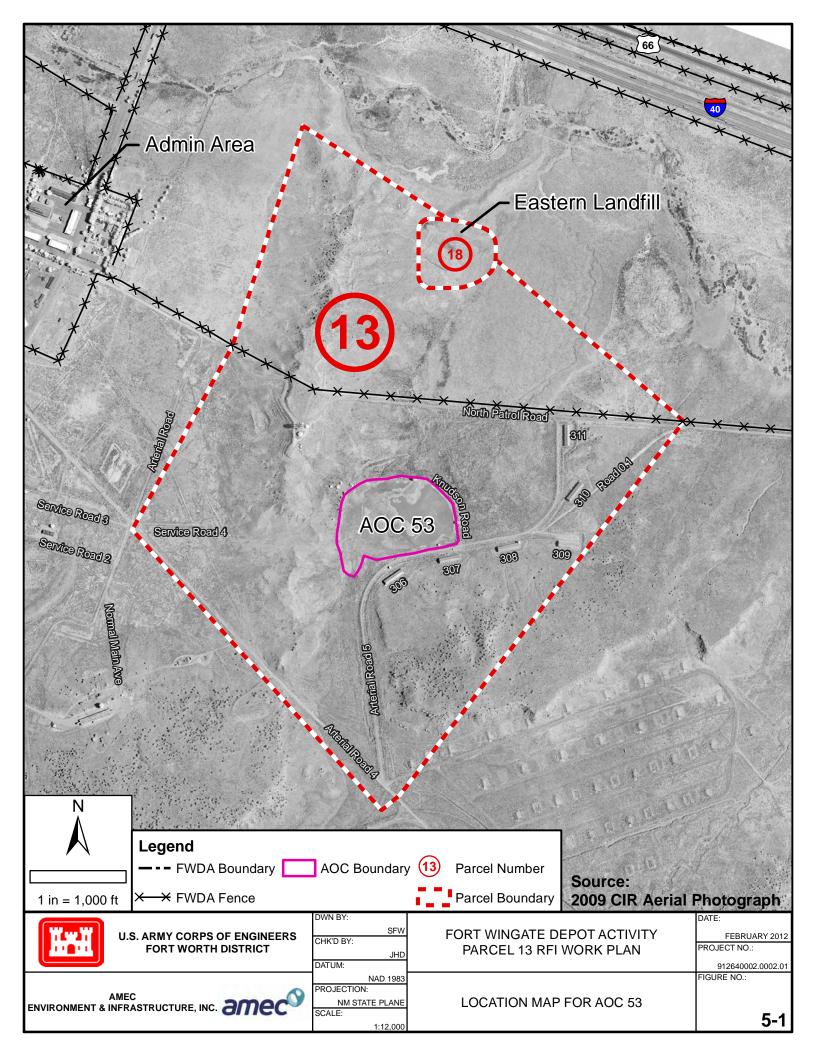
The lake once held water while the depot was active. In order to have enough water to maintain the lake level, water was diverted from an arroyo to the east. However, Fort Wingate closed in 1993 and since then the diversion structure has failed causing the lake to dry up. The lake has not held water in several years. In addition, the water tanks on the nearby bluff used to supply overflow water to the lake. See the attached photo. However, they were demolished earlier this year. Therefore, the lake is expected to remain dry and we are considering this to be isolated from water bearing surface features.

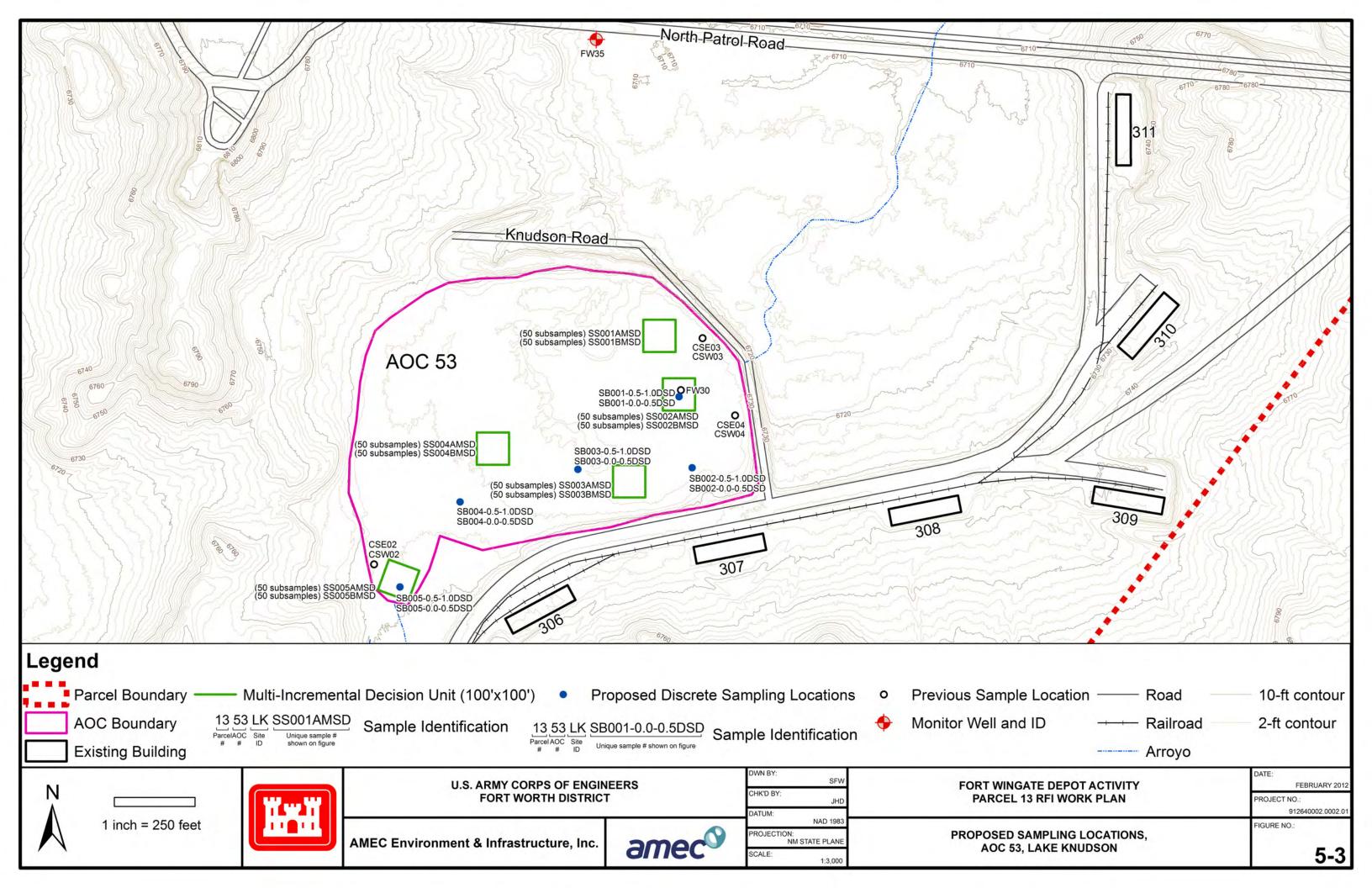
We are seeking authorization for this work under Nationwide Permit 6 for Survey Activities. We plan to execute this work in mid-2013. We received approval for this effort last year but due to the lengthy review time at NMED and the March 2012 Nationwide Permit expiration we ran out of time. See the attached letter. If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact me at 817-886-1879 or by e-mail at Steve.W.Smith@usace.army.mil.

Encls

STEVEN W. SMITH, P.E.

Fort Wingate Program Manager





PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 5-1 Lake Knudson, Facing Northwest

2

1