



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RYAN FLYNN
Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 6, 2015

Mark Patterson
FWDA, BRAC Coordinator
P.O. Box 93
Ravenna, OH 44266

Steve Smith
USACE FWDA Program Manager
CESWF-PEC-EF
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12
Fort Worth, TX 76102

**RE: DISAPPROVAL
PERMITTEE-INITIATED INTERIM MEASURES WORK PLAN
PARCEL 6
FORT WINGATE DEPOT ACTIVITY
MCKINLEY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID# NM6213820974
HWB-FWDA-15-003**

Dear Messrs. Patterson and Smith:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the *Permittee-Initiated Interim Measures Work Plan, Parcel 6*, (Plan) dated February 3, 2015 for Fort Wingate Depot Activity (Permittee). NMED has reviewed the Plan and hereby issues this Disapproval. The Permittee must address the following comments.

Comment(s):

SECTION 2.0 CONTAMINANTS OF POTENTIAL CONCERN AND REMEDIATION GOALS

1. Permittee Statement – Section 2.2 Remediation Goals, page 2-3, Table 2-1. “NMED has combined its remedial action guidance into a single document titled *Risk Assessment Guidance for Site Investigations and Remediation* (NMED, 2012). Accordingly, the remediation goals listed in **Table 2-1** are primarily based on NMED’s SSLs for Residential Soil as listed in Table A-1 of the Risk Assessment Guidance dated February 2012 (updated June 2012).” Additionally, in the “Confirmation Sampling & Risk Evaluation” sections throughout this work plan the Permittee states “[a]s outlined in Section 5 of NMED risk assessment guidance (NMED, 2012), [...]”.

NMED Response:

The 2014 NMED Risk Assessment Guidance replaces and supersedes the 2012 NMED Risk Assessment Guidance for Site Investigations and Remediation. The guidance includes Sections discussing cumulative risk, ecological risk, dioxins-furan toxicity factors, and total petroleum hydrocarbons among other subjects. All evaluations applicable to a site must be addressed to complete corrective action at that site or unit. The 2014 Risk Assessment Guidance must be used for data assessment and for risk assessments conducted. This comment henceforth is applicable to all sections which reference the 2012 NMED Risk Assessment Guidance. Replace all references within the Plan to reflect the 2014 NMED Risk Assessment Guidance.

SECTION 3.0 REMOVAL ACTIVITIES AT AOC 28 – IGLOO BLOCK B

2. Permittee Statement – Section 3.0 Removal Activities at AOC 28 – Igloo Block B, page 3-1 lines 27-28. “[i]t is assumed the soil will be disposed as nonhazardous solid waste.”

NMED Response:

Remove this statement as waste profiling will determine the waste classification.

3. Permittee Statement – Section 3.0 Removal Activities at AOC 28 – Igloo Block B, page 3-1 lines 30-35. “[d]uring the same time frame as the soil removal, all 200 steel drain pipes from the 100 igloos from Igloo Block B will be cut and removed from the igloos. In preparation for drain pipe removal, plastic sheeting will be placed below each pipe and the piping will be wrapped in tape to prevent any paint coating from being disturbed. The drain pipes at each igloo will be cut at the wall and the remaining drain holes will be sealed with a cement-based, non-shrink grout. The removed pipe sections will be recycled.”

NMED Response:

As a precaution removal of these drains should be conducted prior to soil removal to ensure any cuttings are captured. No response necessary.

4. Permittee Statement –Section 3.0, Removal Activities at AOC 28 – Igloo Block B, page 3-2, lines 5-7. “[i]f excavation of all lead results to below the SSL of 400 mg/kg is not feasible, confirmation sample results can be combined to calculate an upper confidence limit (UCL) on the mean for comparison to the SSL, with NMED approval.”

NMED Response:

The Permittee’s proposed method to calculate UCLs is not clear. Provide clarification regarding “combining sample results” when only one discrete confirmation sample is proposed to be collected at each drain pipe. Collecting one sample per “area” does not provide enough data to calculate a UCL. If the “area” is comprised of two pipes located at the same igloo, then calculating a UCL can theoretically be calculated. However, the Permittee must explain how combining samples is representative of the site conditions and provide a figure showing the proximity of samples that would be combined. Note that analytical data from soil that has been removed cannot be used to calculate the UCL; representative samples must be collected. Revise the Plan to either clarify or remove this approach from within the Plan.

SECTION 4.0 REMOVAL ACTIVITIES AT SWMU 8 – FORMER BUILDING 537

5. Permittee Statement – Section 4.1 – Waste Profile Sampling, page 4-1, lines 33-38. “[t]he waste profile composite sample will be collected as grab samples from 0 to 4.0 foot depth over the entire area to be excavated. Waste profile sample (ID) numbers are discussed in Section 7.4 and are listed on **Table 4.1.**”

NMED Response:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulates waste from its point of generation. In this case waste is not generated until the soil has been excavated. Each of the six areas (i.e., A through F) varies in depth and the constituents of concern. Thus, sampling in-situ may not be representative of the waste being generated and result in mischaracterization.

In addition, Section 4.1 and **Table 4.1** does not provide adequate information regarding the number of composite samples nor does it provide sample locations.

The Permittee must revise the Plan to include detailed information regarding the waste profiling procedure. Waste Profile sampling must be conducted post excavation and must be representative of the constituents of concern for each area.

6. Permittee Statement – Section 4.3 – Confirmation Sampling & Risk Evaluation, page 4-2, lines 27-36. “[f]ollowing the removal of soil from SWMU 8, confirmation sampling will be conducted on the floor and side walls of each excavation area and analyzed for PCBs using EPA Method 8082A or PAHs using EPA Method 8270 SIM and SVOCs using EPA

Method 8270D. Excavation confirmation composite samples will consist of nine sub-samples randomly collected from each excavation area bottom. A total of six, nine-part composite samples, one from each excavation area (Areas A, B, C, D, E, or F), and one duplicate sample will be collected. One discrete sample will be collected every 50 feet along the entire perimeter of each removal area and/or from each sidewall. Four discrete samples will be collected from the sidewalls of Areas A, B, C, E, and F and five discrete sidewall samples will be collected from Area D. A total of 25 discrete sidewall samples and three duplicate samples will be collected from SWMU 8.”

NMED Response:

Composite sampling for cleanup verification is not acceptable without prior NMED approval. Compositing soil samples may result in the contaminant concentrations that are not representative of concentrations remaining in the soil. If concentrations are low, compositing may dilute the concentrations of a contaminant to below its threshold detection limit.

Additionally, if contamination is indicated in a composited sample, the location of the contamination remains unknown. Therefore, the Permittee must collect discrete samples for confirmation soil sampling. Revise the Plan to propose confirmation sampling at the base of the excavations. Include the number of samples to be collected and revise Figure 4-3 to include these additional sample points. In addition, specific information must be included regarding the proposed chemical analyses for each confirmation sample.

7. Permittee Statement – Section 4.5 Backfill, Compaction, and Final Grading, page 4-5, line 32-33. “[t]he backfill material is anticipated to be obtained from an approved borrow area located on FWDA property.”

NMED Response:

In an effort to minimize the potential of introducing unacceptable fill material, the Permittee must demonstrate that the fill borrow area is appropriate. The fill material must be analyzed for potential contaminants based on the location and history of the source area. Detectable amounts of constituents of concern within the fill material should be evaluated for risk in accordance with the 2014 NMED Risk Assessment Guidance or compared to NMED approved soil background data. Revise the Plan to propose to analyze the borrow material before use.

SECTION 5.0 REMOVAL ACTIVITIES AT SWMU 20 – FEATURE 4

8. Permittee Statement – Section 5.3, Confirmation Sampling & Risk Evaluation, page 5-2, lines 2-9. “[f]ollowing the removal of surface debris from Feature 4, one composite excavation confirmation sample will be collected from each removal area and analyzed for RCRA 8 metals using EPA Method 6010C and Method 7471B; PCBs using EPA Method 8082; PAHs using EPA Method 8270 SIM; SVOCs using EPA Method 8270D; VOCs using EPA Method 8260C; and pesticides using EPA Method 8081B. A total of two composite samples and one field duplicate sample will be collected from Feature 4. **Figure 5-2** depicts the confirmation sample locations at Feature 4. Excavation confirmation sample ID numbers are discussed in

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Section 7.4 and are listed on **Table 5-2**. Samples will be submitted for analysis of all COPCs listed in Section 2.1.

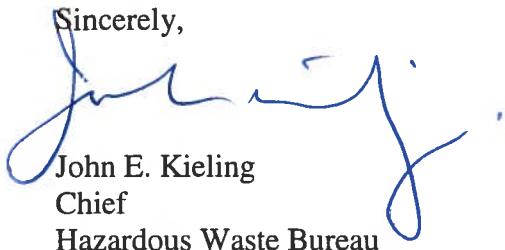
NMED Response:

The Permittee must collect discrete confirmation samples. Revise the Plan to propose the collection of discrete confirmation samples at the limits of the excavation and including the base of excavation and revise Figure 5-2 to include these additional sample points. (See comment 6). In addition, the Permittee must propose for each removal area to collect and analyze for Fluoride.

The Permittee must submit a revised Plan to address all comments contained in this Disapproval. In addition, the Permittee must include a response letter that details where each comment was addressed, cross-referencing NMED's numbered comments. The Permittee must also submit an electronic redline-strikeout version of the revised Plan. The revised Plan must be submitted on or before **May 30, 2015**.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Vicky Baca at (505) 476-6059.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: Dave Cobrain, NMED, HWB
Neelam Dhawan, NMED, HWB
Kristen Vanhorn, NMED, HWB
Chuck Hendrickson, EPA-6PD-N
Tony Perry, Navajo Nation
Val Panteah, Governor, Pueblo of Zuni
Clayton Seoutewa, Southwest Region BIA
Rose Duwyenie, Navajo BIA
Judith Wilson, BIA
Eldine Stevens, BIA
Robin White, BIA
Christy Esler, Sundance Consulting, Inc.

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