



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 377TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

KAFB Date Stamp
Copy

Colonel Robert L. Maness
377 ABW/CC
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5000



OCT 05 2010

Mr. James Bearzi
Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB) is submitting a revised closure plan for the Kirtland AFB Open Detonation Unit in accordance with our letter dated 13 August 2010. In that letter, we stated that we had closed the open detonation unit to all further treatment activities effective immediately and would provide a revised closure plan within sixty (60) days. The Open Detonation Unit at Kirtland AFB is permitted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Permit #NM9570024423-OD, which was issued on 20 December 1994, to treat hazardous waste by open detonation. The attached revised closure plan is being submitted as a Class 3 modification request to Permit # NM9570024423-OD, Module II, Attachment F.

A closure plan for the adjacent Kirtland Open Burn Unit was previously submitted to the NMED on 21 June 2010. This closure plan complied with the September 2009 Stipulated Final Order and Settlement Agreement, HWB # 09-00 (CO). At that time, Kirtland AFB had proposed including the Open Burn Unit final sampling and monitoring requirements into the Kirtland Open Detonation Unit closure plan, which had a projected closure date of 2050. However, now that both the Open Burn and Open Detonation Units are closing concurrently, a revised Open Burn Unit closure plan is required. The attached revised Open Burn Unit closure plan is also being resubmitted as a Class 3 modification request to Permit # NM9570024423-OB.

As required by 40 CFR § 264.113(b) and the Open Burn and Open Detonation Treatment Unit Permits, Module II, Attachment F, Closure Plans, Kirtland AFB must complete partial and final closure activities in accordance with the approved closure plan and within one hundred eighty (180) days of receipt of the final volume of hazardous waste. Due to the inclusion of the installation of monitoring wells and eight (8) quarters of groundwater sampling in each Closure Plan, Kirtland AFB will not be able to complete the closure within the required one hundred eighty (180) days. Therefore, pursuant to 40 CFR § 264.113(b), Kirtland AFB is requesting an extension of the closure period to allow the eight (8) quarters of groundwater sampling to be

completed prior to preparing and submitting the final report and Certification of Closure required by 40 CFR § 264.115.

While the Kirtland AFB 2010 decisions to eliminate all hazardous waste open burn and detonation treatment at the permitted units and to initiate the closure process was unexpected, the decisions to do so will lead to site remediation and closure approximately forty (40) years ahead of the previously anticipated closure date. In addition to being welcomed by the Albuquerque community as a whole, the closing of these units also meet NMED's previously stated goals of eliminating all open burn and detonation treatment facilities within New Mexico.

Public notice of the modification requests are being made and proof of the notices will be provided to you. Additionally, as we move forward through this process, Kirtland AFB will work closely with your office to insure the final Closure Plan and closure activities will comply with all closure requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. John Pike, Environmental Sustainability Chief, at (505) 846-4586.

Sincerely,



ROBERT L. MANESS, Colonel, USAF
Commander

cc:

John Kieling, NMED
Will Moats, NMED

Attachments (2)

1. Kirtland AFB Revised Open Detonation Unit Closure Plan
2. Kirtland AFB Revised Open Burn Unit Closure Plan