UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

December 2, 2011

US Army Garrison White Sands
Environmental Division (Bldg. 163/DPW)
Attn: Russ Koch
White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002-5000

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Three Proposed Contractor Owned/Contractor Operated Fuel Facilities, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Koch:

In accordance with your letter received on November 21, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has no objection to the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA).

However, we would like to point out the importance of dust suppression during construction of the proposed project. Winds in this region of New Mexico, combined with the fine soils, can create wind borne particulate matter which can lead to dust storms and respiratory problems for people in the region. We recommend coordinating with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to craft best management practices for dust suppression. We also recommend consulting the New Mexico Wind Erosion Prediction Guide to gain an understanding of the wind erosion process and how to determine areas that are susceptible to wind erosion. The guide can be found here:

http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/section-1/references/weq-prediction-guide.html.

We recommend that whenever possible, the construction footprint be minimized so as to decrease impacts to natural vegetation, thus minimizing soil disturbance.

We appreciate the opportunity to examine the DEA. Thank you for your coordination and don't hesitate to contact John MacFarlane, of my staff, at 214-665-7491, should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning and Coordination