

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE

TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACTS

A SUCCESS STORY

Holloman AFB occupies 55,000 acres 6 miles southwest of Alamogordo in south-central New Mexico. The Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had its TERC contractor, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation, in place at Holloman for 3^{1/2} years. During this time, 66 individual projects totaling \$19 million have been completed under budget, resulting in an estimated savings of at least \$5 million and 3 years of effort.

A major accomplishment during 1997 was the successful closure of the former sewage lagoons. In mid-1996, a new wastewater treatment plant began operation, and base officials decided to close the lagoons. The lagoons had been a source of controversy due to the presence of small quantities of hazardous contaminants. The original estimate for closure exceeded \$40 million and included the dredging and off-site disposal of lagoon sediments.

TERC WORKS



T-38 high-vacuum dual-phase extraction system.





TERC saved \$5 million and 3 years of effort on 66 projects.

The Corps and its contractors worked closely with the Air Force and the regulators to develop a unique risk-based closure plan, which uses a standard decision-making process based on the protection of human health and the environment. Through this approach, the team was able to control odors while evaporating the lagoon liquids and

to stabilize the sludge in place by drying and compacting it with clean soil before placing a graded soil cover over the sludge. The TERC contractor completed the closure for less than \$4 million, resulting in substantial cost savings, enabling the funding of other projects at Holloman AFB and elsewhere in the Air Combat Command.

Risk-based approach saved \$36 million on lagoon remediation.

Another major accomplishment was the optimization of the operation of the T-38 high-vacuum dual-phase extraction system. Fluctuating groundwater levels led to low product recoveries, but the TERC team was able to optimize the operation of the system during routine long-term operation. As a result, more than 130,000 gallons of JP-4 fuel have been recovered to date.

All modifications were completed “on the go.” The flexibility of the TERC enables adjustments to changes in scope without work stoppage or slowdown.



OMAHA DISTRICT

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