



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

January 22, 2015

Ms. Peggy Hatch
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Post Office Box 4301
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4301

Dear Secretary Hatch:

Thank you and your staff for taking the time to talk with me and representatives of the Department of Justice yesterday about the agreement and the ability to modify it. The safety of the public is our most important consideration. We acknowledge that the elected officials and community did not have the opportunity to comment on the proposed remedy during the federal and state legal negotiations on the existing Administrative Settlement Agreement between EPA, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana National Guard and the Department of Army. We agree the concerns of local elected officials and people living in the community should be addressed before proceeding to destroy the M-6 propellant and other materials at Camp Minden.

The Army Explosive Safety Board previously advised that the deterioration of the propellants could greatly increase the risk of explosion by August 2015. I know we all agree the materials should be destroyed before such an event would occur in the community.

That said, we also understand the importance of feedback from local officials and public regarding any remedy to destroy the materials at Camp Minden. On January 15, EPA granted a 90 day extension to the compliance deadlines outlined in the Administrative Settlement Agreement. We will request that the Army Explosive Safety Board inspect the materials to keep everyone apprised of the current conditions and their expert recommendation on timeframes for us to act.

We believe in the value of considering alternative remedies at Camp Minden. We also believe that the current air modeling for controlled open burning should be released for public review and comment.

Whatever remedy moves forward, we believe that local officials and the public should have an opportunity to provide feedback regarding any environmental monitoring and other controls that they would like to see put in place during the destruction of the material at Camp Minden.

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We look forward to finding ways to increase the involvement of local officials and the community in the remedy as we move forward in addressing the dangerous situation facing us at Camp Minden. Please do not hesitate in contacting me at (214) 665-2100.

Sincerely,



Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

cc: The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senate

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senate

The Honorable John Fleming, M.D.
House of Representatives

The Honorable Ralph Abraham
House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert Adley
Louisiana State Senate

The Honorable Barrow Peacock
Louisiana State Senate

The Honorable Sherri Smith Buffington
Louisiana State Senate

The Honorable Gene Reynolds
Louisiana House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry Burns
Louisiana House of Representatives

Identical letter sent to: Major General Glenn H. Curtis
Adjutant General, Louisiana National Guard