



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Ms. Mary M. Abrams
Field Supervisor
US Fish & Wildlife Service
300 Ala Moana Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96850

**Re: Permit Conditions for Remedial Action Plan, Marpi Point Explosives Detonation Site,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

Dear Ms. Abrams:

Thank you for the informal consultation with USFWS regarding a hazardous waste permit renewal application and potential endangered species present at the Marpi Point Detonation Site on February 6, 2018 with Tyler Willsey. If finalized, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency permit would allow storage and treatment of hazardous waste munitions at the storage cave and detonation unit.

On November 10, 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Draft Biological Opinion for Proposed UXO Removal and Development of Marpi Homestead, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Though the Draft Formal Section 7 Consultation covered a much larger project footprint and differing activities, it included the Marpi Point Explosives Denotation Site. USEPA used the Draft Biological Opinion to identify endangered species that may have habitat in the Marpi Point detonation area:

- Mariana Fruit Bat
- Mariana swiftlet
- Micronesian megapode
- Nightingale reed-warbler

During the USFWS and USEPA phone conversation, USFWS recommended proposed permit conditions that would be protective of any endangered species that might use the area as habitat. USFWS visited the site on March 16 and confirmed that the proposed permit conditions would be protective of any endangered species. The proposed permit conditions are as follows:

Detonation events must be conducted between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm. There will be no detonation events prior to 10 am and no events past 2 pm.

Prior to a detonation event the detonation pit will be accessed and vegetation will be physically disturbed. If there is evidence of wildlife in the pit, consult with USFWS regarding prevailing laws for relocating the type of wildlife prior to a detonation event occurring.

A warning shot will be fired with an appropriate fire arm as a warning shot to evacuate wildlife in the area prior to a detonation event each day. The shot must occur at least 15 minutes prior to a

detonation event, but no more than two hours prior to the first detonation event. United States Fish and Wildlife Service should be notified at least 24 hours prior to any detonation event. This will allow the Service an opportunity to conduct a survey for listed species and nesting sea birds.

As part of our review for this project, U.S. EPA has determined that the Federal action of a proposed permit, including the proposed permit conditions, may affect but is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat. As part of USEPA making a decision on this action, it would be most helpful if you would reply with a letter of concurrence with this determination.

If you have any questions, please contact me at cruz.amanda@epa.gov or (415) 972-3084. Thank you for your partnership on this permit.

Sincerely,



Amanda Cruz
Land Division

CC: Sara Ziff, USEPA USFWS coordinator (ziff.sara@epa.gov)
Tyler Willsey, USFWS (tyler_willsey@fws.gov)
Pifwo_admin@fws.gov