



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 31 2008

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mr. Alex Beehler  
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense  
for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health  
Department of Defense  
3400 Defense Pentagon, Rm. 5C646  
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Dear Mr. Beehler:

I am pleased to announce the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) concurrence on the Interim Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment (MEC HA) Methodology. The interim MEC HA is the result of a four year collaboration among EPA, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, states, and tribal organizations. On December 5, 2007, the Executive Sponsor group for this effort unanimously approved the MEC HA Methodology and initiated the formal concurrence process. I very much appreciate DoD's substantial contribution to this effort, and I urge you to concur on the interim MEC HA as soon as possible.

We will formally announce the availability of the Interim MEC HA Methodology in the near future. EPA and other members of the MEC HA Methodology work group receive several requests from site-level project teams per month for training on the correct use and application of the MEC HA for munitions response site evaluations. Formally announcing the availability of the Interim MEC HA Methodology will accelerate its implementation, and provide feedback that will serve as the basis for periodic updates. As you may know, it has always been the intention of the MEC HA Methodology sponsoring organization to periodically update the MEC HA to enhance and improve it.

Again, I urge you to concur on the Interim MEC HA Methodology, and I look forward to the continued dialogue on training and implementation steps. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance, or your designee may contact John E. Reeder, Director of EPA's Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office at (703) 603-9089.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Parker Bodine".

Susan Parker Bodine  
Assistant Administrator

Enclosures



Concurrence Memo for the Interim Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment (MEC HA) Methodology

The Technical Working Group for the Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment (MEC HA) Methodology was established to develop a technical framework and application methodology. The group consists of representatives from the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, State program managers from Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, Tribal Association for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The document describes the MEC HA Methodology for assessing potential explosive hazards to human receptors at munitions response sites (MRSs). The MEC HA allows a project team to evaluate the potential explosive hazard associated with an MRS, given current conditions and under various cleanup, land use activities, and land use control alternatives. It was developed through a collaborative, consensus approach to promote consistent evaluation of potential explosive hazards at MRSs.

The MEC HA Methodology is now formally available for use by project teams that are evaluating potential explosive hazards at MRSs. Over the next two to three years, the sponsoring organizations will evaluate the effectiveness of the MEC HA based on application at munitions response sites. Based on the evaluations, modifications the MEC HA may be made to enhance the effectiveness of the methodology.

*Susan Parker Bodine*

11/21/95

Susan Parker Bodine Date  
Assistant Administrator for Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Alex Beehler Date  
Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense  
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)  
U.S. Department of Defense

James E. Cason Date  
Associate Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior