



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 29, 2015

Mr. Ron Curry
Regional Administrator (6-RA)
EPA Region VI
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

RE: Explo/Camp Minden Removal
AI # 40158

Dear Mr. Curry:

We write in response to your January 26, 2014 letter to the Louisiana Military Department (LMD) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). As indicated by the EPA, there was no opportunity for public comment during the negotiations where open burn tray was selected as the disposal method for munitions at Camp Minden. We appreciate the EPA, as the final arbiter in remedy selection, acknowledging the importance of public input and its willingness to review alternatives suggested by the public.

To reiterate the EPA's role in reviewing alternatives, the formal agreement between the federal government and the State of Louisiana provides that the EPA is the lead agency and any changes in the remedy would have to be made by the EPA On-Scene-Coordinator. The EPA is the only party legally designated as able to make changes in the plan for the removal.

You requested that our respective agencies designate participants to the EPA's discussion on alternatives. We designate Col. Stuckey from LMD and Karen Price from LDEQ.


Please notify us as to when and where these discussions on alternatives will take place, how the public will be able to participate, and specifically how the public can submit disposal concepts to the EPA for review. Please provide this information as quickly as possible so members of the public know how to make recommendations to the EPA. We believe this process is crucial to restoring public trust in the EPA.

Thank you again for acknowledging the concerns of Louisiana citizens and your willingness to review alternatives proposed by the public.

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Sincerely,

Peggy M. Hatch
Secretary


Glenn H. Curtis
Major General, Louisiana National Guard
The Adjutant General, State of Louisiana

c: U.S. Senator David Vitter
U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy
Congressman John Fleming
Congressman Ralph Abraham
Senator Robert Adley
Senator Barrow Peacock
Senator Sherri Smith Buffington
Representative Gene Reynolds
Representative Henry Burns
Gina McCarthy, EPA Administrator
Sam Coleman, EPA Region 6 Deputy Regional Administrator