PEGGY M. HATCH

## BOBBY JINDAL GOVERNOR



## State of Louisiana

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 14, 2015

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

Re: Camp Minden/Explo

Dear Mr. Curry;

The people of Louisiana are rightly dissatisfied with the EPA's attempts to address questions regarding open burn tray disposal of M6 at Camp Minden. As you know, the EPA chose the open burn tray methodology for disposal of M6 at Camp Minden. The State of Louisiana was not given options for disposal methodologies, nor was it a party to the EPA's selection process.

The EPA, as the lead agency for the cleanup of the M6, is responsible for the decision to use open burn trays and must articulate to the public the basis of its decision. To that end, the State has consistently encouraged the EPA to demonstrate the safety of open burn tray disposal to the public. We strongly request that the EPA present their reasons for the methodology and the supporting scientific data to the general public and local officials. This presentation should be coordinated and structured in simple terms and in a manner which will help assure the public that the EPA-selected method is the safest and most effective method possible to dispose of the M6.

If the EPA refuses or fails to provide sufficient direct information and effectively communicate to the public, we call on the EPA to develop and make publicly available a test protocol within 7 days, and schedule and perform a test burn which includes extensive air monitoring within 21 days. The results of the test burn should be analyzed by the EPA and provided to the public as expeditiously as possible thereafter.

The EPA's failure to justify its decisions and provide proper safety assurances to our citizens threatens to delay the disposal process. As you well know, the M6 at Camp Minden becomes less stable each day and any delay subjects the people of Louisiana to increased risk, an outcome that the State and, surely, the EPA is committed to avoiding.

Please provide a written response to Secretary Peggy Hatch and Major General Glenn H. Curtis by COB Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> to confirm your intentions to comply with this request.

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Sincerely,

Peggy M. Hatch

Secretary, Louisiana Department of

**Environmental Quality** 

Major General Glenn H. Curtis

Adjutant General, Louisiana National Guard

c: U.S. Senator David Vitter
U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy
Congressman John Fleming
Congressman Ralph Abraham
Senator Robert Adley
Representative Gene Reynolds
Representative Henry Burns

Representative Henry Burn Senator Barrow Peacock

Senator Sherri Smith Buffington