



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

Office of the Regional Administrator

January 15, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Hatch:

Thank you for your letter dated January 14, 2015, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the disposal at Camp Minden. EPA Region 6 agrees we should address the concerns of the local elected officials and people living in the community before proceeding to destroy the M-6 propellant at Camp Minden. The safety of the public is and always has been the most important consideration. The Army Explosive Safety Board previously advised that deterioration of the propellants could greatly increase the risk of explosion by August 2015.

We recognize that the state of Louisiana is in a difficult position as owner of the deteriorating M-6 propellant and has ultimate responsibility for the safe disposal at Camp Minden.

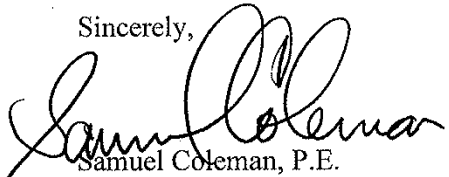
EPA Region 6 will help remove any barriers to the State selecting an equal or more protective remedy at Camp Minden. In order to provide the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Louisiana National Guard the time necessary to review alternatives, we are immediately suspending compliance deadlines in the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action (AOC) by 90 days and will provide additional extensions for good cause as requested by the state. A copy of the first 90 day extension of compliance deadlines is attached.

If requested, EPA Region 6 is prepared to assist the LDEQ and the Louisiana National Guard with technical assistance and access to our scientific experts. Since the alternative selection will be conducted outside the enforcement settlement process, it affords the LDEQ and the Louisiana National Guard with the opportunity to include local elected officials and the community. We encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity.

If it is determined that a modification to the AOC is necessary to implement the alternative selected by the LDEQ and Louisiana National Guard, EPA Region 6 will support your efforts to do so.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to address the 15 million pounds of M-6 stored at Camp Minden in Webster Parish. Please do not hesitate in contacting me at (214) 665-2100.

Sincerely,


Samuel Coleman, P.E.
Deputy Regional Administrator

Enclosure

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



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January 15, 2015

Peggy Hatch, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-4301

Major General Glenn H. Curtis, Adjutant General
Louisiana National Guard
100 Louisiana Blvd
Minden, LA 71055

Dear Ms. Hatch and General Curtis:

Pursuant to Section XXVI (Modifications), at Paragraphs 92 and 94 of the final Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action (CERCLA Docket No. 06-08-14), EPA Region 6 is extending the time-frame for compliance with specific provisions of the Settlement Agreement. The Designation of Contractor by the State (i.e., at Section VII at Paragraph 11), and the submission of plans according to the Work to be Performed (i.e., at Section VIII at Paragraphs 17 and 18), are the specific Settlement Agreement provisions extended per this letter. The extension of time covers a period of 90 calendar days, and is effective on the date of this letter. EPA Region 6 notes that the extension of time is appropriate in light of the concerns expressed by the community in Louisiana regarding the controlled open burning of explosives in burn trays. EPA Region 6 looks forward to continuing the coordination and oversight of the State's implementation of the work needed to address the Site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl Edlund".

Carl Edlund
Director, Superfund Division
EPA Region 6