



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

December 12, 2014

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Dear (b) (6):

This letter is in response to your November 12, 2014 request to the White House to investigate the safety of selected disposal methods for 15 million pounds of M6 propellant stored on Camp Minden Louisiana. You cited rumors that the propellant would be burned in an open pit located 1,300 feet from Doyline High School without any environmental or safety precautions. On November 13, 2014 we participated in a public meeting to explain that the selected remedy was much safer and environmentally sound than the rumors and that Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] would involve and communicate with the community throughout the disposal process. Ms. Paige Delgado, our On Scene Coordinator also discussed the matter with you at the meeting.

The Army Explosive Safety Board has advised EPA that the propellant stored on site could begin to rapidly deteriorate in as little as one year and pose an increased risk of explosion. At the November 13 meeting we explained that the settlement agreement for the disposal of the propellant specified controlled open burning with environmental monitoring and sampling the air, water, and soil. EPA had evaluated other approaches and found this to be the fastest and safest technique to remove the risk of explosion. Instead of an earthen pit, a layer of propellant inches deep will be spread on specially designed metal trays elevated from the ground and burned. Instead of 1,300 feet, the burning area will be 1.4 miles distant from Doyline High School. Environmental oversight by both the EPA and LDEQ will be conducted throughout the project to protect the environment and the community.

We are committed to inform and involve the community as we proceed with this project. Our next community meeting will be held at the Minden Civic Center, on December 16, 2014 at 6 pm. If you have remaining concerns or new questions please bring them to the meeting or call me at 214-665-6701 or contact Paige Delgado at 469-371-2529.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Edlund, P.E.
 Director, Superfund Division