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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mr. B. Roy Prescott, Chair
Local Government Advisory Committee
135 N 800 E
Jerome, ID 83338

Mr. John Duffy, Chair
Military Workgroup
Local Government Advisory Committee
350 E. Dahlia Avenue
Palmer, AK 99645-6488

Dear Mr. Prescott and Mr. Duffy,

Thank you for your letter of April 17, 2009 conveying the recommendations of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) related to contaminated sites associated with the military, and formerly used defense sites (FUDS). We appreciate the LGAC's focus on meeting the needs of communities near these sites.

The LGAC recommends, among other things, that EPA take an early and more active role in the prioritization of munitions clean up. EPA has underway a number of activities that are responsive to this recommendation, including, as you mentioned in your letter, participation in the State-Federal Munitions Response Forum. EPA also recently listed the prioritization of munitions clean up as a "priority project" between Department of Defense (DoD) and EPA for the upcoming year, and we have launched a longer term effort to align (or "harmonize") EPA and DoD clean up goals at military sites listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). Throughout EPA's involvement in these activities, we will remain mindful of the LGAC's recommendations and the issues discussed in your letter. We would be pleased to provide the Committee with periodic updates on the progress of these activities.

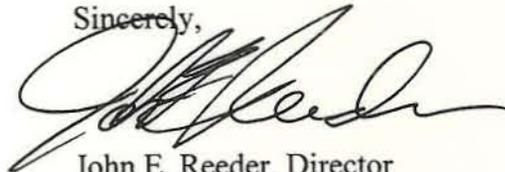
Another recommendation in your letter was that EPA become an equal partner with DoD in the prioritization of clean ups at FUDS. EPA's involvement at FUDS varies from State to state, and Region by Region depending, in large part, on whether a state requests EPA's involvement, or whether a site is listed on the National Priorities List. However, we would be pleased to explore possible roles for EPA and the states in overall prioritization of FUDS munitions sites within the context of the "roles and responsibilities" discussions that are expected to be a major topic for State-Federal Munitions Response Forum. I understand your concern

over the pace of clean up for sites that you characterized as "attractive nuisances" in local communities, and we will request that the Forum address this issue.

Finally, you recommend EPA's early involvement under the Base Closure and Realignment Act to assure adequate characterization and/or clean up of properties transferred to local governments. We would be pleased to meet with the LGAC to identify specific opportunities for EPA's greater involvement. EPA has had substantial involvement in environmental review at over 107 BRAC sites. EPA agrees that local governments could benefit from additional materials that would help communities assess the potential costs and benefits of accepting real property from DoD, and we will explore the possibility of developing such materials.

Again, thank you for your letter and recommendations. I appreciate the hard work of the committee, and your thoughtful suggestions for improving EPA's clean up programs. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



John E. Reeder, Director
Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office

cc: Barry Breen, OSWER
Renee Wynn, OSWER
Dave Kling, FFEO
Gail A. Cooper, FFRRO
Federal Facility Program Managers, Regions I-X