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LETTER AND U S ARMY RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PLAN PUBLIC  
MEETING LANDFILL 1 FORT SHERIDAN IL  
8/25/2004  
U S ARMY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE  
ATLANTA FIELD OFFICE  
1347 THORNE AVENUE, SW  
BUILDING 243  
FORT MCPHERSON, GEORGIA 30330-1062



AUG 25 2004

Base Realignment and Closure, Atlanta Field Office

Mr. Brian A. Conrath  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Dear Mr. Conrath:

The Department of the Army has received and reviewed the Illinois EPA's August 4, 2004 correspondence, Re: Landfill 1 Proposed Plan Public Meeting, July 29, 2004, Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in which the State rescinded its concurrence with the Landfill 1 Final Proposed Plan (Revision 3.0, July 12, 2004). The Army strongly disagrees with statements made in the letter, and is compelled to respond in writing. Several of the statements made are incorrect and inflammatory. In the interest of maintaining a good working relationship between the Army and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the Army requests a retraction of the August 4, 2004 IEPA letter.

The IEPA was notified in advance of the July 29, 2004 meeting that the Army BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC), Mr. Victor Bonilla, would not be able to attend the BRAC Clean-up Team (BCT) and Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings on the scheduled date. The Army made significant efforts to send an alternate representative, but schedule conflicts prohibited his attendance. Mr. Chaouki Tabet and Dr. Kurt Thomsen were in attendance at both the BCT and RAB meetings as Army representatives. The IEPA was notified by telephone that Mr. Tabet and Dr. Thomsen would be the Army's representatives at the meetings. The Army has consistently demonstrated its commitment to attendance at BCT and RAB meetings throughout the life of the Fort Sheridan Environmental Restoration Project, and remains directly involved in all aspects of the site work.

While the presenter at the RAB meeting did misstate some information, the Army took timely steps to correct these misstatements and insure all those present at the presentation were provided the clarified information. We sincerely apologize for the misstatements. On August 3, 2004 in a conference call, the Army informed the IEPA that misstatements had been made in the RAB meeting that were inconsistent with scope of the

Proposed Plan for Landfill 1 and that the Army had reaffirmed to the contractors, on 2 August, 2004, that the scope of the Proposed Plan for Landfill 1 had not changed from the plan IEPA had concurred with. During this conference call, the Army agreed to contact the members of the RAB and the public attending the RAB meeting to provide correction to the information presented during the RAB meeting. The Army transmitted that letter on August 10-11, 2004. After multiple telephone conversations with you and in response to your August 5, 2004 email, Mr. Bonilla notified you directly via email on August 6, 2004 of the Army's commitment to removal of all waste on the off-post portion of Landfill 1. Therefore, the Army has promptly responded to all information requests presented in your August 4, 2004 letter and other correspondences.

The State's statement "the Army's contractors have altered the plan for their own benefit." is inaccurate, irresponsible and damaging to the reputation of the contractor - the plan has never been altered from the version approved by IEPA. The Army's remedy was presented in writing, issued to the public including all RAB members, in hard copy, and remains consistent with the Army's intent of off-post excavation of waste and removal of contaminants above Remedial Action Objectives at Landfill 1. Further, as the State is aware, the Army has no contract in place to conduct Remedial Design and Remedial Action for Landfill 1. Therefore, there is no advantage to the existing Fort Sheridan contractor to "alter" any portion of the Proposed Plan, as your letter alleges, for his own benefit.

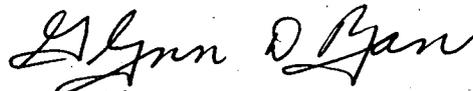
After extensive efforts by all parties to build a strong working relationship among the IEPA, the Army and the contract staff, the Army is extremely disappointed with the accusations lodged in your letter. In addition, in keeping with the Agency's claim that it "wishes to resolve these issues quickly and prevent future occurrences of similar misunderstandings", the Army recommends that the Agency contact the BEC to discuss any future misunderstandings before incorrect perceptions are memorialized in written correspondence. We feel that misperceptions can be corrected through an open dialogue.

The Army is confident that the Landfill 1 Proposed Plan presents a remedy that is protective of human health and the

environment, and after multiple communications with the IEPA we believe that we have an agreement on the proposed remedy as earlier discussed. While verbal misstatements were made in the public meeting, these were not pre-meditated and/or maliciously made by the Army's contractor with intent to gain some benefits as your letter alleges. In order to prevent any future incidents of this nature, the Army has implemented the following measures: an Army representative will always be in attendance at all BCT, RAB, and Public Meetings and the Army's contractors are required to pre-brief the Army before they brief the public. We strongly believe that with these measures in place and with open communication between the IEPA and the BEC, any issues in the future can be worked out as partners. After all, we share a common goal of cleaning up Fort Sheridan for its intended re-use. The Army looks forward to the State re-issuing its concurrence with the Landfill 1 Proposed Plan as written and a retraction of your August 4, 2004 letter, Re: Landfill 1, Proposed Plan Public Meeting, July 29, 2004, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

If you need additional information, please contact Mr. Victor Bonilla, 404-464-2272.

Sincerely,



Glynn D. Ryan  
Chief, Atlanta Field Office  
Department of the Army  
Base Realignment and Closure

cc:

Owen Thompson, USEPA (SR-6J)  
Mark Shultz, US Navy - EFA Midwest  
Kurt Thomsen, Fort Sheridan EC  
Chris Boes, USAEC  
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