

December 30, 1999

Larry Goldman
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Drawer 1190
Daphne, Alabama 36526

Dear Mr. Goldman:

The NRC has received a proposal from the Department of the Army to decommission a potentially contaminated waste burial mound. The NRC is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed decommissioning action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the NRC's regulations implementing NEPA. In order to coordinate NEPA implementation with that required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), this letter requests information for informal Section 7 consultation.

The burial mound is located at Rideout Field, Pelham Range, Fort McClellan, Alabama. It is oblong in shape and is approximately 25 meters long by 15 meters wide located at approximately, 33°43.815' North, 85°59.548' West. Another set of coordinates for this area are 593300 meters East, 3732599 meters North in Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Grid Zone 16. The mound is piled to approximately a 6 foot elevation above the surrounding grade and contamination has been found to a depth of 12 feet below grade. The surrounding area is currently used by the Alabama National Guard as a tank training area.

The Army proposes to remove all material and dirt from the burial mound, process all the soil through a radiation detector, remove all contaminated soil and material, and return the uncontaminated dirt to the excavated burial area. All work will be done in the immediate area of the burial mound.

Please let me know of any information on listed and proposed threatened and endangered species, status review (i.e., candidate) species, proposed and designated critical habitats, wetlands, or cumulative effects which may affect our assessment. Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please call me at (404) 562-4739.

Sincerely,



Orysia Masnyk Bailey
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosures: (See page 2)

L. Goldman

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- Enclosures: 1. Pelham Range Burial Mound
Location Map
2. Pelham Range Topographical Map

cc w/o encls:

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