



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

April 29, 2009

TO: Docket File 040-09083

THROUGH: Jack E. Whitten, Chief **/RA/**
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

FROM: Robert Evans, CHP, PE, Senior Health Physicist **/RA/**
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY SITE VISIT

From April 21-24, 2008, NRC staff participated in meetings and site visits involving three depleted uranium (DU) munitions test sites in the State of Hawaii. The NRC staff participated in a roundtable discussion with Army representatives on April 21, 2008. The next day, Region IV and headquarters staff observed a Department of the Army press briefing. On April 23, 2008, NRC staff visited two Army munitions test sites on the Island of Oahu. One of the two sites visited was known to have DU contamination, while DU contamination had not been confirmed at the second site. Finally, on April 24, 2008, headquarters staff visited a test site on the Island of Hawaii that has been confirmed to contain DU contamination.

Attached to this Memorandum is a trip report for these activities. No regulatory issues or safety concerns were identified during the site visits.

The Army subsequently applied for a materials license for possession of DU at various military installations. The list of installations includes the Hawaiian sites. The application was dated November 6, 2008, and was added to ADAMS during January 2009. The NRC is currently reviewing the licensee's request for a materials license.

Docket No.: 040-09083
License No.: SUC-1593 (pending)

Enclosure: NRC Trip Report

bcc w/Enclosure (via Email):

ATHowell

JEWhitten

RJEvans

RTadasse, FSME/DWMEP/MDB

TGMcLaughlin, FSME/DWMEP/MDB

NMSB-B

RIV Nuclear Materials File - 5th Floor

ML0

SUNSI Review Completed: RJE ADAMS: ☒ Yes ☐ No Initials: RJE
☒ Publicly Available ☐ Non-Publicly Available ☐ Sensitive ☒ Non-Sensitive

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DNMS\NMSB-B\RJE\Schofield Trip Report rev.doc final: r:_dnms\!2009

RIV:DNMS/NMSBB	C:NMSB-B		
RJEvans	JEWhitten		
/RA/	/RA/		
04/29/2009	04/29/2009		

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

NRC TRIP REPORT

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket No.: 040-09083

License No.: SUC-1593 (pending)

Report No.: None

Licensee: Department of the Army

Facilities: Schofield Barracks Impact Area, Island of Oahu
Makua Military Reservation, Island of Oahu
Pohakuloa Training Area, Island of Hawaii

Location: State of Hawaii

Dates: April 21-24, 2008

Inspectors: Robert Evans, PE, CHP, Senior Health Physicist
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

Janine F. Katanic, PhD, Health Physicist
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

Accompanied by: Rebecca Tadesse, Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental
Management Programs

Approved by: Jack E. Whitten, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

ENCLOSURE

NRC Trip Report

Background

The Department of the Army (Army) has identified three separate locations in Hawaii that either contain residual depleted uranium (DU), or may contain residual DU, from previous munitions testing. The three locations are:

- Schofield Barracks Impact Area, Oahu, Hawaii
- Makua Military Reservation (MMR), Oahu, Hawaii
- Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), Island of Hawaii, Hawaii

The Schofield Barracks Impact Area is an active test range with known DU contamination. The impact area consists of approximately 428 acres. The Army conducted a site characterization survey at this location during 2007. The estimated amount of residual contamination is provided in the Army's Final Characterization Report dated April 2008.

The MMR is a munitions training range of interest. Based on limited information, the Army believes that DU munitions may have been tested at this site. However, DU contamination has not been specifically identified at this location. The Army plans to determine the best approach to evaluate the presence of DU at MMR. The Army is hampered, in part, by unexploded ordnance and by thick, grassy ground cover at this site.

The PTA is an active training range on the Island of Hawaii. A limited site scoping survey has been conducted by the Army at this location. The Army has identified DU contamination at this site. The Army plans to conduct a site radiological characterization survey at PTA in the near future.

Status of License Application

At the time of the site visit, the license application for possession of DU was still pending and not yet submitted to NRC. The Army subsequently submitted the application by Form 313, Application for Materials License, dated November 6, 2008. The application was docketed during January 2009.

Press Briefing

On April 21, 2008, the Army held a pre-briefing and strategy session for its April 22, 2008, press briefing. Attendees included representatives of the Army and its support agencies. The purpose of the pre-briefing was to discuss the potential questions and answers that the press may ask. The group also discussed the draft presentation that would be used during the press briefing. Personnel from NRC Region IV and FSME attended the pre-briefing as observers.

The press briefing was held by the Army on April 22, 2008. The Army invited representatives from four local television stations and two newspapers. The media briefing was held at the Ft. Shafter Reserve Center. The participants included Russ Takata, the Radiation Control Program Director for the State of Hawaii. Army representatives led the press briefing, and a question & answer session followed the prepared briefing.

During the press briefing, the Army discussed the results of its Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment for residual DU at the Schofield Barracks Impact Area. The Army also discussed

the status of its overall plans to address DU contamination at all three sites in Hawaii. Handouts included a press release dated April 22, 2008.

Site Tours

On April 23, 2008, personnel from NRC Region IV and FSME participated in onsite tours of the two munitions test locations on Oahu. The first site was the Schofield Barracks Impact Area. The impact area was observed from the range observation tower. Access to the impact area was not allowed because the range was actively being used by the Army.

NRC staff then visited the MMR site. The staff conducted a limited tour of the site. The Army pointed out the physical restrictions for conducting a site characterization survey. These restrictions included unexploded ordnance, the ruggedness of the terrain, and the thick ground cover. Because of the potential for uncontrolled fires, the Army recently enhanced its fire-fighting capability, including the installation of a water storage pond inside of the test range.

On April 24, 2008, a representative from FSME traveled to the Island of Hawaii and visited the PTA site. The Region IV staff did not participate in this site visit.

Department of the Army Officials Contacted

Carol Connell, Health Physicist, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Protection

E. Joseph Hart, Health Physicist, Joint Munitions Command

Sam Keith, Health Physicist, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Protection

Colonel Howard Killian, Deputy Region Director, Pacific Region Installation Management Command

Gregory Komp, Senior Health Physicist, Office of the Director of Army Safety

Colonel Mark Melanson, PhD, Medical Services Corps, Chief, Health Physics Office, Walter Reed Medical Center

Greg Miller, Project Manager, Cabrera Services

Doenee Moscato, Environmental Specialist, U.S. Army Environmental Center

Stephen Oertwig, Public Affairs Officer, Headquarters Installation Management Command

Tanya Oxenberg, Health Physicist, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command

Howard Sugai, Public Affairs Officer, Pacific Installation Management Command

Russell Takata, Branch Manager, Noise Radiation and Indoor Air Quality Branch, Hawaii Department of Health



Department of the Army Press Briefing, Ft. Shafter, Oahu, Hawaii



Makua Military Reservation, Oahu, Hawaii



Schofield Barracks Impact Area, Oahu, Hawaii



Schofield Barracks Impact Area, Oahu, Hawaii