

March 22, 2011

Mr. William Aila
State Historic Preservation Officer
State Historic Preservation Division
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kakuhihewa Building, Room 555
601 Kamokila Boulevard
Kapolei, HI 96707

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE US ARMY LICENSE
APPLICATION TO POSSESS DEPLETED URANIUM AT SCHOFIELD
BARRACKS AND POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, HAWAII

Dear Mr. Aila:

Between 1962 and 1968, the U.S. Army (Army) used depleted uranium (DU), a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulated source material, in spotting rounds for the Davy Crockett weapons system at testing/firing ranges at various Army installations, including installations in Hawaii. As a result of the testing, DU was dispersed throughout many of the testing/firing ranges. The Army indicated it discontinued testing/firing of these spotting rounds in Hawaii in 1968.

In November 2006, the Army notified the NRC that it had discovered fragments from a spotting round at the Army's Schofield Barracks, on the island of Oahu. In August 2007, the Army notified the NRC of additional DU fragments at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii.

At the NRC's request, the Army submitted a source material possession license application in November 2008. The U.S. Army supplied additional information in July 2009 and September 2010, as well as various documents and reports to support their application. On November 30, 2010, NRC staff issued a letter to the Army detailing technical comments on the Army's license application. NRC staff is currently awaiting the Army's response to the November 30, 2010 letter. If the Army adequately addresses the NRC staff's comments and concerns, NRC would be able to issue a license for the continued possession of DU at these facilities.

The license currently contemplated for the HI sites would allow only the possession of DU at the ranges specified in the license application. It would not allow the decommissioning and release for unrestricted use of any areas previously containing DU and would require that the Army establish an appropriate environmental monitoring program to ensure that DU is not impacting the environment on or near the ranges. Nor would it allow the resumption of firing high explosives or DU into the ranges. It may allow Army radiation safety personnel to collect

incidental DU fragments if they are found during routine range activities. If the Army contemplated any possession activities other than those described in the license application, the license would need to be amended by NRC.

As required by 36 CFR 800.4(a), the NRC is requesting the views of the State Historical Preservation Officer on actions to identify historic properties that may be affected by the NRC's proposed action (i.e., issuing a license to the Army for possession of DU at the Schofield and Pohakuloa sites). Any information you provide will be used to document affects in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d). I have enclosed a map of the areas that would be licensed, if NRC approves the license application, for your review.

After assessing the information provided by you, we will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 106 consultation process of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact me at 301-415-6749 or by email at Dominick.Orlando@nrc.gov

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dominick A. Orlando, Senior Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosure: As stated

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