



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
1386 TROOP ROW SW
FORT MCPHERSON, GEORGIA 30330-1069**

March 11, 2011

BRAC Environmental Office

Decommissioning Branch
Division of Nuclear Material Safety
Region I, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this correspondence is to initiate communication regarding the Ft Gillem Military Installation, located in Forest Park, Georgia, just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. Portions of Fort Gillem have been identified as one of the military installations in Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 (Public Law 101-510 as amended). The U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC), with support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Installation is responsible for evaluating whether BRAC installations are suitable for release or reuse with respect to environmental conditions.

During the BRAC evaluation for Ft Gillem, the Army Project Delivery Team (PDT) identified that radioactive materials were utilized on site either under Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license and/or Army Radiation Authorizations. The PDT identified the current NRC NUREG – 1757 Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance as the appropriate requirement to assess Ft Gillem. The PDT conducted a Historical Site Assessment (HSA) for Ft Gillem and the HSA identified several Army commodities that were used and/or stored at the Installation. Based on this information, the PDT developed a Characterization Survey that was intended to meet Final Status Survey objectives using the NRC published screening criteria. During these Characterization Surveys, the PDT identified residual radium in the environment above typical background for the area. The highest activity in the soils were reported by the survey as 6 pCi/g and the survey data suggest that the residual material is limited to the footprint of a building that historically conducted activities with radium.

Due to the expanded definition of By-product material as required by the Energy and Policy Act of 2005 and the Army PDT, we would like to initiate communication with the NRC staff to ensure that all applicable requirements are completed prior to the transfer of the property to Fort Gordon, under the BRAC 2005. In the past, the Army and the NRC have collaborated at former DOD sites where the licenses had been terminated, yet the files lacked sufficient data to support past actions. These sites were

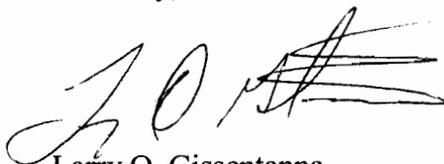
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completed under the NRC's SDMP program and required the Army to comply with the NRC guidance, yet did not require the Army to obtain a license. The Army PDT is requesting a meeting to share more specific information with the NRC and seek concurrence to move forward with this site in a manner similar to that conducted at the former NRC SDMP sites.

We look forward to discussing the Ft Gillem project with your staff at the earliest time convenient. Please contact the undersigned at larry.gissentanna@us.army.mil or 404-469-3559, our technical contact, Mr. Hans Honerlah at 410-962-9184, or the BRAC Environmental Chief, Owen Nuttall at owen.nuttall@us.army.mil or 404-469-5245 to provide a NRC point of contact for this issue. Thank you for your timely consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L O Gissentanna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Larry O. Gissentanna,
BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC)
Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem, GA