

January 18, 2013

Major General Al Aycock
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Installation Management
Command
2405 Gun Shed Road
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-1223

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WAIVER FROM TRAINING AND USE RESTRICTIONS FOR
THE SCHOFIELD BATTLE AREA COMPLEX

Dear Major General Aycock:

I am writing in response to your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), received via email on January 15, 2013, in which you requested a waiver from the training and use restrictions for the Schofield Battle Area Complex (BAX) at the Army's Schofield Barracks installation on Oahu, Hawaii. In your letter you provided a summary of the dates and types of training you intend to undertake as well as information on the areas on the BAX where the training will occur. You stated in your letter that vehicles will remain on areas of the BAX that have been cleared of depleted uranium (DU), that high explosives will only be fired into impact areas outside of the Radiation Control Area, and that range management and safety personnel will ensure that all appropriate radiation safety protocols are followed. Subsequent to your letter, on January 15, 2013, Dr. Robert Cherry, the Installation Management Command Radiation Safety Staff Officer, provided additional information via email showing that the dismounted troop training activities described in your letter will occur on areas of the BAX that were cleared of DU during the BAX construction.

Although we have not reviewed the final radiological survey information developed by your contractor during the BAX construction, the Army used an NRC-licensed decommissioning contractor to perform DU removal. Because the Army used an NRC-licensed contractor to perform the DU removal, and the number of rounds that could be present on the range is small, we do not believe that there is a significant hazard to individuals entering the cleared areas. When the Schofield Barracks site is licensed, the NRC staff will review the final radiological survey data for the BAX.

Therefore, based on the information provided in your letter, and augmented by Dr. Cherry's additional information, the NRC staff does not object to you conducting the training as described in your request.

While in this instance the NRC staff does not object to the Army conducting the training as described in your request, we do not believe that requests of this type are the most efficient or effective manner in which to proceed in the future. We believe that it is more appropriate for the Army to expeditiously provide the information discussed in our December 12, 2012, meeting, and that we complete the licensing of the Hawaiian sites in a timely manner. We look forward to the submission of this information.

A. Aycok

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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 matter please contact Dominick Orlando at 301-415-6749 or domininck.orlando@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket: 040-09083

A. Aycok

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