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Subject: REQUEST FOR A DELAY IN INITIATION OF DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES AT NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER WEAPONS DIVISION CHINA LAKE, CONTROL NUMBER 590418
Date: Thursday, June 23, 2016 3:25:00 PM

Dear CDR Fletcher:

This is in reference to your letter dated November January 21, 2015, requesting a delay of initiation of decommissioning activities at Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division China Lake (China Lake). Please note that in response to your statement "This letter cancels the request for an alternate schedule for a decommissioning plan per the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations latter 5104 Serial N45/13U139725 dated 9 August 2013." the Control Number for this action has been changed to 590418, cancelling Control Number 581661. AS discussed with you on June 21, 2016, we need the following additional information in order to continue our review:

1. **BACKGROUND:** You state that China Lake has held numerous materials licenses from 1950 until 1985 authorizing the possession and use of radioactive materials in support of research, development, testing, and evaluation of weapons and warfare systems. Later in the paragraph you advise that the Navy's Master Materials License (MML) issued an "L" permit to China Lake for distribution and storage of depleted uranium (DU).

Please delineate what materials licenses were previously issued at China Lake, listing the radioactive materials; to include form, amount, and location of use. Explain why these materials are no longer of concern at China Lake. For example, you could provide records showing that previous materials and use areas have been decommissioned. Or you could identify what radioactive materials and material use areas remain at China Lake, in addition to the DU.

2. **DESCRIPTION, PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH 1:** Please advise if the 2014 bill to permanently designate China Lake for military use has been approved.
3. (a) Does the permit at China Lake allow for DU munitions distribution? At what frequency will the "periodic" inspections occur?
4. (b)(1) You state that operations for the use of the permitted radioactive material are prohibited, but say that operating procedures have been developed for the handling, movement, storage, security, accountability, and disposal of permitted radioactive materials. These imply the use of radioactive material. Please clarify the discrepancy.

Please provide a copy of the "L" permit and of the procedures in use at China Lake.

5. (b)(2) Please identify the areas where radioactive material contamination is known or suspected at China Lake.
6. (b)(3) Please clarify this paragraph. This reads as if personnel entering ranges containing DU contamination can do so without escort after receiving a radiation

safety briefing and notifying Range Control.

7. (b)(5) How do you ensure that members of the public do not handle or remove DU materials located at China Lake? Is all the DU located on active ranges?
8. (d) What is the status of the Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA) at China Lake?

Current NRC regulations and guidance are included on the NRC's website at www.nrc.gov; select **Nuclear Materials; Med, Ind, & Academic Uses**; then **Licensee Toolkits, see our toolkit index page**. You may also obtain these documents by contacting the Government Printing Office (GPO) toll-free at 1-866-512-1800. The GPO is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

We will continue our review upon receipt of this information. Please reply to my attention at the Region I Office and refer to Mail Control No. 590418. If you have any technical questions regarding this deficiency letter, please call me at (864) 427-1032.

In order to continue a prompt review of your application, please submit your response within 30 calendar days from the date of this letter, or advise when a response will be provided.

Thanks you.