NEIL ABERCROMBIE



LINDA ROSEN, M.D., M.P.H. DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

14-310 FG

In reply, please refer to: File: EHA/HEER Office

P. O. BOX 3378 HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

June 24, 2014

LCDR Clay McKinney Commanding Officer USCG Civil Engineering Office Honolulu Fourteenth Coast Guard District 300 Ala Moana Blvd, Room 8-134 Honolulu, HI 96850-4982

Facility/Site: 84-Acre Portion of the Former Voice of America Site

Subject: Funding approval for high priority clean up to protect new residential community

Dear LCDR McKinney,

The Hawaii Department of Health, Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office is overseeing investigation and planned cleanup activities at the 84-acre Former Voice of America site, in Maili on the island of Oahu. USCG has conducted extensive characterization activities at this site, and identified highly elevated concentrations of PCBs in surface and subsurface soils on approximately 4 acres of the site, but to date, has not received funding to proceed with the needed clean up actions.

It is imperative that the USCG make this clean up a high priority for FY15 as a residential neighborhood is being built immediately adjacent to the highly contaminated 4 acre transmitter building site that requires remediation. Five homes directly abutting the transmitter site are already occupied. The housing development is large, with many homes being completed, many more families moving in the near future, and continuing construction over the next few years. While the contaminated site is securely fenced preventing direct exposure to known contaminated soils, the site is dry, dusty and windy, and windblown dispersal of contaminated surface soils to neighboring homes is a concern, as it creates a potential soil ingestion hazard for children living there.

The funding proposal will allow complete removal of contaminated soils to unrestricted use, and thus restore the property and preserve the newly developing community land values and sense of safety. While the State of Hawaii has been patient in the past due to limited human receptors in the area, circumstances have changed and action is needed.

We have met with the project managers, Dennis Mead and Lynn Keller, and directed them to immediately undertake additional characterization for a small strip of bare ground outside the

LCDR Clay McKinney 6/25/2014 Page 2

USCG fence line to complete delineation of PCB contamination in this uncontrolled area. They have been very proactive, quickly completing procurement for the needed sampling, scheduled to commence this week. If these bare soils have elevated concentrations of contaminants, immediate action will be needed to protect children by removing any direct contact exposure pathways. They also agreed to assess and modify existing signage as needed to ensure new residents and their children do not attempt to enter the fenced area.

We will look to Lynn to work with the community during planning and construction activities to explain safety measures planned for the cleanup, including careful dust management and air monitoring, as it is highly likely residents may become concerned about dust movement on to their properties.

Please notify me immediately if it appears that the funding for the cleanup action will not be available, as we will require interim actions, including capping across the transmitter building sites, to reduce risks to residents.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me directly at (808) 586-5815, or the project manager, Paul Chong, at 808-586-4249.

Sincerely.

Fenix Grange

Site Discovery, Assessment, and Remediation Section

Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office

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c:

Dennis Mead

Lynn Keller

Paul Chong