



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

June 20, 2011

Dale Johannesmeyer
BRAC PMO Office Southeast
4130 Faber Place Drive, Suite 202
North Charleston, SC 29405

SUBJECT: Close, Transfer, and Dispose of the Naval Support Activity (NSA) New Orleans East Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Johannesmeyer:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) prepared by the U.S. Department of the Navy's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program Management Office (PMO) Southeast. In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas is providing the following comments regarding the Final EA.

General

EPA recommends the Final EA include total miles of new road construction, including the grade-separated access. Please include a characterization of and direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to resource categories from road construction.

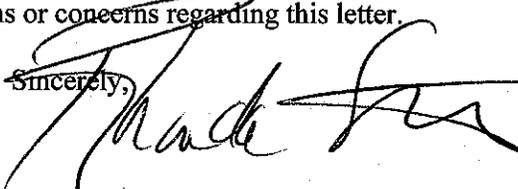
EPA recommends the Final EA quantify the surface types (concrete, asphalt, vegetated) within the NSA. Please characterize the vegetation within and adjacent to the NSA.

Air Quality

Any demolition, construction, rehabilitation, repair, dredging or filling activities have the potential to emit air pollutants and we recommend best management practices be implemented to minimize the impact of any air pollutants. Furthermore, construction and waste disposal activities should be conducted in accordance with applicable local, state and federal statutes and regulations. EPA's final Highway Diesel and Nonroad Diesel Rules mandate the use of lower-sulfur fuels in nonroad and marine diesel engines beginning in 2007.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the DEA. Thank you for your coordination and don't hesitate to contact John MacFarlane, of my staff, at 214-665-7491 or macfarlane.john@epa.gov should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning and
Coordination