

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Department of Justice, Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

At Camp Minden in Northern Louisiana, we have a situation that needs immediate attention from your office. Currently, the Louisiana National Guard is storing 15 million pounds of propellant from a company who declared bankruptcy earlier this year. This propellant has already caused multiple explosions at the site, and the stability of the material is degrading every day. There are several private sector owners of the propellant who have stepped forward to claim responsibility for its cleanup, and the EPA has issued a determination that the United States Army also has responsibility for cleaning up and restoring this site.

On March 18, 2014, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to the United States Department of the Army under the authority of Section 7003 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The Order requires the Army to eliminate the imminent and substantial endangerment posed by the 15 million pounds of M6 propellant stored at the former Explo Systems, Inc. site at Camp Minden, Louisiana. On April 15, 2014, the Army requested an opportunity to confer with the EPA Assistant Administrator regarding the Army's objections to EPA's Order. The meeting with the EPA Assistant Administrator was held on May 19, 2014. EPA, in a written determination on July 16, has finalized the Order, which will become effective five days after the Army's receipt of EPA's determination. I have attached that letter.

I understand your office is helping finalize the path forward, and I urge you to personally ensure this process moves as quickly as possible. Please help us address this situation immediately. If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff Donald Cravins at donald_cravins@landrieu.senate.gov.

With warm regards, I am,

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator