

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

October 23, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

Yesterday, your staff notified my office that a deal had been signed by the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of the Army, and the State of Louisiana regarding the disposal of the millions of pounds of propellant dangerously decaying at Camp Minden. First, thank you for your efforts to date to hold the Army responsible for the costs of cleaning up and properly disposing of these hazardous materials.

After talking to local community leaders, I want to highlight several factors as we enter the comment period next week that should be taken into consideration as you work with the State of Louisiana to determine the best method to clean up this mess:

1. The clean up must be conducted in a manner that considers the air quality for Minden residents. In addition, the process must not compromise the safety and health of those who live in the nearby community. Minden has felt the blast of two explosions already, and we must make sure the remaining propellant is disposed of in a controlled manner without any danger to the nearby community.
2. We must move as quickly as possible to dispose of the propellant. This threat continues to inhibit economic growth and development at Camp Minden and in the surrounding community. Additionally, this propellant becomes less and less stable every day that passes.
3. The clean up method must be affordable. While the Army has agreed to cover costs, we must make sure to be cost effective as we clean up this dangerous situation.
4. Finally, to all extents possible, the solution needs to come from local providers. We have tremendous capability and ingenuity in Louisiana, and we must harness our local communities' businesses and ingenuity to find the best solution to the problem.

Again, I thank you for your assistance in holding the Army to their legal and civic responsibility to properly dispose of these materials and the substantial risk they pose to the surrounding community. I encourage all residents of the local community to submit their comments during the 30-day public comment period and we appreciate your listening to these important comments and my concerns. If I can be of any help at all, please reach out to me or a member of my staff.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator