UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

January 28, 2015

Ms. Frances Kelley
Director of Organizing
Louisiana Progress Action
935 Linden Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71104

Dear Ms. Kelley:

Thank you for your January 26 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I am responding on behalf of the EPA.

The safety of the public is and has always been the most important consideration. The EPA continues to work closely with the Louisiana National Guard and State Police, who have control of the site, to assure the safety of the public. We recognize that legal negotiations that led to the current remedy approach and to the Administrative Settlement Agreement between the Louisiana National Guard, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, EPA and Department of Army could not provide the opportunity for public comment. The 90-day extension we granted provides an opportunity to increase public involvement, to consider alternatives and to expeditiously assure materials at Camp Minden are disposed in a manner that protects public safety, health, and the environment.

While we wholeheartedly agree on finding ways to increase involvement as we move forward, the issues raised in your letter are the types of issues that should be discussed over the upcoming days as the potential for alternative options is reviewed.

We support establishing a Dialogue Committee made up of citizens, officials and external scientists as well as representatives from the EPA, LDEQ, Louisiana National Guard and the Department of Army. The Committee could be asked to review alternatives as expeditiously as possible. We also support using the nine criteria from the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan to evaluate alternatives in the remedy selection. We envision this process to involve conference calls, document reviews, and face-to-face meetings in North Louisiana. At the conclusion of the Committee's deliberations, all the information would be shared with the public and media in a series of public meetings. This will also provide the broader public an opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.

With your support, we would like to host a planning conference call early next week to discuss members of the Dialogue Committee and a schedule for moving forward.

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Again, thank you for your letter. We will continue to reiterate our support for public involvement as we work to find ways to address the dangerous conditions at Camp Minden.

Sincerely,

Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

cc: The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senate

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senate

The Honorable John Fleming, M.D.
House of Representatives

The Honorable Ralph Abraham
House of Representatives

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana

The Honorable Tommy Davis
Mayor of Minden

The Honorable Ollie S. Tyler
Mayor of Shreveport

The Honorable Lorenz Walker
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The Honorable Barrow Peacock
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The Honorable Sherri Smith Buffington
Louisiana State Senate

The Honorable Gene Reynolds
Louisiana House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry Burns
Louisiana House of Representatives

Mr. Craig R. Schnauder
Deputy General Counsel, Department of the Army

Ms. Peggy Hatch
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Major General Glenn H. Curtis
Adjutant General, Louisiana National Guard