



# LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

*"... conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them."*



February 4, 2015

Ms. Peggy Hatch  
Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 4301  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301

RE: Camp Minden Explosives Open Burn

Dear Secretary Hatch:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF), I am writing to urge the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to help select the most appropriate course of action, and to urge the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide an alternative solution to the Camp Minden explosives open burn.

LWF has recently learned that the EPA planned to dispose of the 15 million pounds of volatile explosives by means of an open tray burn. Many concerned citizens, including LWF, object to this method of disposal because of the health risks to humans and wildlife. These concerns were made clear to the EPA, and the EPA has responded quickly by making an exception and allowing the state of Louisiana to select an alternative disposal method.

Because the materials appear to be too volatile to move and must be disposed of in place, LWF would support incineration in a controlled burn with proper disposal. We understand that one way to achieve such an incineration is the use of one of the EPA's 2 mobile incinerators. Other available methods for munitions recycling or safe disposal exist and should be explored in a transparent process that places public safety over expediency and cost.

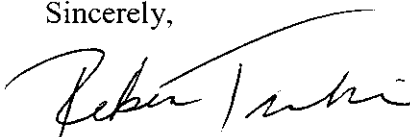
Ultimately, an EIS needs to be performed in order to evaluate the risks and alternatives to each disposal method, so that DEQ and EPA can move forward with a method that best protects the local population and the surrounding environment. Given the nature of the material to be disposed, an EIS would have to be completed in an expedited fashion.

Based on the information that we know at this time, LWF supports an alternative strategy of disposal that would protect the people and surrounding environment, such as a controlled burn with proper disposal.

We recognize that this is of major concern to nearby residents, and it has fallen on them to protect their community and the region. The Department of Defense first failed them by not diligently overseeing its contract to properly dispose of these dangerous materials. Subsequent lack of transparency about plans for disposal from all agencies involved has left nearby communities vulnerable. We appreciate the EPA's timely response to community concerns to grant an extension and exception to an open-tray burn. At this juncture we urge DEQ to protect the citizens of north Louisiana by evaluating the alternatives by means of an EIS and moving forward with an alternative that would be in the best interest of the nearby communities and environment.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is a statewide conservation education and advocacy organization with more than 9,900 members and 25 affiliate groups. Established in 1940, it is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation and represents a broad constituency of conservationists including hunters, anglers, campers, birders, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Triche  
Executive Director

CC:

Ron Curry, Regional Administrator  
EPA Region 6

John McHugh, Secretary of the Army

Craig Schnauder, Deputy General  
Counsel, Department of the Army

Governor Bobby Jindal

Senator David Vitter

Senator Bill Cassidy

Representative John Fleming

Representative Ralph Abraham

Representative Gene Reynolds

Tommy Davis, Mayor of Minden

Ollie Tyler, Mayor of Shreveport

Lorenz Walker, Mayor of Bossier City

Jimmy Williams, Mayor of Sibley

Carroll Breaux, Mayor of Springhill

Ronny Walker, Mayor of Ruston

Major General Glenn Curtis, Louisiana  
National Guard

Brian Salvatore, LSU Shreveport