



ACQUISITION
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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JAN 26 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(INSTALLATIONS & ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(INSTALLATIONS & ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(INSTALLATIONS, ENVIRONMENT & LOGISTICS)

SUBJECT: Trial Use of the Interim Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard
Assessment (MEC HA) Methodology

Approximately four years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) convened a Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop a technical framework and application methodology for assessing potential explosive hazards to human receptors at munitions response sites (MRSs). The TWG consists of representatives from EPA, DoD, the Department of Interior, the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), and the Tribal Association for Solid Waste and Emergency Response. The product of the TWG is the attached Interim Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment (MEC HA).

I encourage the use of the Interim MEC HA as a tool that can be used to evaluate relative reductions in explosive hazards, and thus protection of human health, when comparing response alternatives. While I believe the Interim MEC HA is a valuable tool for evaluating potential response alternatives, DoD does have some concerns. By agreement with the TWG, I recommend the trial use and evaluation of the Interim MEC HA for a two year period. DoD's concurrent signature on the Interim MEC HA is in conjunction with this two-year trial basis. We believe that the trial use will provide a basis for resolving DoD concerns. At the end of the trial period, I ask that each DoD Component report back to me with their overall evaluations and specific recommendations on the use of the methodology. During this trial period, we will continue to work with the appropriate offices to resolve lingering concerns with the Interim MEC HA methodology.

If additional information is needed my staff contact is Mr. Vic Wieszek, available at (703) 571-9061 and victor.wieszek@osd.mil.

Wayne Army
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment)

Attachment:
As stated



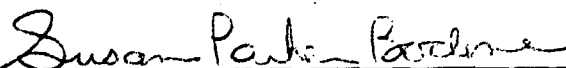


Concurrence Memo for the Interim Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment (MEC HA) Methodology


The Technical Working Group for the Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment (MEC HA) Methodology was established to develop a technical framework and application methodology. The group consists of representatives from the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, State program managers from Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, Tribal Association for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The document describes the MEC HA Methodology for assessing potential explosive hazards to human receptors at munitions response sites (MRSs). The MEC HA allows a project team to evaluate the potential explosive hazard associated with an MRS, given current conditions and under various cleanup, land use activities, and land use control alternatives. It was developed through a collaborative, consensus approach to promote consistent evaluation of potential explosive hazards at MRSs.

The MEC HA Methodology is now formally available for use by project teams that are evaluating potential explosive hazards at MRSs. Over the next two to three years, the sponsoring organizations will evaluate the effectiveness of the MEC HA based on application at munitions response sites. Based on the evaluations, modifications the MEC HA may be made to enhance the effectiveness of the methodology.



Susan Parker Bodine 10-31-08
Assistant Administrator for Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Date



Alex Beehler 1/16/09
Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)
U.S. Department of Defense Date

James E. Cason Date
Associate Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior