



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

SUSTAINMENT

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

FEB 28 2019

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Joint Explanatory Statement page 824, summary of section 317 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 (Public Law 115-232), requests the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment provide a briefing on the Department's efforts to accelerate environmental restoration efforts no later than December 11, 2018. On February 11, 2019, I informed the committees the briefing would be submitted no later than the end of February 2019.

The enclosed briefing provides an overview of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) and the Department's installation cleanup efforts and progress, initiatives to accelerate cleanup and challenges faced and the importance of partnerships to DERP. Please contact me if a face-to-face briefing is required.

An identical letter has been sent to the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. McMahon", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert H. McMahon

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable William M. "Mac" Thornberry
Ranking Member



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

SUSTAINMENT

FEB 20 2019

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Joint Explanatory Statement page 824, summary of section 317 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 (Public Law 115-232), requests the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment provide a briefing on the Department's efforts to accelerate environmental restoration efforts no later than December 11, 2018. On February 11, 2019, I informed the committees the briefing would be submitted no later than the end of February 2019.

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Robert H. McMahon

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member



Department of Defense Initiatives to Accelerate Environmental Restoration Efforts

Ms. Maureen Sullivan
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment)

February 2019

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$6,690. This includes \$2,350 in expenses and \$4,340 in DoD labor. Cost estimate generated on February 20, 2019 RefID: 7-DF11535



Purpose

- **Official Response to Conference Report 115-874, page 824, summary of section 317, to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, P.L. 115-232:**
“The conferees require not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment shall provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives on initiatives being pursued to accelerate environmental restoration efforts.”



Accelerating Cleanup Efforts

- **Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Overview**
- **Cleanup on Our Installations**
- **Cleanup Progress**
- **Initiatives to Accelerate Cleanup**
- **Challenges to Accelerating Cleanup**
- **Partnerships and Transparency**
- **Conclusion**



DERP Overview

- **DoD is committed to protecting human health and the environment by conducting cleanup under federal law¹**
- **The DERP addresses contamination at active installations, Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) properties, and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) locations in the United States**
- **DoD addresses hazardous substances and munitions under DERP²**
- **DoD invested \$1.4 billion in environmental restoration activities in FY 2017**

¹DERP (10 U.S.C. sections 2700-2711), and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 USC sections 9600-9675, CERCLA)

²Munitions are addressed at closed (non-operational) ranges under DERP's Munitions Response program; DERP also addresses CERCLA pollutants or contaminants.



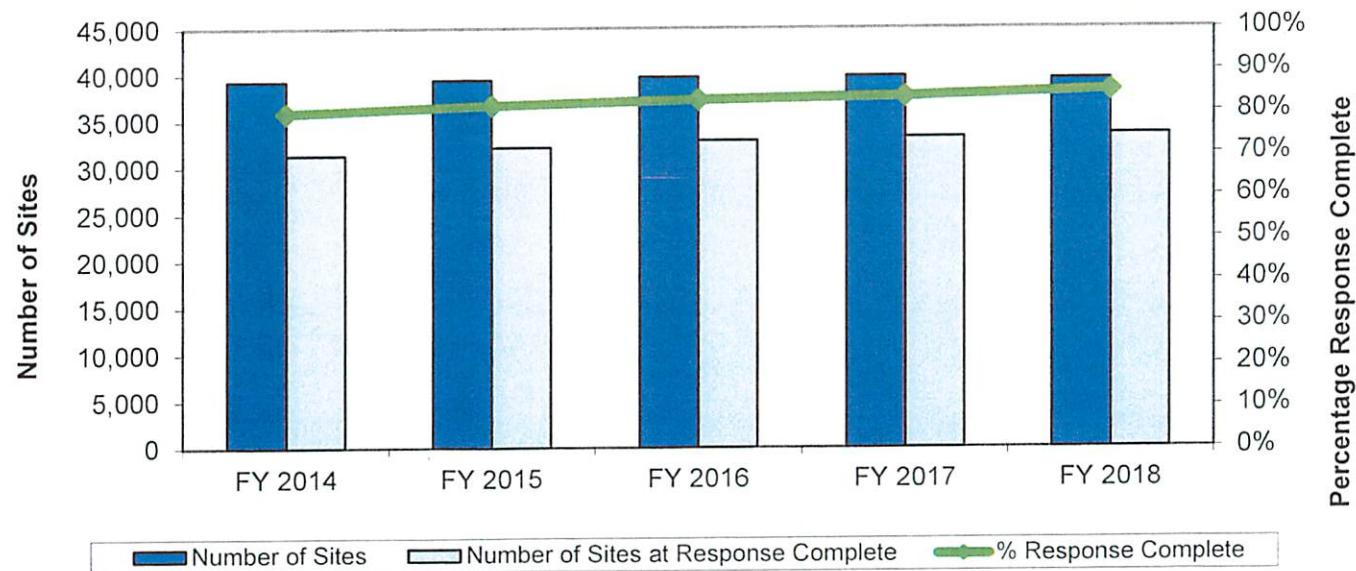
Cleanup on Our Installations

- **DoD must follow the CERCLA cleanup process to identify, investigate, and respond to contamination.**
- **All cleanup actions are prioritized using a long-standing, nationwide risk-based approach.**
- **DoD works with federal, state and local governments, and the public to select its cleanup actions**



Cleanup Progress

- **Of the 39,500 cleanup sites in our inventory, DoD has achieved the Response Complete (RC) milestone at more than 33,500 sites (85 percent)**
 - In FY 2018, DoD collaborated with state and federal regulators to complete cleanup at nearly 500 sites
 - Most of the remaining sites are low risk sites, munitions response at FUDS, and complex sites (e.g., sites with challenging physical characteristics, extensive contamination, technology limitations)





Initiatives to Accelerate Cleanup

- **Establishing policies that maximize efficiencies and minimize the time it takes to complete cleanup**
 - Reassessing/optimizing the performance of a cleanup to see if it can be more effective.
 - Requiring good quality data to enhance regulator confidence in cleanup decisions and minimize the potential for unaddressed risk
- **Investing in technology solutions**
 - Developed and transferred advanced geophysical classification technology to focus resources on potential explosives safety risks
 - Developing groundwater cleanup technologies to accelerate cleanup
 - Demonstrating approaches for treating groundwater containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)



Challenges to Accelerating Cleanup

- **Complex sites take longer to complete, necessitate more regulatory attention, and require a greater financial investment**
- **Lack of available cleanup technology to fully address contamination in complex settings**
- **Issuance of new cleanup standards or new toxicity values for contaminants where values were not established previously**
- **Identifying new sites**



Partnerships and Transparency

- **Partnering with stakeholders and maximizing transparency, public participation, and collaboration is vital to ensuring DoD makes cost effective and efficient decisions by:**
 - Building relationships with federal and state regulators and exchanging views, information, and advice relating to DERP
 - Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA) Steering Committee,³ Munitions Response Dialogue, and FUDS Forum Working Group
 - Quarterly meetings with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Involving the public throughout the cleanup process
 - Restoration Advisory Boards and Technical Assistance for Public Participation
 - Public meetings
 - Resolving issues at the lowest level through tiered partnering

³ The DSMOA Steering Committee fosters communication and collaboration between representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the DoD Components, and State environmental regulators.. Representatives use their experiences and expertise to exchange views, information, and advice to address issues related to managing and implementing the DSMOA program and the DERP.



Conclusion

- **DoD is making steady and measurable progress, successfully moving sites through the cleanup process**
- **DoD is committed to cleaning up its sites in a timely manner, but faces significant challenges that can impact progress**
- **DoD is focused on continuous improvement by developing technologies to reduce costs and accelerate cleanup, and establishing policies and guidance that maximize cleanup program efficiency and effectiveness**
- **DoD partners with stakeholders throughout the cleanup process to maximize transparency, public participation, and collaboration. Partnering is vital to ensuring DoD makes cost effective and efficient decisions**