

Dear RAB or TRC Member:

The Department of Defense (DoD) understands that communication and cooperation with stakeholders is fundamental to the success of its Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). As such, it is DoD's policy to involve communities in the environmental restoration process, through Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs), Technical Review Committees (TRCs), and other public involvement venues. The partnerships developed through RABs and TRCs have expedited DoD's fulfillment of its environmental restoration requirements, installation by installation.

DoD has developed a draft proposed rule regarding the scope, characteristics, composition, funding, establishment, operation, adjournment, and dissolution of RABs. DoD proposes this rule in response to 10 U.S.C. § 2705(d)(2)(A), which requires the Secretary of Defense to develop regulations regarding RABs. The proposed regulations are based on DoD's current policies for establishing and operating RABs, as well as DoD's experience working with RABs.

DoD is sending this draft proposed rule to the co-chairs of the 299 RABs and 29 other advisory committees it supports at active and closing installations and formerly used defense sites. As you are a RAB or TRC co-chair and an active participant in the DERP, we would like to extend this draft proposed rule to you and the other members of your RAB or TRC for review prior to its publication for public comment in the *Federal Register*. We hope that you will find this rule informative and that you will be interested in submitting early comments to DoD. You may provide comments from now until the end of the official public comment period, which is 60 days after it is published as a proposed rule in the *Federal Register*. We anticipate publishing the proposed rule in the next few months.

If you would like to submit comments, please submit them electronically through the Web at <http://www.denix.osd.mil/rabrul> or via electronic mail (e-mail) to Patricia.Ferrebee@osd.mil. Comments may also be mailed to Ms. Patricia Ferrebee, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Management), 3400 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3400. Questions may also be directed to Ms. Ferrebee by telephone at 703/695-6107. We encourage you to share this draft proposed rule with other interested stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Mr. Patrick Meehan
Director, Office of the Secretary of Defense
for Environmental Management

Enclosure: As Stated