



ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS,
AND ENVIRONMENT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

December 10, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (INSTALLATIONS,
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ENERGY,
INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (ENERGY,
INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (INSTALLATION
MANAGEMENT)

SUBJECT: Holistic Approach to Relative Risk and Site Prioritization

The Department of Defense (DoD) carries out the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), and has incorporated CERCLA's risk-based approach into its site prioritization process. DoD's fundamental premise in site prioritization is "worst first," meaning the DoD Components address sites that pose a relatively greater potential risk to human health, safety, and the environment before sites posing a lesser relative risk. The DoD Components have historically used the relative risk site evaluation (RRSE) methodology to prioritize cleanup at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites, and the Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol to prioritize cleanup at munitions response sites (MRSs). Relative priorities are a primary factor in sequencing IRP sites and MRSs for response action, but sequencing decisions can be further refined based on other important risk management considerations (e.g., regulatory considerations, program execution considerations).

To comply with Section 326 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2023 and to ensure that DoD makes the best use of available resources to move sites through the cleanup process while protecting human health, safety, and the environment, the DoD Components will use the following approach to collectively prioritize IRP sites and MRSs:

- An MRS Priority of 1-4 is equivalent to a high RRSE.
- An MRS Priority of 5-6 is equivalent to a medium RRSE.
- An MRS Priority of 7-8 is equivalent to a low RRSE.

This methodology applies to all eligible DERP sites. The point of contact for this matter is Mr. Brian Jordan at 703-409-8657 or brian.d.jordan6.civ@mail.mil.

OWENS.BRE
NDAN.M.1030
451844
Brendan M. Owens

Digitally signed by
OWENS.BRENDAN.M.1
030451844
Date: 2024.12.10
10:27:04 -05'00'