



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND

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Mr. David M. Uhlmann
Assistant Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington DC 20460

General Thomas A. Bussiere
Commander
Air Force Global Strike Command
245 Davis Avenue East
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Dear Mr. Uhlmann

In February 2023, in response to cancer concerns among the Missileers working in Minuteman (MM) III Facilities, Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) initiated the Missile Community Cancer Study (MCCS) to address potential risk factors in missile related career fields. Soil, air, water, and surface areas inside and outside 48 Launch Control Centers (LCC)s, including 45 operational LCCs and 3 test LLCs, were tested for a range of hazardous materials. These LCCs are located at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana (Malmstrom AFB), Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota (Minot AFB), F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming (FE Warren AFB), Vandenberg Space Force Base, California (Vandenberg SFB), and Hill Air Force Base, Utah, (Hill AFB). In August 2023, surface area samples revealed the presence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) requiring further investigation. We immediately notified the Missileer Community of the results as findings were published by United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM).

From August through October 2023, members of Air Force Material Command (AFMC) and USAFSAM communicated with EPA Regions 5 and 8 to explore steps for investigation and remediation of PCBs in the Missile Facilities. Subsequently, the Air Force began coordinating with the EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) in EPA Headquarters, to determine the appropriate path forward.

Going forward, formal notification of PCB cleanup activities by the Air Force, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 761.61(a)(3) and 761.61(c), will be made to the EPA 30 days prior to implementing future site cleanup actions at MMIII facilities. For all PCB spills discovered at any MM III facility that are more than 72 hours old, the Air Force will apply the appropriate cleanup standards outlined in 40 C.F.R. § 761.61, which regulates PCB remediation waste. 40 C.F.R.

§ 761.61 establishes standards for purposes of cleanup and disposal options for PCB remediation waste. The Air Force will also appropriately dispose of all PCB Bulk Product Waste from MMIII facilities in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 761.62.

Furthermore, the Air Force will standardize all PCB markings in MM III facilities in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 761.45. PCBs, PCB Items, PCB Containers, PCB Transformers, PCB Capacitors, PCB Equipment, and each storage area used to store PCBs and PCB Items for disposal require appropriate marking. Storage and Disposal requirements are outlined in 40 C.F.R. §§ 761.60 and 761.65.

Finally, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. §§ 2601 *et seq.* requirements for Air Force contractors will be identified in the Performance Work Statement (PWS) provided to all contractors engaged in PCB activities at the MM III facilities. The Air Force MM III facilities will attain and remain in full compliance with TSCA. We appreciate EPA's assistance throughout this process and look forward to continued collaboration between our two agencies.

The Air Force takes the responsibility to protect the environment and our Airmen and Guardians incredibly seriously, and their safety and health is the top priority. We remain committed to transparency and an open dialogue with Airmen and their families throughout the continuing Missile Community Cancer Study.

Sincerely



Thomas A. Bussiere
General, USAF
Commander