



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP - 4 2008

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mr. Alex Beehler  
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense  
for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health  
3400 Defense Pentagon, Rm. 5C646  
Washington, D.C. 20301-3400

Dear Mr. Beehler:

I am writing with some good news. EPA over the past year has been facilitating discussions among the states and DoD Components in an effort to renew a formal federal-state dialogue on munitions response issues following the suspension of the Munitions Response Committee (MRC). I am pleased to report that we have now amended a cooperative agreement with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) to support such an effort, which will augment the work of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) under an existing cooperative agreement. The new project builds on the principles of the former MRC while reflecting many of the improvements suggested by you and the military services.

The cooperative agreement assures participation of state officials by providing funding for travel and salary. Participants will have the opportunity to share expertise; promote effectiveness and consistency of policies; conduct research to inform decisions; and address technical challenges, such as the development and validation of improved technologies. Most importantly, DOD and other federal agencies will be invited to participate in face-to-face meetings with the states on munitions issues.

I know that you share my appreciation for direct dialogue with the states, and I look forward to DoD's participation in this renewed dialogue on munitions. We anticipate that the planning process for this project will begin in the weeks ahead. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance, or your designee may contact John E. Reeder, Director of EPA's Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (703.603.9089).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan P. Bodine".

Susan P. Bodine  
Assistant Administrator

cc: Donald Schregardus, Navy  
Kevin Billings, Air Force  
Tad Davis, Army  
John E. Reeder, EPA  
Maureen Sullivan, DoD  
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