OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(INSTALLATIONS, ENVIRONMENT, AND LOGISTICS)
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DSS-E)

SUBJECT: Interim Policy on Perchlorate Sampling

There are a number of actions that the Department of Defense (DoD) has undertaken to address perchlorate in drinking water, including monitoring for perchlorate through the Safe Drinking Water Act's (SDWA) Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), monitoring surface water discharge under the Clean Water Act (CWA) at States' requests, and collection of data on occurrence of perchlorate at Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) sites. Given recent public concerns over possible risks associated with perchlorate, the Department believes it is appropriate to take additional measures to assess the extent of perchlorate occurrence at active and closed installations, ranges, and Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). Towards that end, DoD Components shall continue to consolidate existing perchlorate occurrence data, and shall sample any previously unexamined sites where a perchlorate release is suspected because of DoD activities and where a complete human exposure pathway is likely to exist. DoD Components shall establish and maintain databases containing the information listed in the enclosed spreadsheets described in each section below. This policy supercedes the DoD November 13, 2002, memorandum; *Perchlorate Assessment Policy*.

I. SDWA

The UCMR (40 CFR Parts 9, 141, 142) mandates that all community and non-transient non-community water systems serving more than 10,000 people, as well as smaller systems selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), monitor for specific contaminants, including perchlorate. Some military installations are subject to the UCMR and, therefore, should be testing for the presence of perchlorate and reporting the results to EPA and state regulators, as appropriate. UCMR sampling and reporting is a Class 1 compliance-funding requirement. This requirement is not applicable to FUDS.

Each Component shall establish and maintain a database of UCMR sampling activities. The database shall include installation identification information, all data points collected, and, at a minimum, the information listed in enclosure 1. DoD Components shall work with the DoD SDWA Services Steering Committee in compiling a consolidated DoD report of UCMR sampling results by January 31, 2004.

II. CWA

Several states require some military installations to monitor for perchlorate under the CWA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Sampling and reporting in compliance with an NPDES permit is a Class 1 compliance-funding requirement. This requirement is not applicable to FUDS.

Each DoD Component shall establish and maintain a database of sampling data (by discharge point) for those permitted discharges that have a perchlorate reporting requirement in their NPDES permit, or other state requirement to monitor for perchlorate. The DoD Components shall list every NPDES discharge point required to monitor for perchlorate. The database will contain, at a minimum, the information listed in enclosure 2. DoD Components shall work with the DoD CWA Services Steering Committee in compiling a consolidated DoD report of NPDES sampling results by January 31, 2004.

III. Environmental Restoration

DoD Components shall continue to consolidate existing perchlorate occurrence data at DoD active or closed installations, non-operational ranges, and FUDS. For these categories, DoD Components shall also program resources and sample for the presence of perchlorate at any previously unexamined site where there is a reasonable basis to suspect that a release has occurred as a result of DoD activities and where a complete human exposure pathway is likely to exist. DoD Components shall consult with their office of counsel to determine an appropriate course of action with regard to sampling at sites involving potentially responsible parties other than DoD.

In determining the likelihood of perchlorate occurrence, DoD Components should consider the volume of perchlorate used, or disposed, and/or the intensity of perchlorate related activities at the site. Activities that could potentially contribute to perchlorate occurrence include, but are not limited to:

a. The manufacture/maintenance of missiles, rockets and/or munitions containing perchlorates;
b. The use of perchlorate-containing munitions for training or testing purposes;
c. The demilitarization of perchlorate-containing munitions using techniques, such as "hog-out" of rockets and missiles containing solid propellant; and,
d. Open burning/open detonation operations.

In assessing potential pathways of exposure, DoD Components should consider whether there are:

a. Drinking water sources likely to be impacted by ground water or surface water on or leaving the active or closed installation, non-operational range, or FUDS; and/or,
b. Drinking water systems on or near the active or closed installation, non-operational range, or FUDS that are listed on EPA's UCMR database.

Each DoD Component shall establish and maintain a database of existing data and the data collected pursuant to this policy at active and closed installations, non-operational ranges, and FUDS. The database will include, at a minimum, the information listed in enclosure 3. DoD Components shall work with the DoD Cleanup Committee in compiling a consolidated DoD report of sampling results by January 31, 2004.

IV. Funding

DoD Components may only use environmental restoration funding for sampling activities that meet DERP eligibility requirements described in the current version of the DERP Management Guidance. Under DoDI 4715.6, "Environmental Compliance," perchlorate sampling is an Environmental Quality Status Class I requirement.

V. Ranges

Assessing operational ranges for the potential for off-range migration of perchlorate is consistent with the Munitions Action Plan and the Defense Planning Guidance (DPG) requirements. The DPG requires the Secretaries of the Military Departments to assess potential hazards from off-range migration of munitions constituents. This policy memorandum requires the Military Departments to include perchlorate in future range assessments.

VI. Other Related Efforts

Currently EPA has only one approved method for testing for the presence of perchlorate. This method (Method 314.0) is only approved for testing drinking water. Alternative test methods have proven to be more accurate and reliable for other media (i.e., soil, sediment, groundwater, etc.). Therefore, DoD Components are required to develop guidance for appropriate testing methodologies for perchlorate in other media. If alternative sampling protocols are used, the method must be documented in the enclosed spreadsheets.

In addition, DoD Components shall continue to work together to develop and demonstrate new technologies for treatment and cleanup of perchlorate. I appreciate your support for these important efforts.

Philip W. Grone
Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment)

Enclosures:

1. UCMR Spreadsheet
2. NPDES Spreadsheet
3. Site Sampling Spreadsheet

Enclosure 1
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Sampling Results

Installation Name	State	EPA Region	Date Sampling Conducted	Sampling/Analytical Method	[redacted]	Sampling Planned	[redacted]	Regulatory Driver Cited**	Perchlorate Sampling Results (ppb)	Comments or References
EX: Smith Gun Base	CA	10	7/18/2001			No		EPA UCMR	1st round=<4ppb/2nd round waived by DHS	1st round of sampling was conducted in Jul 01, 2nd round of sampling was waived on 4 Sep 02 by DHS, exception of Chromium VI. No further sampling required it consists of only 2 rounds for data collection purposes for future use if they become Regulated Contaminants.

* Please specify if the sample was collected from well head, entry point of distribution system, other

** Identify any State or local requirements that have mandated sampling

Enclosure 2
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
Sampling Results

Installation Name	State	EPA Region	[redacted]	Comments on Sampling Requirement
EX: Smith Gun Base	GA	10	[redacted]	only 6 months sampling which began 1/1/03, monitoring only at training range
EX: X Air Base	FL	4	[redacted]	Munitions cleaning operation discharges into treatment plant. 8 month sampling beginning 11/02.
EX: Naval Base Y	VA	3	[redacted]	none at detection limit (4 ppb) no effluent monitoring at this time. Required because of past operations.

Enclosure 3
Site Sampling Results

Facility	Site	Source of Perchlorate (Operations, Equipment, Activities)	Location detected	Number of detections/samples collected/analytical method	Range of Concentrations detected and detection level	Pathway of Exposure	Regulatory Interest (Cleanup requested, permitting requirements, sampling requirements)