



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta, GA 30333

October 20, 2009

Mr. Richard G. Mach Jr., P.E.
Environmental Director
Environmental Compliance and Restoration Policy
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4A674
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Mr. Mach:

The purpose of this letter is to request full funding of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) 2010 Annual Plan of Work for the U.S. Marine Base Camp Lejeune drinking water contamination project. This letter complies with section 9.4 [Dispute Resolution] of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of the Navy (DON) and ATSDR (MOU).

ATSDR has concluded that the completion of our epidemiologic studies is scientifically useful and provides a service to the community of servicemen and women and their families exposed to contaminated drinking water at USMC Base Camp Lejeune. Our progress in completing this work will be compromised unless DON makes its decision to fully support the 2010 APOW as soon as possible.

Our MOU requires that ATSDR provide an annual APOW to DON so that funding decisions may be discussed and resolved well before the beginning of the fiscal year. After ATSDR reviewed the National Research Council report *Contaminated Water Supplies at Camp Lejeune – Assessing Potential Health Effects*, we issued our final plans and rationale for completing our Camp Lejeune work. We provided our 2010 APOW to DON on August 25, 2009. ATSDR received follow-up questions from DON on September 11, 2009 and provided a written response to DON on September 22, 2009. On September 29, DON agreed to partially fund the portion of the 2010 APOW for our Community Assistance Panel (\$25, 000 of \$184,426 requested). DON sent an additional inquiry to us on October 16, 2009. ATSDR made an urgent request to partially fund water modeling activities (\$155, 000 of \$1,811,978 requested) on October 19, 2009. We believe that a piecemeal approach the funding the 2010 APOW will increase the workload on our staff and further delay completing our USMC Marine Base Camp Lejeune projects.

Page 2 – Mr. Mach

Even though our agencies are currently operating under a continuing resolution, DON is in a position to notify us of your intention to support the 2010 APOW. In the late 1990s' the relationship between the DON and ATSDR was strained, particularly in regard to funding decisions. You and I have made significant progress in improving that relationship. I hope our efforts to work together continue to improve. I would appreciate a response to this letter by October 30, 2009.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Sinks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Thomas Sinks, Ph.D.

Deputy Director

National Center for Environmental Health/

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

cc:

B. Harrison

K. Brown

S. Williams