



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Brad Miller
Chairman, Subcommittee on Investigations
and Oversight
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6301

Dear Chairman Miller:

Thank you for your letter of March 9, 2010, regarding Camp Lejeune drinking water benzene sampling results as well as access to the Navy database of Camp Lejeune drinking water documents.

The well at issue was Camp Lejeune well 602, one of many supply wells to the Camp Lejeune drinking water system. Camp Lejeune regularly rotated wells in and out of use, and took well 602 off line as part of this normal cycle on November 21, 1984. Marine Corps was first notified of the well 602 benzene result of 380 ppb on November 30, 1984. Although benzene was not regulated at that time, Marine Corps took proactive measures by immediately closing this well permanently. The benzene result of 380 ppb was accurately reported in the January 1985 well assessment report, although Marine Corps is aware that in a few subsequent reports the result was erroneously transcribed as 38 ppb in introductory or background sections. There was no intentional misrepresentation.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has had full access to all reports, documentation, and information concerning benzene contamination for their Camp Lejeune Public Health Assessment (PHA). The Department can document this access through the reports used and referenced by ATSDR for their PHA at Camp Lejeune as well as the text in their draft and final reports from the time period. Records show ATSDR has been aware of the presence of benzene and the scope of the contamination in well 602 since at least the early 1990's.

Documents detailing benzene contamination and other related information have also been available in the Onslow County Library since 1992 and available online since 1999 (http://www.bakerenv.com/camplejeune_irp). The sampling and analytical information for all previously closed wells have been accessible publicly and provided on many occasions to the Environmental Protection Agency, the State of North Carolina, the Government Accountability Office and the ATSDR.

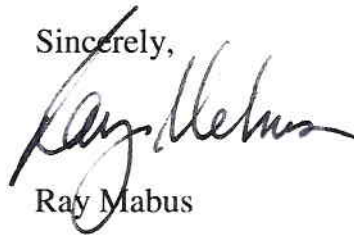
Naval Facilities Engineering Command has a web portal repository that contains documents relevant to the Camp Lejeune historic water contamination issue. The portal

is a working tool for environmental practitioners. The documents in the portal, and thousands more, reside in hard copy form at Camp Lejeune. ATSDR has had access to this library of documents at Camp Lejeune for years. We will provide your staff immediate access to the web portal, and the library of additional documents.

The Department of the Navy is committed to providing your Committee with complete information regarding the historic water contamination issue at Camp Lejeune. Representatives from the Marine Corps have reached out to your office, asking for the opportunity to provide a complete brief on the most recent developments. I hope this can be arranged in the near future and that our staffs can work together to determine how best to present this information to you and to all concerned Members of Congress.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Mabus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "M".

Ray Mabus

Copy to:
The Honorable Paul Broun
Ranking Member