



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
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July 20, 2005

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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner

Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret.)

Executive Director:

Charles Battaglia

Mr. Bob Meyer
Director
BRAC Clearinghouse
1401 Oak St.
Roslyn VA 22209

Dear Mr. Meyer:

I respectfully request a written response from the Department of Defense concerning the following question.

The Department provided Environmental Restoration cost data and to some extent provided Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) cost data for each facility recommended for closure. The Department considered MMRP cost as restoration cost and therefore they were not included in the COBRA model. It appears the Department would not have closed the ranges if the facility had remained open. Please explain the rationale for not including the cost to close operational or active ranges, a cost the Department would not have incurred, as one-time cost in the COBRA model.

I would appreciate your response by July 25, 2005. Please provide a control number for this request and do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information concerning this request.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Cirillo
Director
Review & Analysis



BRAC 2005 - Query Response Manager



Response to E0475

Question:

The Department provided Environmental Restoration cost data and to some extent provided Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) cost data for each facility recommended for closure. The Department considered MMRP cost as restoration cost and therefore they were not included in the COBRA model. It appears the Department would not have closed the ranges if the facility had remained open. Please explain the rationale for not including the cost to close operational or active ranges, a cost the Department would not have incurred, as one-time cost in the COBRA model.

Answer:

Yes, the Department categorized all MMRP cleanup activities as restoration costs since the MMRP is part of the larger Defense Environmental Restoration Program. The eventual cleanup of operational ranges, after closure, would also be considered a restoration cost (if these sites are designated MMRP sites) and per OSD guidance restoration costs were not included in the COBRA model since restoration of these tracts of land would occur regardless of whether the base is closed or remains active. In addition, the costs to address the future restoration of operational ranges after closure have a very high degree of uncertainty since many operational ranges have not been assessed and restoration costs are highly dependent on the future reuse of the land. This uncertainty is reflected in the wide range of costs for operational range cleanup as shown in the Summary of Scenario Environmental Impacts. Finally, it is not accurate to state that the Department would not have closed operational ranges if the installation had remained active, since the Department has closed ranges in the past and performed needed restoration at installations that are still active.

References:

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a distinct "t" at the end.

Date: 26-Jul-05