

BRAC Commission DCN: 7271

AUG 09 2005

Received

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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To General James T. Hill
Fax Number 703-699-2735
From Bill Crawford
Date August 9, 2005
Pages, including this cover sheet 2

Message: Letter re: Commission's July 22 hearing in New Orleans-Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant

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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LELAND R. SPEED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 8, 2005

General James T. Hill
Commissioner
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Strert, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear General Hill:

At the Commission's July 22nd hearing in New Orleans, Louisiana, Mississippi testified that we do not contest the closure of the Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant, but do request that the Commission review and comment on the projected costs for mitigation of the existing environmental and safety concerns at the plant. Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck said a preliminary review showed these costs to be higher than projected by the Army.

The State has now received information from Stennis Space Center indicating the amount of these costs and herewith submits them for your review. Estimated environmental clean-up costs will be approximately \$6.2 million, rather than the \$3.7 million in the recommendation from Secretary Rumsfeld (\$1.4 million to be spent for "environmental compliance activities" plus \$2.3 million for "environmental restoration"). Also, \$5.3 million in demolition costs for safety reasons do not appear to have been included in required costs to close.

Past Commissions have included "community concerns" in the final BRAC report and, in some cases, have commented on the validity of those concerns. While the above cost discrepancies do no harm to the recommendation to close the Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant, the State respectfully requests that accurate information be included in the final report with the hope that it may provide the affected community some leverage in attaining necessary mitigation. We will be happy to connect any of your staff with appropriate leaders at Stennis Space Center to validate these figures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Crayford".

William S. Crayford
Deputy Director for Community Assistance

WSC:ao