



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, HONOLULU DISTRICT
230 OTAKE STREET
FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5440

May 20, 2024

SUBJECT: RE: Investigation for Munitions and Explosive of Concern at Formerly Used Defense Site Makalapa Crater Navy Salvage Yard

Ms. Gracelda M. Simmons
Program Manager, HEER-DOH
2385 Waimano Home Rd #100
Pearl City, Hawai'i 96782

Dear Ms. Simmons

Thank you for your letter concerning Makalapa Crater Navy Salvage Yard (NSY). We greatly appreciate your input from the Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) team with the Department of Health. I know both of our agencies agree that the safety of the students and faculty is our number one priority.

I understand the significance of properly characterizing the munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) risk at Makalapa Crater NSY, so I recently had my team of ordnance and explosive safety specialists (OESS), scientists, engineers, historical researchers, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise review the evidence, including the reports cited in your letter, to reevaluate the MEC assessment. To summarize, after reexamining evidence, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers confirms there is a low probability of MEC at Makalapa Crater NSY.

Your letter cites the NAVFAC Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) report. As the report and your letter acknowledge, the Navy found 844 items of materials potentially posing explosive hazard (MPPEH). However, as the report and your letter confirm, the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit found all items to be materials documented as safe (MDAS). In addition to the NAVFAC TCRA report, an OESS contacted Navy, Army, and Air Force EOD units and determined no cases of confirmed MEC found at the site. In addition to the excavation conducted as part of the TCRA, the MEC probability assessment also looked at intrusive investigations conducted by Par Hawaii, which completed maintenance work on an approximately 150-ft pipeline through the crater without any documented evidence of MPPEH or MEC.

Beyond the EOD and maintenance records, the USACE researchers examined historical records that indicate that "munitions scrap" were landfilled at the site. Although Navy WWII personnel discovered machine gun cartridges at the salvage yard, this indicated that the Navy was effectively screening for explosives, which was verified by

the Navy's TCRA and other excavations that have no confirmed cases of MEC. The EPA's 2022 Phase II Targeted Brownfields Assessment confirms that there are metallic anomalies in the subsurface at the site, which is consistent with a former landfill. However, based on the body of evidence we have reviewed and discussed in this memo, the MEC probability is low as the anomalies are likely scrap metal and munitions debris, which are not considered explosive hazards. The attached MEC probability assessment has more information and evidence relevant to many of the points from your letter.

Based on the low MEC probability, the USACE does not offer onsite construction support; however, the DOD does offer on-call construction support. The USACE also has an extensive 3-R's outreach program to educate the community on how to react to inadvertently discovered MPPEH.

My team continues the project effort associated with contaminants of potential concern at the site. Sampling was completed during the schools' spring break in March and results recently received. I have attached the results. Please note the highlighted cells represent values that exceeded project screening levels (PSLs). The Honolulu District is now evaluating these results as part of the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and remedial investigation report. We plan to transmit this document to DOH by mid-October after completing internal reviews with the objective to complete reviews sooner to expedite the project.

As our valued partner, please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions (lisa.m.scott@usace.army.mil or 808-835-4784. I think it is worth meeting to discuss further your letter and our response. My staff will coordinate with your staff to set up this discussion.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Scott
Chief, Environmental Branch
Honolulu District
US Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosure

MEC Probability Assessment H09HI0484 Makalapa Crater NSY 27 February 2024

Vapor and Soil Sample Results March 2024 Makalapa Crater NSY

cc:

Jannah Oshiro, Remedial Project Manager
Gary Bignami, DOE Facilities Planner II