



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

June 9, 2003

Dr. Janet Matthews
Florida State Historic
Preservation Officer
Division of Historic Resources
Bureau of Historic Preservation
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS REGARDING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL
RESOURCES AT EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE**

Dear Dr. Matthews:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is requesting comments from the Florida State Historic Preservation Office regarding any potential cultural and historic impacts that may occur as a result of reclamation activities being conducted at Eglin Air Force Base. This letter is a followup to the telephone conversation held on June 4, 2003, between Scott Edwards of your staff and Robert Evans of the NRC's staff.

The Department of the Air Force submitted a decommissioning plan to the NRC by letter dated May 24, 2002. Supplemental information was submitted by letter dated November 1, 2002. The licensee is requesting the unrestricted release of property where depleted uranium munitions were previously tested. The 4-acre property is included in Test Area C-74L which is situated in the northeastern portion of Eglin Air Force Base. Test Area C-74L is located in Walton County, Florida, northeast of the city of Niceville and east of State Route 285. The property is located in Section 11 of Township 2 North, Range 21 West.

The NRC is considering the issuance of an amendment to Materials License 42-23539-01AF to release the site from the license. If approved, the licensee can use or sell the property without restriction by the NRC. The NRC previously questioned the Air Force about the impact the reclamation activities would have on cultural resources. In its November 1, 2002, letter, the Air Force stated:

"Information provided by Eglin Air Force Base Environmental Management office indicates there are no cultural resources in the area which may be impacted by the remediation of ... Test Area C-74L."

As part of its review of the decommissioning plan, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact. An EA is required by 10 CFR 51.30. The NRC requests your assistance in completing this EA.

In summary, the NRC requests your comments regarding the presence of any historical, archaeological or cultural values that may exist in the vicinity of Test Area C-74L. If any values are identified, please provide acceptable measures to avoid or mitigate the destruction of these values. If you have any comments, please provide them within 30 days so they may be fully considered in the development of the EA document.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and your response will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you require additional information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Evans, Senior Health Physicist, at (817) 860-8234 or the undersigned at (817) 860-8191.

Sincerely,

/RA/

D. Blair Spitzberg, Ph.D., Chief
Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch

Docket No.: 030-28641
License No.: 42-23539-01AF
Control No.: 469166

cc:
Lt. Col. Kali Mather
Department of the Air Force
USAF Radioisotope Committee
HQ AFMOA/SGZR
110 Luke Avenue, Suite 405
Bolling AFB, DC 20322-7050

Florida Radiation Control Program Director

bcc (via ADAMS e-mail distribution):

LEKokajko, NMSS/DWM/EPAB

MDBlevins, NMSS/DWM/EPAB

MCWong, NMSS/DWM/EPAB

EECollins

WAMaier

CLCain

ADGaines

TRDecker, RII

OMasnyk-Bailey, RII

DBSpitzberg

RJEvans

RETrojanowski, RII

FCDB

NLHolbrook

RIV Materials File Room (5th floor)

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