



SUSTAINMENT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

OCT 23 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (INSTALLATIONS,
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ENERGY,
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(INSTALLATIONS, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY)
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU (JOINT STAFF, J8)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (INSTALLATION
SUPPORT)

SUBJECT: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Cleanup Progress Reporting

The Secretary of Defense created a Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Task Force to manage growing concerns over releases of these substances and the effects on military installations and their surrounding communities. To support the Department's efforts, we need to track progress towards cleanup of PFAS releases caused by past Department of Defense (DoD) and National Guard activities. While the Department does not normally track progress through the phases of the cleanup process by chemical, due to the overwhelming interest in our performance and as directed by the Secretary of Defense memorandum on the PFAS Task Force, it is necessary to have visibility of progress related to these substances with established toxicity values. Progress information specific to PFAS will assist the Department in determining the effectiveness of the DoD Components' programs, consistently describe progress to our stakeholders, and demonstrate the Department's commitment to meeting our obligations.

Therefore, to improve our ability to evaluate and report progress addressing releases of PFAS substances with established toxicity values¹ on- and off-base caused by past DoD and National Guard activities, I am revising the reporting requirement established on July 30, 2019, to track cleanup activities conducted under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program and at sites funded by the Operation and Maintenance accounts for the National Guard. Using the attached data collection templates, each DoD Component shall report quarterly for installations with known or suspected PFAS releases the status of:

- The Preliminary Assessment, Site Inspection, Removal Action, and Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Study phases; and
- The actions taken to address perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)/perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in on- and off-base drinking water that tested above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Health Advisory of 70 parts per trillion.

¹ Currently there are only three PFAS – perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) – with established toxicity values that DoD can use to perform a baseline risk assessment and determine whether remedial action is needed under the federal cleanup law.

The templates contain the required data elements and reporting instructions. This information is due to my office by October 30, 2019, with quarterly updates due within 30 days of the end of each quarter (e.g., by January 30, 2020). I am requesting that you review and update your inventory of installations with known or suspected PFAS releases as part of the first submission. My point of contact is Ms. Deborah Morefield, at 703-571-9067 or deborah.a.morefield.civ@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. H. McMahon', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert H. McMahon

Attachments:

As stated