



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

5090

Ser N456J/30574713

JUN 18 2003

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: REVIEW OF DRAFT NAVY RANGE SUSTAINABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT (RSEPA)
IMPLEMENTATION POLICY

Ref: (a) DoD Directive 4715.11 dtd 17 Aug 99
(b) DoD Munitions Action Plan (MAP)

Encl: (1) DRAFT RSEPA Implementation Policy Manual
(Compact Disc)
(2) Official Comment Sheet

1. Navy's combat readiness is dependent on having sustained access to ranges to conduct essential training and weapons systems test and evaluation activities. This fact mandates that Navy develop and maintain an in-depth understanding of the environmental conditions that exist at its ranges, and manages each in an environmentally sound manner.

2. In response to the many challenges related to sustaining range access, DoD promulgated references (a) and (b) which required the Services to develop and implement procedures to assess the environmental impacts of munitions use on ranges. The Navy Range Sustainability Environmental Program Assessment (RSEPA) policy promulgated with this letter was developed in response to this requirement. RSEPA provides a consistent, and technically sound, approach for assessing the environmental condition of operational ranges located on the landmass of the United States and its Territories. The common thread that binds all elements of RSEPA together is the fact that Navy must maintain sustained access to its ranges in order to achieve its mission of *maintaining, training, and equipping combat ready naval forces capable of deterring aggression, winning wars and protecting our free access to the oceans of the world.*

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3. Enclosure (1), the RSEPA Implementation Policy Manual, was developed to ensure RSEPA policy is implemented in a uniform manner throughout Navy. It includes protocols for the collection and analysis of range-specific data, and for implementation of range management measures required to protect human health and the environment on individual ranges. Obviously, decisions and outcomes will be situational and site-specific.

4. Your review and comment on this document is critical to the overall effectiveness of this process. Please review enclosure (1) and provide comments using the comment review sheet in enclosure (2). Comments are due to CNO N45 no later than 15 August 2003. My points of contact for this initiative are Ms. Karen Foskey, CNO N456C at (703) 602-2859, karen.foskey@navy.mil or Ms. Wanda Holmes, CNO N456L at (703) 604-5420, wanda.holmes@navy.mil.



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