



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400**

**ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS,
AND ENVIRONMENT**

May 11, 2022

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, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (INSTALLATION
MANAGEMENT)

SUBJECT: Addressing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances at Base Realignment and Closure
Locations

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) releases caused by DoD activities at its facilities, including Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) locations. DoD executes its response actions under the federal cleanup law; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA); and the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) statute (10 U.S. Code 2700 *et seq.*).

While PFAS are not currently designated as hazardous substances, some are considered “pollutants or contaminants.” Section 104 of CERCLA provides DoD the authority to address pollutants or contaminants, such as perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) at BRAC locations. DoD Components will follow a consistent approach, based on risk, under CERCLA, the National Contingency Plan (NCP), and the DERP, as well as DoD PFAS guidance, to investigate and implement appropriate response actions for PFAS releases at DoD facilities, including BRAC locations, based on risk. Because many BRAC locations are no longer under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense, DoD Components should consult with counsel if concerns regarding access or source of release arise.

The point of contact for this matter is Ms. Alexandria Long, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment and Energy Resilience, at 703-571-9061 or alexandria.d.long.civ@mail.mil.

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Michael McAndrew
Performing the Duties of Principal Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations,
and Environment