



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES**

MEMORANDUM FOR US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**ATTN: MR. ROBERT SMITH
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**FROM: 15 CES/CEV
75 H STREET
HICKAM AFB, HI 96853-5233**

SUBJECT: Informal Section 7 Consultation, Environmental Restoration Program Removal Site Evaluation Field Work at Landfill 24 (Pier Dump), Bellows Air Force Station, Oahu, Hawaii

1. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), we request an informal Section 7 consultation for a proposed Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) project to begin in February 2003 at the Landfill 24 (LF24) site at Bellows Air Force Station (AFS), Hawaii. The location of the LF24 site at Bellows AFS is illustrated in the attachments.

2. Under its Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), the Air Force will be investigating the LF24 site, where it is possible that potentially hazardous contaminants were disposed of during landfill dumping activities in the early 1940s. A brief description of the proposed fieldwork is provided below.

a. The Air Force is planning fieldwork that will involve a non-intrusive electromagnetic geophysical survey to be conducted at the LF24 site to aid in the identification of potential former disposal areas and buried wastes. Following the completion of the geophysical survey, exploratory trenching, soil sampling, and installation of four groundwater monitoring wells will be conducted. The attached two figures indicate the approximate locations of the exploratory trenches and groundwater monitoring wells; their locations may be adjusted after a review of the geophysical data.

b. The objective of the exploratory trenching at the LF24 site is to characterize landfill contents, perform geologic logging, conduct archaeological surveys, and collect soil samples. The exploratory trenches will be backfilled immediately following investigation activities. A truck-mounted, 8-inch-diameter, hollow-stem auger drilling rig will be used to install the permanent groundwater monitoring wells at the site. Soil samples will be collected as the borings are advanced, and subsurface materials will be logged. Following soil sampling, each soil boring will be completed as a monitoring well. The monitoring wells will be developed, and groundwater samples will be collected to characterize water quality in the vicinity of the LF24 site.

c. Cultural resource compliance will be coordinated with the 15th Air Base Wing Civil Engineer Squadron/Environmental Planning division (15 CES/CEVP). All trench excavation will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the Archaeological Monitoring Plan (see Appendix F of the *Work Plan*) to ensure that cultural resources are not impacted. A qualified unexploded ordnance (UXO) specialist will also monitor the excavations for UXO.

3. As discussed in the *Preliminary Draft Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan* for 15 ABW Installations (EA, 1997) searches were conducted of the Hawaii Natural Heritage Program (HNHP) and of the USFWS species databases. Based on that information, the status of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) species at the site are as follows:

a. There have been no RTE plant species observed on or near the station (EA, 1997).

b. Several RTE animal species have been observed on the station, including the black-necked stilt, Hawaiian duck, Hawaiian coot, common moorhen, Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus newelli*), green sea turtle, and Hawaiian monk seal (EA, 1997).

4. Every effort will be made during fieldwork to minimize impacts to existing natural resources. Because the ecological sensitivity in the areas subject to this environmental sampling investigation is low as a result of the sites being impacted by previous activities, we request your written concurrence to our determination that the investigation activities will have "no effect" on any species protected under the ESA.

5. Please contact our Natural Resource Planner, Mr. Gary O'Donnell, R.A., at 449-1584, extension 245, if you have any questions.



TODD LANNING

Acting Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachments:

1. Bellows Map
2. Trenching Map
3. References