



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231
Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

August 17, 2010

Dear Interested Parties:

On June 3, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Pacific Regional Director authorized initiation of an expanded Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis to further delineate the nature and extent of the release of lead contamination at Midway Atoll, develop and evaluate removal action alternatives, and implement an appropriate alternative by July 2011. The Department of the Interior's Central Hazardous Materials Fund is providing \$1.4 million for examining the extent of contamination and developing removal alternatives and associated cleanup costs. Cleanup activities will be conducted under the authority of Section 104 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund).

Studies conducted by USFWS and others at Sand Island between the late 1980s and 2009 have shown that Laysan albatross chicks exhibited symptoms of lead toxicity and that their exposure is likely related to ingestion of lead-based paint (LBP) chips and soil contaminated with LBP chips. The buildings and structures on Sand Island, some of which date back to the early 1900s, are the primary source of the paint chips that contaminate the soil where the albatrosses nest.

From 2005 to February 2010, FWS remediated 24 of the 95 buildings with LBP and spent approximately \$841,000 in direct costs. This includes American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding received in Fiscal Year 2009 to restore seven historic Officer Quarters, which included the total removal of all LBP from the interior and the encapsulation of all lead-based paint on the exterior.

The enclosed legal notices have been published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser and the Portland Oregonian. Information is also available on the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/midway/lpa.html>.

The Administrative (Record) for this response is located at the FWS Division of Engineering, Region 1, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232 and at the Pacific Islands External Affairs Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-311, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850. The Record is available for public inspection during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have questions about this action, please contact Barbara Maxfield in Honolulu, Hawai'i (808) 792-9531 or barbara_maxfield@fws.gov; or Carlton Morris in Portland, Oregon (503) 231-6143 or carlton_morris@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Ross Alliston
Acting FWS Superintendent

Enclosures