



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

December 9, 2009

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary
Department of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Mabus:

We write to express our concern that the Department of the Navy has not formally committed to fully fund the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) 2010 Annual Plan of Work for the U.S. Marine Base Camp Lejeune, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated National Priority site. As you know, ATSDR is mandated by Title 42 U.S. Code to conduct health effect studies of National Priority List sites and as the responsible party, the Navy under Title 42 U.S. Code is statutorily required to provide funding for these studies.

The presence of contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune between the 1950s and 1980s is well documented. The ATSDR 2010 Annual Plan of Work for Camp Lejeune contains a number of important studies that would further inform our understanding of the contamination that occurred. We understand that you have already authorized funding for a water modeling project, as well as a reanalysis of a birth outcomes study completed in 1998. However, we are concerned that the Navy has not yet committed to fund a comprehensive mortality study or a public health survey, as requested by ATSDR. These studies are integral to a comprehensive understanding of the effects stemming from human exposure to the contaminants at Camp Lejeune.

We have an obligation to the men and women who serve our country and their families to investigate this matter to the fullest extent. We therefore strongly urge you to commit to full funding of the ATSDR 2010 Annual Plan of Work without further delay. We look forward to a prompt and favorable response.

Sincerely,

Senator Bill Nelson

Senator George LeMieux

Senator Richard Burr

Senator Kay Hagan