



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, PICATINNY ARSENAL
PICATINNY ARSENAL, NEW JERSEY 07806-5000**

REPLY TO

Office of the Garrison Commander

Honorable Louis S. Sceusi
Mayor Rockaway Township
Municipal Building
65 Mount Hope Road
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Dear Mayor Sceusi:

For many years Picatinny Arsenal has sought to eliminate the use of open burning of energetic materials, which are by-products of the research and development of military ammunition and munitions systems. Picatinny, with the approval of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, pledged to eliminate the need for open burning by installing an explosive waste incinerator.

Picatinny's original intent was to utilize an explosive waste incinerator, which would completely replace open burning as a method of treatment for reactive wastes. However, after further evaluations, Picatinny determined that some waste materials cannot be disposed of through the incineration process, as they are chemically incompatible with the explosive waste incinerator. Newer energetic materials such as micro-nano metallicized propellants and pyrotechnics being developed to reduce or eliminate toxic chemicals used in current configurations are also incompatible with the incinerator process as they react with water. Additionally, in the event the explosive waste incinerator is temporarily out of service, Picatinny requires a method to dispose of the waste munitions.

As a result of the incinerator limitations described above and contingency planning, we had to re-evaluate the use of a new burning ground that is safer and more protective of human health and the environment. Picatinny requested that the State of New Jersey approve this new burning ground with an estimated annual capacity of 5,000 pounds (approximately 20% of the waste stream from the old burning grounds). This new burning ground will be located in the central area of Picatinny on a concrete pad. While Picatinny believes 5,000 pounds will be adequate, a firm commitment to that limit at this time would be imprudent due to the uncertainties associated with the incinerator prove out and future mission requirements. Picatinny will continue to seek new technologies to reduce the need for open burning.

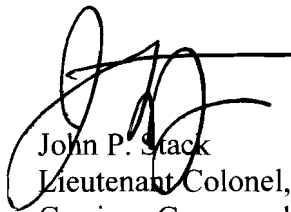
A proposal for the planned new burning ground was forwarded to both the US Environmental Protection Agency and the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and discussed with the membership of Picatinny's Restoration Advisory Board that is involved in the closing of the original burning ground. As a result of the change in plans to not completely eliminate open burning, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requested Picatinny seek comments from the public and concerned citizen groups at a public

meeting. Picatinny has scheduled a meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, 375 Mount Hope Avenue, Rockaway, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2009.

Additionally, I, or my representative, plan to appear at the next Restoration Advisory Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn and explain our plan to the membership, which includes your representative.

I appreciate your continued support for the vital mission Picatinny Arsenal plays in support of our service members. Protection of the environment is a high priority to us. Please contact me if you would like to meet with me or if you have any questions or concerns regarding the new burning ground. I may be reached at (973) 724-7010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Stack', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John P. Stack
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Garrison Commander