



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Eloy S. Inos
Governor

Ralph DLG. Torres
Lieutenant Governor

Miranda A.A. Ballentine
United States Air Force
Assistant Secretary for Installations, Environment and Energy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

RE: Extension – Public Comment Period
Divert Activities and Exercises Revised Draft EIS

Dear Ms. Ballentine:

As the Acting Governor for the Northern Mariana Islands, I write to request your support and assistance in obtaining from the Air Force an extension of time for the public comment period on the Divert Activities and Exercises Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The public comment period is presently set to close on December 1, 2015. We require a thirty day extension to provide written comments.

In short, following your visit to the Northern Mariana Islands last April, our islands have been hit exceptionally hard by several powerful typhoons and tropical storms causing massive amounts of damage and destruction.

These circumstances knocked-out power to the entire island of Saipan for several months and severed our underwater fiber optic cable (which took more than thirty days to fully repair). Our citizens and residents, our physical infrastructure and the NMI's human resources required to make our economy run were all uncompromisingly challenged and stretched-thin during the recover periods. Even today electrical power has still not been fully restored to all parts of the island of Saipan. Many people are still homeless and we are operating under a continuing state of emergency as I write.

We presently have much work to do to ensure a full recovery -- aside from responding in writing to the Air Forces' Revised Draft EIS. The citizens and residents and the employees of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands have gone through a very difficult six month period in the history of our Islands.

Attention to many of our routine duties and responsibilities have been delayed and I am of the opinion that the citizens and residents of the Northern Mariana Islands need a thirty day

extension of time to prepare written comments to the Revised Divert Project so that they can first gain some sense of normalcy in their daily lives.

In sum, we require additional time to carefully consider the Air Forces' new proposal and prepare our written responses.

I look forward to your favorable response to this request and should you need further details or information – please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Acting Governor

cc: Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Rear Admiral Babette "Bette" Bolivar
CNMI Senate President
CNMI Speaker of the House