

Washington DC- Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) and Rep. Norm Dicks (WA-6) today sent the following letter to Secretary B.J. Penn, the current manager of installations for the Department of the Navy, regarding housing at the Naval Weapons Station Earle.

April 16, 2009

The Honorable BJ Penn Acting Secretary of the Navy 1000 Navy Pentagon Washington, D.C.
20350-1000

Dear Secretary Penn:

It has recently been brought to our attention that the Navy has issued the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with regard to opening up to the public the Section 801 housing located on Naval Weapons Station Earle. It is our understanding that the analysis supporting the EIS did not include a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of the "no action" option, and did not calculate the additional costs to the taxpayers, the local communities, and to the Navy of opening up the housing to the public versus a buy out of the existing lease by the Navy. Indeed, we note that the draft EIS dismissed without any substantive explanation either a "buy out" option (in which the Navy would purchase the housing) or the use of the National Emergency Termination clause of the lease as being able to satisfy the contractual obligations under the lease agreement.

It is essential that the best possible final decision on the EIS be made which requires that complete information, including costs and benefits, be available to and considered by the Navy prior to the Record of Decision being made. We therefore request that the Navy, prior to making a final decision, calculate and consider the total cost to the taxpayers, the local communities, and to the Navy that would result from the Laurelwood Housing being made available to the public for the next 30 years, including the other options we have cited in this letter. We request that you provide us with a copy of the calculation as soon as it is completed.

Holt Writes to Navy on Housing at Earle

Saturday, 18 April 2009 00:00

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT

Member of Congress

NORMAN DICKS

Member of Congress