

Congressional Request Letter

Final Report
Reference

BYRON L. DORGAN
NORTH DAKOTA
327 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3366
202-224-2881
202-224-6379 TDD

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

January 24, 2006

STATE OFFICES:
312 FEDERAL BUILDING
THIRD AND ROSSER AVENUE
P.O. BOX 2579
GRAND FORK, ND 58502
701-785-4418
1-800-886-4482 TOLL FREE
1602 32ND AVENUE S, SUITE B
P.O. BOX 8090
FARGO, ND 58106
701-228-3207

108 NORTH 4TH STREET, ROOM 108
GRAND FORK, ND 58501
701-745-8872

100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 105
MINOT, ND 58701
701-862-0702

Thomas F. Gimble
Acting Inspector General
Department of Defense
Arlington, VA 22202-4704

Dear Mr. Gimble:

I request that you promptly investigate the alleged failure of KBR, a subsidiary of Halliburton, to provide safe non-potable water to U.S. troops in Iraq. I understand that KBR is contractually obligated to provide such water under Task Orders 59 and 89 of its current LOGCAP contract.

As you know, yesterday I chaired a hearing of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee to examine this issue. Ben Carter, a former KBR water specialist, testified that Halliburton provided unsafe non-potable water to the troops at Camp Ar Ramadi -- water that our troops used to shower, wash their hands and faces, brush their teeth, wash their clothes, and sometimes make coffee.

During his testimony, Mr. Carter referred to an e-mail from William Granger, the current KBR employee in charge of water quality for the Iraq and Kuwait theater, in which Mr. Granger concluded that the non-potable water provided to the troops at Camp Ar Ramadi in the period from approximately May 2004 to May 2005 was twice as contaminated as regular untreated water from the Euphrates River. Mr. Granger later explained to Mr. Carter that the camp's non-potable water was in fact the concentrated waste water from the reverse osmosis water purification unit.

Mr. Carter also testified that Mr. Granger wrote a 21-page report as part of an internal KBR investigation of the water contamination problem. According to Mr. Carter, the Granger report confirmed the existence of the problem and found that the lack of testing and improper water treatment were not confined to Camp Ar Ramadi, but existed at military facilities throughout Iraq.

Based on the DPC hearing testimony, I request that you conduct an investigation into this matter, to determine the following:

- (1) Did KBR perform all required water quality tests on non-potable water provided to our troops at Camp Ar Ramadi and other military facilities throughout Iraq?
- (2) Has KBR properly treated non-potable water provided to our troops at Camp Ar Ramadi and other military facilities throughout Iraq?

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