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MCAS CHERRY POINT
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LETTER REGARDING THE TRANSMITTAL OF NEGATIVE DETERMINATION FOR
PROPOSED EXTENDED SITE INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES AT FORMER CAT ISLAND
BOMB TARGET MCAS CHERRY POINT NC
05/07/2010
U S MARINE CORPS



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
POSTAL SERVICE CENTER BOX 8003
CHERRY POINT, NORTH CAROLINA 28533-0003

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5090/13821
LN
May 7, 2010

Mr. Stephen Rynas
Federal Consistency Coordinator
North Carolina Division of
Coastal Management
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, NC 28557-3421

Dear Mr. Rynas:

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point is submitting this Negative Determination for the proposed expanded site investigation activities at the Former Cat Island Bomb Target BT-2 site located on Wood Island and associated with MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, in compliance with 15 CFR 930.35.

In March 2009, a site investigation was conducted at BT-2, which included the collection of surface water, surface soil, and sediment samples from Wood Island and the surrounding area. A Negative Determination was submitted to and approved by the Division of Coastal Management for the March 2009 investigation effort. Expanded site investigation activities will include destruction of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) on Wood Island and removal of material potentially presenting an explosive hazard (MPPEH) and other metallic debris not associated with former military training activities. MEC and MPPEH that is not safe to remove from the island will be detonated on Wood Island using donor explosives. MPPEH that is safe to remove from the island and other debris will be transported off Wood Island for processing at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field (MCALF) Bogue Field. Environmental sampling of surface soil and surface water following detonation activities also will be performed.

A site location map showing MCAS Cherry Point, BT-2, and MCALF Bogue Field is provided at the enclosure. By its nature, MEC is potentially dangerous and must be detonated where it is found on the island. MEC will be consolidated for detonation, when possible, to reduce the number of detonation events on Wood Island. Based on observations to date, it is anticipated that the majority of the metallic debris found on the island will be safe to transport to MCALF Bogue Field. MCALF Bogue Field will be the primary location for the following field activities: commercial explosives storage, storage of material removed from Wood Island, and demilitarization of MPPEH.

In March 2009, a CH2M HILL ecologist conducted a site visit on Wood Island to evaluate the presence of threatened and endangered species. During that site visit, no threatened or endangered species were observed on or around Wood Island. However, according to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for MCAS Cherry Point (United States Marine Corps, 2001), Wood Island supports one state listed rare

plant (moundlilly yucca) and five state listed species of concern (the little blue heron, the snowy egret, the tri-colored heron, the Carolina water snake, and the diamondback terrapin [also a federal species of concern]). Additionally, Wood Island is designated as a Colonial Waterbird Nest Area, and access is prohibited between April 1 and August 31. Expanded site investigation activities will be conducted outside of the Colonial Waterbird nesting season and in a manner that will minimize impacts to the site habitat by minimizing the number of detonation events conducted and through the use of engineering controls during detonation events. Additionally, a spotter will confirm that no marine, avian, or terrestrial organisms are in proximity to the work area prior to conducting detonation events.

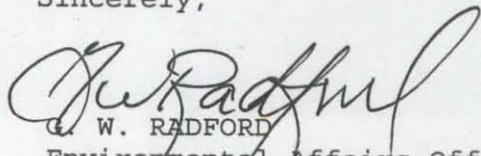
Following a detonation event on Wood Island, surface soil samples will be collected from the detonation location and surface water samples will be collected in the immediate vicinity of the detonation location to confirm that detonation activities have not impacted the site with munitions constituents. Composite surface soil samples will be collected from 0 to 1 foot below ground surface using hand trowels. Surface water samples will be collected using a portable peristaltic pump.

The proposed environmental investigation is planned to begin during the fourth quarter of 2010 or the first quarter of 2011, during the period of reduced recreational activity and outside of the Colonial Waterbird nesting season. The investigation is expected to be completed within a period of approximately 90 days from the start of field activities, and will not include development or construction activities of any sort.

The United States Marine Corps has determined that the proposed expanded site investigation activities at the Former Cat Island Bomb Target BT-2 do not fit the definition of "development" under the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) and will have no reasonably foreseeable permanent effects on any coastal use or resource as defined in 15 CFR 930.11.

We appreciate your prompt review of this Negative Determination for the Former Cat Island Bomb Target BT-2. If you have questions related to the action, please contact Mr. John Myers of this office at (252) 466-4903. Our primary point of contact for CAMA related matters is Jessica Guilianelli at (252) 466-4826.

Sincerely,


G. W. RADFORD
Environmental Affairs Officer
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Figure 1 - Munitions Response Site Regional Location Map, Former Cat Island Bomb Target BT-2, MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina

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Legend
■ Surface Danger Zone (3-mile radius)
■ Installation Boundary

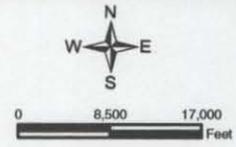


Figure 1
Munitions Response Site Regional Location Map
Former Cat Island Bomb Target BT-2
MCAS Cherry Point
North Carolina