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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

DATE: JUN 13 1990
SUBJECT: Corrective Action Site Inspection
FROM: Carol Witt-Smith
Corrective Action Expert, RPB
TO: Naval Weapons Support Center (NWSC) File

C. Witt-Smith

On June 6, 1990, I performed a visual site inspection of the open burn pit (SWMU 05/03), with Jim Hunsicker from NWSC and Richard Moscatti from the EPA - Region V. We arrived at approximately 2:30 p.m., discussed issues about the site, and went out to the site. Weather conditions were thunderstorms at the time of the inspection. We walked down into the valley and encountered a baby deer in the weeded area.

The entire valley is overgrown with weeds and tall trees. The ridge face is more barren and has drums sticking out of the soil. The drums appeared to be rusted and corroding. Some drums on the valley ground had rain water flowing through them. Sludgy materials were evident inside a few drums but, this could be wastes or soil that has entered through the open holes. Rusty colored water flowed from the drum area into the small creek, formed by a seepage spring approximately 100 feet to the east. Water was flowing very fast due to the rain. The depth of the creek is 1-2 feet and varies from 1/2 to 3 feet wide, leading to a culvert at the western edge of the valley. Some metal containers, of unknown type, were sticking out of the valley floor and on the ridge face.

NWSC took a sample of the rusty water as it entered the creek. They sampled for some standard organics, explosives, metals, pH and conductivity. A brief review of the data seemed to show that no contamination is entering the creek. NWSC will submit the formal results with the updated request by EPA for the interim measures debris cleanup compliance.

It is recommended that NWSC get a trained crew in to sample the materials within the drums on the valley floor and possibly from some on the ridge wall that are easily accessible without safety hazards. The creek should be monitored while waste characterization is being done. NWSC should continue to have the area "roped" off, as they have already done, restricting human access into the area. NWSC should investigate the possibility of a geophysical survey to define the limits of buried drums in the area.

Results of the waste analysis will determine further work. We recommend leaving the drums in place, and keeping the area restricted. Once drums would be moved further, we would not know how much wastes are involved and the impacts of land ban. We should look at removal only if waste analysis shows it to be appropriate. Otherwise, containment and capping would be appropriate, with a rerouting of the spring water around, instead of through, the area.

We left the NWSC at 4:00 p.m. These recommendations were discussed with Jim Hunsicker.

cc: Jim Hunsicker, NWSC
Thomas Linson, IDEM