



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

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NSWC CRANE
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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

March 24, 1999

DW-8J

Mr. David Reisman, Director
Engineering Tech Support Center (M5-489)
NRMRL
26 West M.L.King Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

RE: ORD Technical Assistance
Bioremediation Facility
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Crane, Indiana

Dear Mr. Reisman:

The purpose of this letter is to request technical review assistance, and possibly oversight assistance, for the Bioremediation Facility at the Naval Surface Warfare Center facility located in Crane, Indiana. Although this is a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) site, it is also funded under Superfund base realignment and investigation requirements of the Navy. The site is non-NPL. The Waste Management Branch (WMB) in Region 5 approved the Work Plan and Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) for allowing the innovative treatment technology of composting to be used as an interim measure for explosive contaminated soils at four Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) on-site. We modeled our plans after Region 10s approved plans under Superfund. The compost mix includes straw and chicken manure amendments.

We are seeking technical assistance in the review of compliance reports and modification requests for the project. Following is a list of reports we need reviewed and deficiencies or approval recommendations made to our office at the address below. If minor changes need to be made in plans or reports, we have been suggesting language changes to expedite the approvals. The reports are listed in priority order for review:

1. 30% Soil Batch Report
(This report is data to justify that the soil may be increased from 25% to a 30% ratio in the approved mix and still meet the remedial goals. If this is approved, the time frame and cost for the project will be decreased. The test was performed on a pilot scale size pile.)

2. **Request to delete 90-99% Efficiency Day 1 Testing**
(The current work plan requires Day 1 and Day last testing to prove the Superfund requirement of 90-99% efficiency for treatment plus meeting the industrial and residential goals. The Navy is requesting to delete Day 0 tests and use pre-excavation samples to characterize the beginning soil level, and increase record keeping to track the areas where soil is removed. This would cut sampling time and cost of Day 0 samples, but increase tracking record keeping.)
3. **First Batch Soil Report**
(This report is to show that the first compost pile met the required treatment goals and the full-scale treatment is successful and should continue. We have continued the treatment based on phone call and summary data that the tests have been meeting the goals. The report still needs to be officially reviewed and approved.)
4. **Pilot Scale Report**
(This report documents the pilot scale test. We approved the full-scale plans based on meeting with the Navy and discussing results.)

Anything you can give us for opinions within the next month would be great. The third and fourth items need to get done for the records within 2 months. The first and second reports, if approved, would allow cost savings to the project and are high priority. We are trying to get them reviewed over the next several weeks.

I will also be sending electronically the approved work plan and QAP text. We will have the full document copied for your file for referencing. The above documents should stand alone, but if you need any data, do not hesitate to call us.

We would also like to suggest that the reviewers at some point be able to see the facility at NSWC. A tour can be arranged with Ms. Christine Freeman, NSWC, at (812) 854-4423. Any improvements your staff could recommend would be greatly appreciated. I know that Ravenna in Ohio and Joliet in Illinois have recently put some interest also in composting and keeping consistency in all the regional projects would help. Your office may be interested in helping maintain this.

If you have any chemical questions please call Mr. Allen Debus, our QAP Coordinator at (312) 886-6186. If you have any other questions, please contact me at (312) 886-6146. Thank you for your assistance in improving and expediting this project.

Sincerely,



Carol Witt-Smith
Corrective Action Expert
WMB, IL/IN/MI Section

cc: Allen Debus, WMB
Hak Cho, WMB
Chris Freeman, NSWC
Harry Craig, Region 10