



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

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June 1, 1999

DW-8J

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Mr. Thomas Brent
Environmental Protection Department
Code 095
Naval Surface Warfare Center
300 Highway 361
Crane, Indiana 47522

RE: RFI Phase II Surface Water Release
Assessment Report Approval
SWMU 03/10 ABG
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Crane, Indiana

Dear Mr. Brent:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) hereby approves the final report: RCRA Facility Investigation, Phase II Surface Water Release Assessment, for SWMU 03/10 Ammunition Burning Grounds, dated February 1998. Results of the investigation indicated that a release from the Ammunition Burning Grounds (ABG) occurred. Recommendations from the report to establish a quality background location and sampling in high flow scenarios must be considered in any work plans.

The U.S. Navy has completed the Risk Assessment for the site, which included some surface water sampling. The risk assessment determined that there would be no ecological impact as long as the surface water body was not disturbed. Yet, this assessment did not consider the potential affects of future disturbances from operations or composting remediation, or climatic changes from rainfall events (i.e., flooding). It is recommended that a Phase III Release Characterization and an evaluation of ways to prevent or minimize disturbances should be investigated. The quality of the surface water in this area is critical to off-site impacts of endangered and threatened muscle species downstream. Therefore further RFI and/or Corrective Measure Studies are necessary.

These investigations should be linked with permit compliance for the open burning operation and corrective action. Scheduling should be agreed upon through both the permit and partnering core team prioritization. It is recommended that this facility be kept as a high priority in scheduling and funding. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (312) 886-6146 for assistance.

Sincerely,



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

Filename: appabgsreport.usn

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