



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

June 8, 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 Part 2 Phase III Soil 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 (RFI) Part 2 Phase III Soil Report for SWMU 03/10 Ammunition Burning Ground, dated September 1998. The report indicated that a release of metals, inorganics and explosives in the soil has been delineated. Contaminated soil is a source to ground water problems. Contamination in the soil is in greater concentration in the first 30 inches, and levels reduce below that point.

The U.S. Navy is currently scheduled and funded for a background soil study for the entire facility. Data from this project should be used to re-establish a true natural background for this site, and further remedial work. The U.S. Navy performed a risk assessment for this area and showed that the soils are a current source of contamination in the area. The U.S. Navy must continue to plan on the composting remedy for soils at this location to delete or reduce the soil contamination. A minimum of 30 inches should be removed from contaminated areas, not 24 inches as is proposed at the other locations currently being composted. After completion of composting the U.S. Navy should continue with a soil monitoring program under the Subpart X permit to make sure that the soil remains at a clean level and does not impact the ground water again. Improvements in operational containment would also help to reduce this problem.

The U.S. Navy is hereby requested to implement a corrective measure study for soil to determine if composting should be the final remedy or if other measures need to be imposed.

Scheduling and funding for this site should remain a high priority, since ground water impacts at this unit are a priority for the U.S. EPA meeting its environmental indicators. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (312) 886-6146.

Sincerely,



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

Filename: appabg3soilreport.usn

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