



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

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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

February 5, 2003

DW-8J

Ms. Christine Freeman
Naval Surface Warfare Center
EPD, Code 095 B-3260
300 Highway 361
Crane, IN 47522-5001

Re: Mine Fill A Battery Site Interim
Measures Report Approval

Dear Ms. Freeman:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the responses to comments on the Draft Interim Measures Report for Removal and Disposal of Contaminated Soil from the Mine Fill A Battery Site Revision 1 dated December 2002. The Navy has satisfactorily addressed the comments and the report is approved.

The Navy's response noted that in making the data comparisons to the Basewide Background Soil Investigation Report, the field samples were not checked by a geologist to provide additional confirmation of soil type. The Basewide Background Report contains procedures for selecting the appropriate background soil group data set for performing meaningful data comparisons. The Navy is advised to adhere to these procedures to ensure the proper soil group is determined for background level comparisons.

The Navy has scheduled an RFI investigation of the Mine Fill A (MFA) area including the MFA Battery Site. The risk assessment done during this RFI should be revised to provide a qualitative discussion in the risk characterization section of arsenic levels at MFA Battery. U.S. EPA's recently published directive, *Role of Background in the CERCLA Cleanup Program*; OSWER 9285.6-07P; April 26, 2002, recommends that naturally-occurring analytes present at concentrations that exceed risk-based criteria should be carried forward into the quantitative estimates of risk and hazard.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (312) 886-7890.

Sincerely



Peter Ramanauskas
Environmental Engineer
Waste Management Branch
Corrective Action Section

cc: Bill Gates, SOUTHDIV
Doug Griffin, IDEM

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