



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278-0012

SEP 20 1994

Mr. John Kolicius, Project Manager
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway
Code 1821, Mail Stop 82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Re: Status of Remedial/Removal Activities at Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle, Colts Neck,
New Jersey

Dear John:

As the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) project manager for NWS Earle, I appreciate having had the opportunity to meet and talk with you and members of the NWS Earle environmental staff at the August 3, 1994, technical review committee (TRC) meeting. From the tone of the meeting, it was apparent that everyone is looking forward to beginning environmental restoration at the facility as soon as possible. If anything, I wish to be a catalyst in that effort. To that end, I am writing to confirm the status of several activities as well as to give you my thoughts on the direction of future projects.

EPA is currently reviewing the draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the non-time critical removal action at Site 20. I expect to give you our formal position on the action within two weeks. I have already forwarded to you some suggested editorial changes. We are currently reviewing the Navy's *Addendum to the Preliminary Assessment (Initial Assessment Study) of Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, New Jersey* (August, 1992). An EPA determination whether any further study/action is necessary at 14 of the 17 sites listed in the report should be forwarded to you prior to the next TRC meeting. I have prioritized the review of Site A and will have comments to you shortly. It is understood that Sites F, L, and Q are to be included in the upcoming remedial investigation. At the August, 1994 TRC meeting, you stated that the Navy planned to submit to EPA a revised *Remedial Investigation Workplan* in October, 1994, that would take into consideration EPA's previous comments as well as concerns expressed during the onsite biological technical assistance group (BTAG) field visit on July 18, 1994. Based on our recent discussions, the Navy's submittal date of this document may be delayed until November or December. Please keep me informed on the development of this workplan. It is very important that we (along with Bob Marcolina of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) coordinate closely in this effort. By communicating and resolve outstanding issues during the development of the revised document, we can ensure that the revised workplan is something we can finalize and go into the field with quickly.

Other outstanding issues include the 11 sites which were subject to a remedial investigation report dated September, 1993. Although EPA has provided the Navy comments on this report, the status of this project is unclear. We should finalize this report and determine the scope of any additional work necessary at these sites as soon as possible.

To better coordinate these efforts and to raise the priority of environmental concerns at Earle within the Navy, I suggest we develop a formal, enforceable schedule of remediation activities pursuant to the Federal Facility Agreement signed by the Navy and EPA for the NWS Earle site in February, 1991. A letter from EPA on this issue is forthcoming.

I look forward to working with you in addressing environmental concerns at NWS Earle. If you have any questions, please call me at (212) 264-6667.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Gratz, Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section

cc: B. Marcolina, NJDEP
G. Hermanni, NWS Earle
LCDR S. Smith, NWS Earle