



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

AUG 28 1996

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Mr. John Kolicius
Remedial Project Manager
Department of the Navy - Northern Division
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop #82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Re: Review of the Navy's Draft Final *Remedial Investigation Report* (July, 1996) for NWS Earle, Colts Neck, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Kolicius:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in accordance with our Federal Facility Agreement with the Navy, has reviewed the Navy's Draft Final *Remedial Investigation Report* (July, 1996) for NWS Earle. The document has been significantly improved and most of our comments have been incorporated. We approve of the report on the condition that the following modifications are included in its final form:

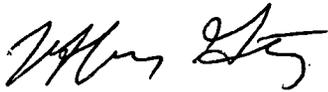
- Elevated measurements of metals in groundwater and soil should not be automatically attributed to background. Although there has been some expanded discussion of site specific conditions which question an anthropogenic source, a more detailed discussion of background soils and groundwater is necessary (in Chapters 3 and 31);
- "Field truthing" was performed at several sites to determine the extent of wetlands. The figures should be revised to reflect the findings (Sites 7, 20, 23, 26, and L);
- As originally requested, small-scale maps should be produced for sites that are in close proximity, i.e., Sites 6, 12, 15, and 17. The maps should include all available sample locations (hydropunch, background, watershed, etc...). Discussions of the data in the watershed section should be expanded accordingly; and
- A statistical analysis of background data is developed (in Chapter 31) but never discussed either in the background data chapter or individual site chapters.

ENCLOSURE

Our most significant concern remains the lack of integrating site information with background data so that remedial action decisions (whether to take action or not) can be justified at some areas of concern. NWS Earle will have an opportunity to present this information more coherently in the upcoming feasibility studies and proposed plans.

If you have any questions, please call me at (212) 637-4320.

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey Gratz, Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section

cc: B. Marcolina, NJDEP
G. Goepfert, NWS Earle
L. Jargowsky, RAB-Chair