



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAR 27 1997

Captain John C. Shick, Commanding Officer  
Naval Weapons Station Earle  
Code 043  
201 Highway, 34 South  
Colts Neck, NJ 07722-5014

Re: Removal Action Approval and Status of Environmental Programs at NWS Earle,  
Colts Neck, New Jersey

Dear Capt. Shick:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Navy's *Environmental Completion Reports* for removal actions at Sites 24 and 25 (pistol ranges) and Sites 22, 23, and 27 (paint disposal areas) at NWS Earle. We have also inspected the subject areas. EPA finds the removal actions satisfactory and complete. Through mechanical separation and soil washing, the Navy was able to remove and recover over 10 tons of metal casings from soil at Sites 24 and 25. The cleaned soil was deposited back on site and the metal will be recycled. At Sites 22, 23, and 27 the Navy removed approximately 360 cubic yards of paint-contaminated soil. The efforts made by your Public Works and Environmental staff, particularly at Sites 24 and 25 where an innovative technology was utilized, is to be commended. Excellent coordination with your contractor (Metcalf & Eddy) and Navy-Northern Division and good communication with EPA and NJDEP helped ensure a quick, efficient and professional operation.

In the last two years, the Navy has shown remarkable progress in investigating and remediating contaminated sites at NWS Earle. Besides the removal actions described above, the Navy is planning to cap several landfills, remediate and monitor contaminated groundwater, and conduct other removal actions. We appreciate the Navy's efforts through these actions to address environmental concerns at NWS Earle and hope the momentum continues.

If you have any questions, please call me at (212) 637-4327.

Sincerely yours,

402 Robert Vaughn, Chief  
Special Projects Branch

cc: G. Goepfert, Navy - NWS Earle  
J. Kolicius, Navy North-Div. ✓  
B. Marcolina, NJDEP  
L. Jargowsky, RAB