



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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N60478.AR.000399
NWS EARLE
5090.3a

APR 1 1997

Mr. John Kolicius
Remedial Project Manager
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Northern Division
10 Industrial Highway, Mailstop #82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Re: Review of the Navy's draft final *Feasibility Study for Sites 4, 5, 19, and 26* (January, 1997), NWS Earle, Colts Neck, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Kolicius:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Navy's draft final *Feasibility Study for Sites 4, 5, 19, and 26* (January, 1997) at NWS Earle which was submitted for review on February 10, 1997. We approve the report on the condition that the Navy address the following concerns:

(1) Several times we have requested a more rigorous discussion of background metals data and their relation to site-specific conditions. The only change in this draft of the FS (see section 2.3.5) is that the Navy made reference to a table in the RI report. This is not acceptable.

(2) We requested that the Navy make clear that the phase II RI data were not useful for conducting a Risk Assessment at several sites, particularly at Site 19. For Site 19, very little contamination was found in the latest sampling round mainly because our objective was to determine the outer extent of contamination. Thus, the Risk Assessment performed on these numbers does not reflect actual site risks. If previous data were used, the risks would be much higher and clearly support the need for remedial action. The text in the FS is still quite unclear (and seemingly contradictory) with respect to this issue (see Section 2.3.3 and page 2-64, last paragraph).

(3) We requested that the Navy include fence diagrams showing contamination at Site 26 in vertical cross-section. This information would be extremely helpful in visualizing the plume.

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Respectfully,
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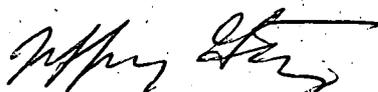
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Although we do not believe the above issues will change the overall conclusions of the report or affect the proposed plans, addressing them will clarify concerns and lead to a much more supportable decision document.

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

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey Gratz, Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section

cc: G. Goepfert, Navy - NWS Earle
B. Marcolina, NJDEP