



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NORTHERN DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
10 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY
MAIL STOP, #82
LESTER, PA 19113-2090

N60478.AR.000465
NWS EARLE
5090.3a

IN REPLY REFER TO

6280
Code 1821/JPK

Ms. Sharon Jaffess
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Facilities Section
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

APR 20 1998

Subj: EXCAVATION, BACKFILLING AND RESTORATION OF DRAINAGE DITCH
AT SITE 19 NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE

Dear Ms. Jaffess:

The initial excavation at Site 19 was completed February 17-19, 1998 in accordance with the Record of Decision. The settling pond area was excavated 2 feet below the original grade and the drainage ditch to 6 inches below the original grade. Confirmatory sample analyses indicated the need for additional excavation in one area of the settling pond and two areas of the drainage ditch.

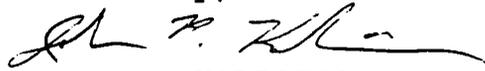
Samples taken after the second excavation showed levels of lead and zinc at the upstream end of the drainage ditch were still above the Effects Range-Medium (ER-M) sediment criteria levels. Two additional cycles of excavation and analysis have been completed. Lead levels are now below the ER-M standard, but zinc remains slightly elevated (440 mg/kg vs. the ER-M standard of 270 mg/kg).

The area of concern has now been excavated 4 feet below the original grade. The final grading plan for the site indicates a soil cover of approximately 4 feet above the original grade in this area in order to establish a nominal grade between the asphalt area and the drainage ditch. Upon completion, approximately 8 feet of clean fill will cover the zinc-impacted soil. Classification of this soil as sediment at this point is therefore inappropriate. Zinc levels are well below the direct-contact soil standard of 1500 mg/kg.

As agreed upon at our meeting of 7 April 1998, the Navy will now proceed to backfill, regrade and revegetate the area. Your

cooperation in this matter is appreciated. I will inform you if any other developments arise.

Sincerely,



JOHN P. KOLICIUS
Remedial Project Manager
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Copy to:

NJDEP - R. Marcolina
NWS EARLE - G. Geopfert (Code 043)
NWS EARLE, ROICC - T. Dunn
FOSTER & WHEELER - M. Heffron