



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

N60478.AR.000470
NWS EARLE
5090.3a

IN REPLY REFER TO

06 MAY 1998

Mr. William Roach - Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Facilities Section - 18th Floor
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Mr. Roach,

Subject: IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL INSTALLATION RESTORATION AREAS OF
CONCERN AT NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE

The Navy has identified three additional areas at Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle which require further characterization to determine whether they should be included in the Installation Restoration Program. They are areas adjacent to the former pesticide shop (Bldg. S-86) and the former precious metal recovery facility (Bldg. C-38), and a possible battery disposal area near West Pond.

The Initial Assessment Study of NWS Earle briefly discussed pest control operations and noted that some pesticides and rinse waters may have been disposed via sewer drains. It didn't mention that the sewer drain at Bldg. S-86 discharged directly into the ground through a subsurface distribution box. A recent sample taken from the distribution box found significantly elevated levels of chlordane. Surface soils adjacent to a concrete wash pad also showed residual pesticides. The Navy will perform additional sampling to determine the extent of impact. A removal action may be appropriate.

The Initial Assessment Study also discussed precious metal recovery operations. It stated that a potassium hydroxide electrolyte solution had been deposited on the site. It concluded that no action was necessary because the low pH of the soils and rainfall would have neutralized this solution. The Navy is going to take some soil samples to determine if any residual metals are present.

The final area of concern is a possible disposal area west of Route 34 near West Pond. A hunter recently found items on the ground which were tentatively identified as battery packs from an obsolete type of mine. NWS Earle's specially trained Explosive Ordnance Disposal team examined the objects and determined they were inert. A soil sample taken in the area showed elevated levels of several metals, particularly lead, copper, zinc and cadmium. Watershed surface water and sediment samples obtained nearby during the Remedial Investigation (WSSW-16 & WSSD-16) showed no significant impact. The Navy plans to analyze historic aerial photos to determine how large an area may be affected. A Preliminary Assessment (PA) will probably be needed for this site. Since the area was only recently identified, funding for a PA is not likely until next fiscal year (FY99).

I will inform you of any developments regarding these areas. The Navy feels it is premature to formally identify the areas as sites under the Installation Restoration Program, but realizes further characterization is needed so a determination can be made. If you would like to discuss this approach or any of our plans, please call me at (610) 595-0567, extension 157. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



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

Copy to:

Mr. Robert Marcolina - New Jersey DEP
Mr. Greg Goepfert - NWS Earle, Code 043
Mr. Lester Jargowsky - Monmouth County Health Dept.