



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

N60478.AR.000499  
NWS EARLE  
5090.3a

IN REPLY REFER TO

Code 1821/JK

06 NOV 1998

Ms. Lisa Rosman - NOAA Coastal Resource Coordinator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Room 1831 - 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Rosman:

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM AT NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE

Your March 2, 1998 letter to Ms. Sharon Jaffess of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been forwarded to the Navy for review and response. The letter discusses four separate submittals and attempts to summarize these submittals as well as the site itself. Therefore, it is difficult to respond to the comments on a point-by-point basis. We strongly disagree, however, with your assertion that the Navy failed to seriously address ecological risks from site-related contaminants.

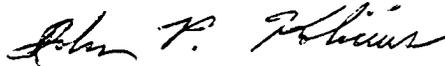
You commented that cumulative impacts from the various operable units have not been evaluated. The 1995 Remedial Investigation included extensive watershed sampling at the facility boundaries. No significant impact was found. A Geographical Information System has been developed to enable us to evaluate possible site relationships. Over the last two years, students from a local college have performed rapid bio-assessment studies of several streams on the station. The general condition of these streams has been very good.

Several of your comments question incomplete characterization of the sites. While some results of previous studies could have been better summarized in the current documents, they were considered. For example, analysis of aerial photographs determined the appropriate location for the test pits at Site 13. The field work confirmed the boundary of the fill material. All sampling strategies were developed in close consultation with the EPA Project Manager. In some cases, sampling plan changes were dictated by field conditions which were encountered. Previous comments were addressed prior to finalization of any documents.

The Navy is committed to timely implementation of appropriate remedial measures to protect human health and the environment. Part of the Presumptive Remedy strategy is to accelerate the movement from studies to remedial action by limiting the number of remedial options under consideration. Final characterization of some aspects of a site can be achieved during implementation of the remedial action if no change in the overall remedial decision is anticipated.

Based on your comments, I feel a meeting to discuss your concerns would be helpful. I would value an opportunity to share our perspective on several points and to show you some of the additional tools we are using in the decision-making process. I would propose to hold this meeting at Naval Weapons Station Earle. Any documents are available there and we could visit the sites under review. Please call me at (610) 595-0567, extension 157 to let me know if you would like to schedule such a meeting. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



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

Copy to:

Ms, Jessica Mollin - USEPA Region 2  
Mr. Robert Marcolina - New Jersey DEP  
Mr. Greg Goepfert - NWS Earle, Code 043  
Mr. Russ Turner - Tetra Tech NUS