

MAY - 6 2003

Captain B.L. Scholley
Commanding Officer
Naval Weapons Station Earle
Code 043
201 Highway 34 South
Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722-5014

Re: CERCLA Five Year Review
Naval Weapons Station Earle

Dear Captain Scholley:

I am writing in regard to the Navy's February 2003 Five Year Review Report for Naval Weapons Station Earle. My office has reviewed the subject report on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and I am pleased to advise you that EPA concurs with the protectiveness determinations made in the report. Our review was conducted in accordance with EPA's "Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance" (OSWER Directive No. 9355.7-03B-P). Pursuant to 40 CFR 300.430(f)(4)(ii) reviews, no less often than every five years, are required of any remedial actions that have been selected in Records of Decisions that do not allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.

Beyond the remedial actions evaluated in this review, the U.S. Navy is also proceeding with additional studies, designs and remedial actions (including institutional controls) that may be necessary to protect public health and the environment at other areas at Earle. Remedies at these remaining areas are yet to be selected. Until such time as all such remedy decisions have been made, a comprehensive basewide protectiveness determination must be reserved.

Notwithstanding the above, EPA concurs that the remedies selected and implemented to date, as reported on in this Five Year Review, are protective.

While EPA concurs with the protectiveness determination made by the Navy, our respective staffs have discussed several matters in regard to the report that I understand will be clarified and documented separately. As these matters do not alter this protectiveness determination, EPA accepts the February 2003 Report as submitted.

If you have any questions, please call me at 212-637-4391 or have your staff contact Jessica Mollin, EPA Project Manager at 212-637-3921.

Sincerely,

George Pavlou, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

cc: ✓ M. DeGeambardino, Navy-Northern Div.
L. Burg, Navy-Earle
R. Marcolina, NJDEP

