



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007-1866

OCT 5 2004

Ms. Michelle DiGeambardino, Project Manager
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Re: Optimization Study Report for Site 26, Operable Unit 3 (OU-3), Explosive "D" Washout Area Near Building GB-1, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, New Jersey

Dear Ms. DiGeambardino,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with our Federal Facility Agreement with the Navy, has reviewed the above referenced report prepared by Battelle. The EPA agrees with the recommendations of this report with the following stipulations: 1) the Navy can demonstrate conclusively that the conditions are right for monitored natural attenuation (MNA) and that MNA is working and 2) the AS/SVE system will be operable within a short amount of time (1-2 weeks) if it is determined via monitoring that there is evidence of rebound.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (212) 637-3921.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Mollin".

Jessica Mollin, Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section

cc: A. Hartmann, Naval Weapons Station Earle
B. Marcolina, NJDEP