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U S NAVY RESPONSES TO U S EPA REGION II COMMENTS TO DRAFT FEASIBILITY  
STUDY SITES 4, 5, 19 AND 26 NWS EARLE NJ  
4/1/1997  
NWS EARLE

**RESPONSE TO  
EPA Region II Comments on the Draft Final Feasibility Study For Sites 4,5,19, and 26  
NWS Earle Colts Neck, New Jersey**

**Comments:**

1. Several times we have requested a more rigorous discussion of background metals data and their relation to site-specific conditions. The only change in this draft of the FS (see Section 2.3.5) is that the Navy made reference to a table in the RI report. This is not acceptable.

**Response:** Concur. Section 1 has been revised to present background metals sampling results and data evaluation. A complete discussion has been added of the development of background metals statistics and how they were used to evaluate site-specific findings.

2. We requested that the Navy make clear that the Phase II RI data were not useful for conducting a risk assessment at several sites, particularly at Site 19. For Site 19, very little contamination was found in the latest sampling round mainly because our objective was to determine the outer extent of contamination. Thus, the risk assessment performed on these numbers does not reflect actual site risks. If previous data were used, the risks would be much higher and clearly support the need for remedial action. The text in the FS is still quite unclear (and seemingly contradictory) with respect to this issue (see Section 2.3.3 and page 2-64, last paragraph).

**Response:** Concur. Section 1.3.3.2 has been revised to introduce the issue, and revisions have been made to Section 2.3.3 and Section 2.8.1 to correct the apparent contradiction.

3. We requested that the Navy include fence diagrams showing contamination at Site 26 in vertical cross-section. This information would be extremely helpful in visualizing the plume.

**Response:** Concur. Eight new figures have been added to Section 1.3.5.5.2 to help the reader visualize the plume. Four new vertical cross-section figures (fence diagrams) show the concentrations of DCE and TCE by depth, and four new plan view color maps depict the plume concentration of DCE and TCE at various depths.