



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

5HS-11

DEC 20 1988

Mr. Richard Gillespie
Head, Environmental Restoration Branch
Engineering Division of the Northern
Division of the Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
United States Naval Base
Building 77L
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19112

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

This letter is in regard to the listing of the U.S. Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant (NIROP) located in Fridley, Minnesota, on the National Priorities List (NPL).

In 1983, FMC was listed on the NPL. At that time it was considered that NIROP was part of the FMC site. Therefore, in 1986 when Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) nominated NIROP, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Headquarters did not list NIROP on the NPL, because they determined that it was already on the NPL. Consequently, U.S. EPA Region V requested that headquarters explain their rationale in combining these sites.

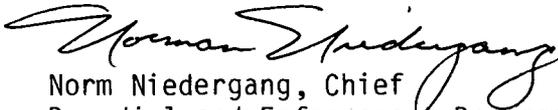
We have had several discussions with headquarters staff. In conclusion, the FMC package is vague and unclear whether NIROP is part of FMC. Therefore, we have agreed that NIROP is not part of the FMC site. However, NIROP in 1986 scored high enough to be included on the NPL. If NIROP had not been considered part of the FMC site, it would have been finalized as a separate site on the NPL in 1986. Under these circumstances, we have decided that NIROP should be considered as a separate site in the next federal facilities update.

We are aware of the progress made at NIROP which includes a final Remedial Investigation Report and Feasibility Study. It is not our intention to delay any progress made between the Navy and the MPCA. However, according to Section 120 of the Superfund Law, we are required to enter an agreement between U.S. EPA and the Navy. We have discussed the issue with MPCA, and have decided that a three party agreement is appropriate and necessary.

We will begin to coordinate efforts between MPCA and U.S. EPA to determine the approach of our incorporation into your project. We will work closely with you to keep you informed and maintain progress at NIROP.

I have assigned Grace Pinzon as the project manager for the NIROP site. If you have any concerns with our final resolution, we are available to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Norm Niedergang, Chief
Remedial and Enforcement Response Branch

cc: Mark Lahtine, MPCA