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NSTC GREAT LAKES, IL
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LETTER REGARDING INTERPRETATION OF RULES REGULATING GENERAL STORAGE
AND DIKE WALLS FORT SHERIDAN IL
2/13/1996
OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Office of the Illinois
State Fire Marshal

FIRE PREVENTION
(312) 814-2693

February 13, 1996

Charles Herckis
Department of the Navy
Navy Public Works Center
2703 Sheridan Road Suite #120
Building 1A
Great Lakes, IL 60088-5600

RE: **LETTER OF INQUIRY**
DIKE WALLS

Dear Mr. Herckis,

This Office has received your letter dated February 2, 1996 requesting an interpretation of Title 41 Illinois Administrative Code Part 160 "Storage, Transportation, Sale and Use of Gasoline and Volatile Oils: Rule and Regulations Relating to General Storage" Section 160.240. You correctly note that this section of the Part 160 rules state:

*Embankments or dikes shall be continuous with no openings
for piping or roadway*

The intent of this section of the rules is obvious - to prohibit the passage of piping or other appurtenances through the containment walls of dikes intended to contain the contents of above ground storage tanks. Pass-through openings created by items such as piping directed through dike walls would allow spilled/contained product to escape the dike.

It is recognized however, that the promulgation of the Part 160 diking rules occurred decades ago. This Office recognizes that products are today available that will adequately serve to seal the opening around pipe pass-throughs at dike walls. **Therefore, this Office will allow piping to pass through dike walls if equipped with gaskets and/or sealants that will adequately seal the pass-through openings, including resistance to the product/s being contained in tanks within the diked area.**

If you have further questions concerning this matter please feel free to contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Wood

Kenneth Wood, P.E.
Fire Protection Engineer
Division of Fire Prevention

xc: Plan Review File