



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-831-5508

8 March 1999

Mr. James Shafer, Remedial Project Manager
US Department of the Navy, Northern Division
Code 1823, Mail Stop #82
10 Industrial Highway
Lester, PA 19113-2090

RE: Mercury Levels in Pore Water & Fish Tissue at:
Old Fire Fighter Training Area
Naval Station Newport

Dear Mr. Shafer;

Recently, information was provided to RIDEM concerning mercury levels in pore water associated with the Old Fire Fighter Training Area at Naval Station Newport. Basically, in assessing the mercury value, 10 ml instead of 100 ml of sample was used and therefore, the 99% confidence limits could not be used. A similar situation occurred in the evaluation of fish tissue. In both cases there were elevated levels of mercury. Based on discussions with RIDEM staff these data may still be useable (though with a lower level of confidence) and seem to indicate that there is a potential concern with mercury in this area. RIDEM would like to request that this issue be put on the agenda for the 18 March 1998 Environmental Advisory Board meeting.

If you have any questions or require additional information please call me at (401) 222-2797 ext.7138.

Sincerely,

Richard Gottlieb, P.E.
Principal Engineer

cc: W. Angell, OWM DEM
P. Kulpa, DEM OWM
R. Richardson, DEM OWR
C. Deacutis, DEM OWR
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LETTERS RWG/RICHG