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NAVSTA NEWPORT RI
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NORTHERN DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
10 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY
MAIL STOP, #82
LESTER, PA 19113-2090

IN REPLY REFER TO

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09TC/JS
10 JAN 2001

Mr. Richard Gottlieb, P.E.
Principal Engineer
Office of Waste Management
Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Mr. Gottlieb:

SUBJECT: Response to RIDEM's Comments on the Revised Draft
Final RI Report, Old Fire Fighting Training Area,
Naval Station Newport, Newport, Rhode Island

The Navy has reviewed the comments provided by RIDEM in its letter dated December 5, 2000 on the Revised Draft Final Remedial Investigation Report for the Old Fire Fighting Training Area site dated October 2000. This letter states that RIDEM does not accept the findings and the conclusions presented in the revised draft final RI Report due to their objections to a number of its components, including the onshore human health risk assessment, the marine ecological risk assessment and the background study.

The Navy recognizes RIDEM's concerns as raised in the letter and will continue discussions with RIDEM and EPA toward resolving these issues in a manner agreeable to all parties. As part of the on going discussions, the Navy and RIDEM held a teleconference on December 21, 2000 and January 5, 2001 to discuss remedial goal development for offshore actions and determination of background soil arsenic concentrations. As agreed by all parties these discussions should continue with the aim of reaching agreement on critical issues before the final RI is issued.

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Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the above or need additional information. I can be reached at (610) 595-0567, x241.

Sincerely,



JAMES SHAFER
Remedial Project Manager
By Direction of the
Commanding Officer

Copy to:
RIDEM (P. Kulpa)
EPA (K. Keckler)
NAVSTA Newport (M. Griffin)
NOAA (K. Finklestein)
NAVSTA/RAB (M. Imbriglio)
NAVSTA/RAB (J. Stump)
NAVSTA/RAB (Gannet Fleming)
TAG (D. Egan)
SAIC (G. Tracey)
TTNUS (J. Forrelli)

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Sincerely,

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09J

JAMES SHAFER
Remedial Project Manager
By Direction of the
Commanding Officer

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PREPARED BY _____