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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.
National Ocean Service
Office of Ocean Resource Conservation and Assessment
Hazardous Materials Response and Assessment Division
c/o EPA Office of Site Remediation and Restoration (HIO)
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
12 March 1997

Ms. Kymberlee Keckler
U.S. EPA Waste Management Division
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Mr Mark Evans.
U.S. Department of the Navy
Northern Division - NAVFAC
10 Industrial Highway
Code 1811/PO - Mail Stop 82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Dear Kimberlee/Mark:

Thank-you for the Feasibility Study for the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (February 1997) and the Workplan for the Lower Subase Remedial Investigation (March 1997), Naval Submarine Base New London, CT. Previously, the New London Subase Ecological Risk Assessment (Phase II Remedial Investigation Report, April 1996) concluded that risk to sensitive benthic invertebrates appears to be confined to Stations EC-SDTR04 (midway between Pier 15 and Pier 17 in the lower Subase) and EC-T3SD4 (adjacent to the DRMO). Hence, NOAA is interested in a DRMO monitoring program that assesses potential DRMO impact to the Thames River. Presently, the Feasibility Study mentions surface water and ground water monitoring but does not include sediment collection and analysis. The sediment at the discharge area (i.e., the Thames River) is a better monitoring tool. In fact, a sediment toxicity testing program at the DRMO discharge area is preferred given the previous toxicity found.

In addition, NOAA supports the planned Lower Subase sampling as described in the workplan. As discussed above, sediment toxicity was found near Piers 15 and 17 (Zone 7) thereby inferring a potential problem. NOAA encourages further sediment toxicity testing in Zone 7 as well as Zone 5, near Pier 33.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Finkelstein, Ph.D.

cc: Patti Tyler (EPA)
Tim Prior (USF&WS)