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NSY PORTSMOUTH
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LETTER AND COMMENTS FROM NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION REGARDING SEEP SAMPLING FOR NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
5/17/1996
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



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 Waste Management Division (HEE-6)
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
17 May 1996

Ms. Patty Marajh Whittemore
Ms. Meghan Cassidy
U.S. EPA Office of Site Remed. and Rest.
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Lt. Jim Conroy
Department of the Navy
Northern Division
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop #82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Dear Patty, Meghan and Jim:

Thank-you for the Technical memorandum on Seep Sampling for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, prepared by Brown & Root Environmental, April 1996. As discussed in previous reviews, NOAA supports the monitoring of the seeps given the elevated mussel tissue residues adjacent to the seeps.

I have only two comments; these concern the number of stations and the station numbering. Previously, 8 seep samples were collected in the Spring of 1993 and another 5 in the fall of 1993. In this workplan, the Navy is committing to only 6 seep locations although they mention that "up to 14 additional seep locations may be identified during field activities." I am puzzled why all the seep locations previously sampled in 1993 are not included as definite sampling locations. Secondly, some of the seep location numbering is confusing. Spring 1993 seep samples at Sullivan Point were numbered 1001, 1002, and 1003. Now the sample number is 9. In addition, Back Channel seep location numbers are shown as #s 16 and 167. Do they correspond with Spring/1993 seep sample locations 1005, 1006, or 1007? It would be wise to reoccupy previous seep locations (e.g., as was done for seep location #1004 in Clark Cove) keeping the numbering consistent and add new locations (and new location numbers) as appropriate.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Finkelstein, Ph.D.

cc: Ken Munney (USF&WS)
Patti Tyler (EPA)