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LETTER AND COMMENTS REGARDING DRAFT CLOSEOUT REPORT FOR MERCURY  
BURIAL SITE 1 NSY PORTSMOUTH ME  
2/6/1998  
LEPAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Lepage Environmental Services, Inc.

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February 6, 1998

Peter Vandermark  
Seacoast Anti-Pollution League  
P. O. Box 1136  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03802

Subject: Review Comments, *Draft Close-Out Report for Mercury Burial Site I*

Dear Mr. Vandermark:

As you requested, we are transmitting comments to the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League (SAPL) concerning the December 1997 document, *Draft Close-Out Report for Mercury Burial Site I*, prepared by Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation. Mercury Burial Site I (MBI) was located in the Jamaica Island Landfill and consisted of three concrete vaults containing mercury-contaminated waste materials. The Navy excavated and removed the vaults in September 1997. The purpose of the *Close-Out Report* is to satisfy contract requirements and to document removal of the vaults, confirmatory sampling that there was no soil contamination, and site restoration. Comments and questions are as follows:

- 1. Page 4, Section 3.2.** The top of the first vault was reportedly encountered at approximately 12 feet below ground surface. How deep were the tops of the other vaults? How deep was the final excavation?
- 2. Page 4, Section 3.2.** How and where were background radiation levels determined? What instruments were used for radiation monitoring? Where are the results reported?
- 3. Page 4, Section 3.2.** No water was reportedly encountered at any time in the excavation nor was the soil wet in the area around the excavation. What then is the source of water sample RB-RB01 documented in Appendix A? Was the sample a rinsate blank collected from the sampling equipment?
- 4. Page 7, Section 3.5.** How and from where was the soil sample composited? Also, the results of the confirmatory sampling are included in Appendix A, not Appendix B.
- 5. Page 6, Section 3.6.** How and from where was the soil sample for permeability testing collected? How was the sample analyzed? What is the significance of the results?

**6. Appendix A.** On the Inorganic Analyses Data Sheets, what do the column headings C, Q, and M stand for? What do B and CV signify in columns C and M, respectively?

**7. Appendix A.** Where were samples CS-SP01 and RB-RB01 collected? The locations should be shown on Figure 3-2.

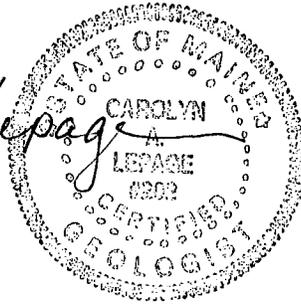
**8. General Comment.** Several months ago, we reviewed the *Action Memorandum and Work Plan* prepared for the MB1 removal action. These documents should be referenced in the *Close-Out Report*, and any significant deviations from the *Work Plan* should be presented.

If you have any questions regarding the comments above, please give me a call at 207-777-1049.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn A. Lepage*

Carolyn A. Lepage, C.G.  
President



cc: ✓ Marty Raymond, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard  
Iver McLeod, Department of Environmental Protection  
Meghan Cassidy, Environmental Protection Agency