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NSY PORTSMOUTH
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LETTER REGARDING OVERDUE RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE U S NAVY ON
SEVERAL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO OPERABLE UNIT 3 (OU 3) NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
11/23/1999
U S EPA REGION I



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

November 23, 1999

Mr. Fred Evans
Department of the Navy
Northern Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Hwy., Mail Stop #82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Dear Fred:

In a letter dated November 23, 1999 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted an extension for the review of the Draft Feasibility Study (FS) Report for Operable Unit 3 (OU3) at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. The request was submitted by Ms. Carolyn Lepage acting as the Technical Advisor to the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League (SAPL). EPA has established an alternative review deadline of December 31, 1999. All comments on the FS Report must now be submitted to the Navy by December 31, 1999.

In Ms. Lepage's letter, she noted that the Navy has not provided responses to comments on several documents developed related to OU3. Specifically, the Navy must still distribute responses to comments from EPA, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and SAPL on the Draft Revised OU3 Risk Assessment and the Draft Facility Background Development. In addition, it appears that SAPL has outstanding comments on the Draft Final On-Shore/Off-Shore Contaminant Fate and Transport Modeling Phase II Report. After checking EPA's files, it appears that the Navy is overdue on these responses to comments. While EPA does not believe that it is necessary to finalize each of these documents before comments on the OU3 FS Report can be provided, it is reasonable to expect that the resolution of some comments may effect subsequent comments on the FS Report. This was the basis for EPA's granting of the extension on the OU3 FS Report review period.

EPA takes the issue of extending review periods and deadlines very seriously. We want to remind the Navy that the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) provides specific time-frames for responding to comments submitted on Navy documents. Once the FFA becomes effective in early 2000, the Navy may be subject to penalties if deadlines are missed.

The Navy must provide the overdue responses to comments on the documents listed above as soon as possible in order to ensure that the overall schedule for OU3 is not impacted.

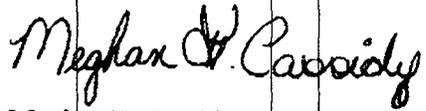
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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (617)918-1387.

Sincerely,



Meghan F. Cassidy
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Marty Raymond/PNS
Iver McLeod/ME DEP
Carolyn Lepage/Lepage Environmental
RAB Members