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NSY PORTSMOUTH
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LETTER AND U S NAVY RESPONSE TO MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION COMMENTS REGARDING DRAFT ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST
ANALYSIS AND ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR NON TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION
NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
6/28/2010
TETRA TECH NUS



TETRA TECH

PITT-06-10-052

June 28, 2010

Project Number 112G00383

Mr. Matthew Audet
USEPA, Region 1
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100
Mail Code OSRR07-3
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Mr. Iver McLeod
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
State House Station 17
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Reference: Contract No. N62472-03-D-0057 (CLEAN)
Contract Task Order No. 55

Subject: Responses to MEDEP Comments on
Draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and Action Memorandum
for Non-Time-Critical Removal Action for Site 30 (Revision 2)
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS), Kittery, Maine

Dear Mr. Audet/Mr. McLeod:

On behalf of the U.S. Navy, Tetra Tech NUS, Inc. is pleased to provide to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region I (USEPA) and to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) 2 and 3 copies, respectively, of the subject documents.

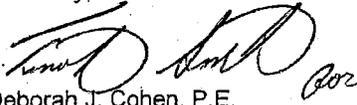
Following receipt of USEPA comments, the Final EE/CA for Site 30 will be submitted.

If you have any comments or questions, or if additional information is required, please contact Ms. Linda Cole at 757.341.2011.

For the Community Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members; if you have any comments or questions on these issues, they can be provided to the Navy at a RAB meeting, by calling the Public Affairs office at 207.438.1140 or by writing to:

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Public Affairs Office
Attn: Danna Eddy
Portsmouth, NH 03804-5000

Sincerely,


Deborah J. Cohen, P.E.
Project Manager

DJC/clm
Enclosure

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Mr. Matthew Audet
Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Iver McLeod
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
June 28, 2010 – Page 2

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Ms. Michele Dionne
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**RESPONSES TO MEDEP COMMENTS DATED APRIL 28, 2010
DRAFT SITE 30 ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS AND ACTION
MEMORANDUM (REVISION 2)
PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD, KITTERY, MAINE**

Draft EE/CA and Action Memorandum

1. **Comment:** Exec. Summary, p. ES-1: "The final stage of relocation will be complete by March 2010." Please update the status of the relocation here and in other parts of the document. The final document must reflect site conditions at the time of its completion. This comment also applies to the Draft Action Memo.

Response: Currently there are two individuals that still occupy the office within Building 184. However, the welders have been relocated and no longer occupy the building. The current status of the relocation will be updated in each version of the EE/CA and Action Memo so that the information presented is up-to-date at the time of submission.

2. **Comment:** 2.4.1, p. 2-4: "In 1973, a crystalline substance was noticed..." "In 1994, a crystalline substance was again noticed..." "In 1996, a crystalline substance was again observed..."

Please clarify if the crystalline substance was ever removed between these observations or if any other action was taken.

Response: In both occurrences following observation the crystalline material was removed and disposed. In 1973 the material was reportedly scraped from the floor as part of normal housekeeping activities and disposed of with the regular waste stream from the facility. Following characterization of the crystalline material in 1994 the material was reportedly removed and disposed off-site as a hazardous waste. This information will be added to both the EE/CA and Action Memorandum. The revised text for the first paragraph of Section 2.4.1 of the EE/CA and the first paragraph on page II-3 of the Action Memorandum is presented below.

EE/CA

"In 1973, a crystalline substance was noticed along the edge of the former tank vault (Dolph and Hall, September 1995). The crystalline material was reportedly removed through normal housekeeping methods following the reported observation. In 1994, a crystalline..."

"...and chromium. The TCLP analysis detected low concentrations of arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, and lead. With the exception of pH, the crystalline material did not exceed TCLP criteria. As a result of the high acidic readings (pH less than 2.0) the crystalline material was classified as a RCRA hazardous waste and was reportedly removed and disposed of as a hazardous waste."

Action Memorandum

"...groundwater. Information on the environmental investigations at Site 30 is provided in the Site 30 EE/CA (TINUS, March 2010). Crystalline material identified in 1973 was reportedly removed during normal housekeeping activities. When crystalline material identified again in

1996, the crystals were reportedly tested, characterized as a RCRA hazardous waste based on pH readings below 2.0, and disposed off-site as hazardous waste.”

3. **Comment:** 2.4.3, p. 2-5: “Results from the Test Pitting Investigation were used to make assumptions regarding disposal of materials for cost estimating purposes.” Cost estimates in App. D indicate that it was assumed that the fill material would be designated hazardous. The results from the Test Pitting Investigation do not support this assumption. Please clarify.

Response: The results of the testing indicated that material within the tank vault at one location has a pH that is less than 2. As a result the cost estimated conservatively assumed that the material within the tank vault is hazardous. The cost estimate and the alternative write up indicated that characterization sampling is required to establish the proper disposal methods for material removed from the tank vault. No changes have been made to the text or cost estimate based on this comment.

4. **Comment:** Table 3-1 Please clarify why the Navy has not identified any chemical-specific ARARs for Site 30. The crystalline substance is clearly a hazardous waste by characteristic and therefore falls under Federal and State hazardous waste statutes. This comment also applies to Table 1 of the Draft Action Memo.

Response: In the chemical-specific ARARs and TBCs table only identifies the regulations as TBCs since the regulations were used as guidelines to establish the presence or absence risk to human or ecological receptors. Because the crystalline material does not become a hazardous waste until it is removed, the Hazardous Wastes statutes do not become an ARAR until the material is excavated. For this reason the Hazardous waste statutes are referred to as ARARs in the action specific table (Table 4-2).

5. **Comment:** Table 3-1 Please update the reference for the State’s Guidance Manual for Human Health Risk Assessments to “Revised Guidance for Human Health Risk Assessments for Hazardous Substance Sites in Maine, State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Center for Disease Control, July 2009.” This comment also applies to Table 1 of the Draft Action Memo.

Response: The indicated reference update will be made to Table 1 of the Action Memorandum and Table 3-1 of the EE/CA. The revised reference will read as follows.

“Revised Guidance for Human Health Risk Assessments for Hazardous Substance Sites in Maine, State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Center for Disease Control, July 2009.”

6. **Comment:** Table 4-1 “LUCs are not required to prohibit exposure to contaminated fill, because of continued use of building in the foreseeable future.”

This text doesn’t make sense. If the fill is not removed then LUCs would be required to prevent contact with it. However, in this case, LUCs are not implementable given the Navy wants unrestricted use of the building and therefore they should be eliminated.

Response: LUCs were included in Table 4-1 because LUCs are typical for remedial activities that leave contamination in place. The LUCs were eliminated because of the Navy’s goal to have unrestricted use of the building. The text under the General Screening header will be revised as indicated below.

"LUCs would be required to prohibit exposure to contaminated material if the tank vault were to remain in place. However, achieving the RAO of unrestricted use will eliminate the need to implement LUCs."

7. **Comment:** Table 4-1 "Due to the classification of Building 184 as historically significant, one load bearing wall of the former tank vault cannot be excavated."

Please clarify the importance of the building's historical status for this technology. Regardless of the its historical classification the load bearing wall cannot be excavated due its necessity for the building's structural integrity.

Response: The text discussing the historical status of the building will be removed from the identified text because the building historical status has no bearing on the retaining or eliminating scrubbing as a viable technology. The text in Table 4-1 under the General Screening header for the scrubbing technology will be revised as indicated below.

"Because one of the tank vault walls is a load bearing wall for Building 184 this wall cannot be removed. As a result any residual contamination found on this wall must be washed from the wall."

8. **Comment:** Table 4-2 As the table's footnote indicates, the terms "potential" and "potentially" are used when requirements are invoked for certain remedial actions. Table 4-2 addresses only one specific remedial action, therefore remove these terms from all status designations. The listed requirements either are or are not ARARs/TBCs for excavation/off-site disposal. This comment also applies to Table 3 of the Draft Action Memo.

Response: The terms "potential" and "potentially" will be removed from the table.

9. **Comment:** Table 4-2 The Maine Hazardous Waste Management Rules are Applicable given that the crystalline substance has been classified as hazardous by characteristic. This comment also applies to Table 3 of the Draft Action Memo.

Response: As indicated in response to comment number 8 the term "potentially" was removed from the table making the ARAR referred to in this comment Applicable.

10. **Comment:** Table 4-2, p. 5 of 5 "These regulations are applicable for the potential transport of solid waste." Remove the term "potential" since this table specifically addresses off-yard disposal and transport of solid waste is certain. This comment also applies to Table 3 of the Draft Action Memo.

Response: The term "Potential" and "Potentially" have been removed from the tables identified in the comment.

11. **Comment:** App. B It would be useful to include a brief statement on how wells TP-MW10 and TP-MW12 were located. For instance, MW12 was sited based on potentiometric maps.

Response: the text in the Introduction will be revised as follows to provide additional information on how TP-MW10 and TP-MW12 were located.

"The evaluation focuses on providing information to support resolution of regulatory concerns raised regarding the understanding of groundwater flow and potential impact from Site 30. The concerns were raised in comments on the SSI Report, Site 30 EE/CA (Revisions 0 and 1), and draft Site 30 Action Memorandum Revision 0. The major concern was that groundwater flow direction for Site 30 had not been adequately characterized to appropriately locate downgradient monitoring wells for evaluation of potential groundwater impacts from Site 30. As part of the development of the data quality objectives (DQOs) for the RI for Site 32 (*TtNUS, November 2008*), monitoring wells were located at Site 32 that were downgradient of Site 30 to provide the additional information for assessment of groundwater flow direction. The monitoring wells (TP-MW10 and TP-MW12) were installed as part of the Phase I and Phase II Site 32 RI field activities. *The locations for wells TP-MW10 and TP-MW-12 were based on groundwater flow and limitations due to utilities. TP-MW10, one of the wells installed in 2003 to improve well density around storm sewers at Site 32, was located northeast of Building 184 to also provide information on groundwater flow and conditions downgradient of Site 30. Based on evaluation of potentiometric surface maps prepared after the Phase I Site 32 RI field activities, monitoring well TP-MW12, installed in 2008, was located north of Building 184 to provide additional information for groundwater flow and potential migration of contaminants from Site 30 to Site 32.* Water level measurements in Site 30 and Site 32 monitoring wells were collected as part of the Site 32 RI field activities. In addition, as part of the Phase II Site 32 RI field work, groundwater samples for inorganic analysis were collected at Site 30 monitoring wells to provide additional chemical data for Site 30. Additional information on the data collected and used as part of this evaluation are provided herein."