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NSY PORTSMOUTH
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LETTER AND COMMENTS FROM STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION REGARDING DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT OPERABLE UNIT 7
(OU7) NSY PORTSMOUTH ME

7/31/2012

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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July 31, 2012

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re: Draft Feasibility Study Report for OU7, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine. May 2012.

Dear Linda,

1. Fig. 1-3. This and other figures have a balloon indicating the filled area near the former Building 237. For clarification refer to section 1.6.2 and/or App. A.2 in the balloon wherever it occurs.

2. ARARs tables. Add the following items:

- Federal Chemical-specific:
 - o TBC - Recommendations of the Technical Review Workgroup for Lead for an Approach to Assessing Risks Associated with Adult Exposures to Lead in Soil. (USEPA, January 2003)
- State Chemical-specific¹:
 - o TBC - Maine Remedial Action Guidelines (RAGS) For Soil Contaminated with Hazardous Substances (MEDEP, January 2010);
 - o TBC - Guidance for Human Health Risk Assessments for Hazardous Substance Sites in Maine (MEDEP and MECDC, July 2009)

3. 2.4, p. 2-11. The Navy states they based the PRG for manganese on a “more realistic construction worker exposure frequency” (60 days/yr) than what was used in the Human Health Risk Assessment (150 days/yr). It is inappropriate to change values that were used in the risk assessment without discussion with the regulators. MEDEP cannot accept the reduced

¹ Note that any hazardous substance site in Maine requiring cleanup of contaminated soil must consider Maine RAGS and/or Maine Guidance for Human Health Risk Assessments. Cleanups that do not consider these guidance documents are not acceptable to MEDEP.

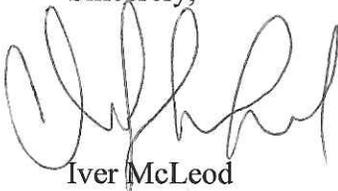
manganese exposure frequency for construction workers and the resulting elimination of Mn as a CoC without further discussion.

Also, please explain why the Navy did not change exposure frequencies for other CoCs to “more realistic levels” since exposure frequencies should be the same for all parameters.

4. Table 2-4, p. 2-11. Clarify that cPAHs refers to benzo(a)pyrene equivalents.
5. Table 2-4, p. 2-11. Given our recent discussions regarding improper use of Non-detect values in calculating representative background values, especially for PAHs, the PRG for cPAHs is suspect. MEDEP must discuss this further with the Navy before we can accept this PRG.
6. Although acceptable for the scenario of subsurface soils brought to the surface, the Navy needs to be cautious in applying the PNSY background values to subsurface soils. All background data represented surface soils, and in the case of PAHs and other potentially anthropogenic compounds the surface soil concentrations can be higher than the subsurface concentrations.
7. Table 2-4, footnote 1. “PRGs are EPCs...” This statement is somewhat confusing as PRGs are not necessarily EPCs. It would be better to state that, “PRGs are the desired EPCs...” or something similar.
8. Alternative 2, Short-Term Effectiveness, p. 4-8. Please clarify in the text why this evaluation includes excavators since Alternative 2 consists solely of LUCs and long-term management.
9. Alternative 3, Excavation and Off-site Disposal, p. 4-9. The Navy should be prepared to excavate below the high tide mark if confirmation samples indicate that the limits of contamination have not been reached.

Please feel free to contact me at (207) 287-8010 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Iver McLeod
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