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NSY PORTSMOUTH
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LETTER AND U S EPA REGION I FOLLOW UP COMMENTS TO DRAFT FEASIBILITY
STUDY 2012 OPERABLE UNIT 7 (OU7) NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
12/11/2012
U S EPA REGION I



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEW ENGLAND - REGION I
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

December 11, 2012

Liz Middleton, EIT
Remedial Project Manager
Northeast IPT, NAVFAC Mid Atlantic
Code OPTE3
9742 Maryland Ave
Norfolk, VA 23511

**Re: EPA comments on Navy's October 25, 2012 Responses to USEPA
Comments of August 14, 2012 Draft Operable Unit 7 Feasibility Study,
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine**

Dear Ms. Middleton:

I have reviewed the subject documents provided by the Navy. The Agency's comments are provided in Attachment 1.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at audet.matthew@epa.gov or 617.918.1449.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew R. Audet." is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Matthew R. Audet, P.G.
Remedial Project Manager
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration

cc. Iver McLeod/ME DEP
Deb Cohen/Tetra Tech NUS
RAB Member

Attachment 1

EPA comments on Navy's October 25, 2012 Responses to USEPA Comments of August 14, 2012 Draft Operable Unit 7 Feasibility Study, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine

1. *General Comments:* Concur. Navy requested written assurance that the OU7 cleanup goal for dioxins/furans and the selected remedy for OU7 will not require revision if a cancer toxicity value (slope factor) for 2, 3, 7; 8-TCDD is established in the future. EPA believes that the appropriate response to this request is the written guidance at question no. 2 at <http://epa.gov/superfund/health/contaminants/dioxin/dioxinsoil.html> which states the following:

Dioxin-contaminated sites cleanup up based on the new non-cancer RfD are not expected to need additional cleanup when a new EPA cancer toxicity value for dioxin is published in EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). This is because we anticipate that dioxin cleanup levels based on the new non-cancer RfD will be within the cancer risk range currently used by EPA's Superfund and RCRA cleanup programs.

2. *Comment 3, Page 1-15, Section 1.6.4:* According to the response, the temporary housing unit H23 has a grass covered area with trees to the south. Consistent with standard risk assessment practice for residential use at other sites, grass is not a barrier to contact with surface soil for residents because residential adults could dig in soil for landscaping and gardening, and children could dig in soil for play. Therefore, surface soils in the grass covered area should be evaluated for future normal residential risk unless a LUC is established that prohibits residential use other than temporary housing for adults only.
3. *Comment 7, Figure 2-1:* The response states that risks in the Building 237 area for all other receptors except construction workers were discussed in the Uncertainty Section of the RI Report. Please provide a copy of the specific language and documentation in the Uncertainty Section that addresses residential risk for soils in this area for EPA evaluation or add a LUC prohibiting residential use in this area.
4. *Comment 13, Figure 4-2:* to prevent children or long-term residential use of H23 temporary housing, please add language to the LUC that prohibits any residential use other than temporary housing by adults only.
5. *Comment 16, Appendix A.1, Page 5:* The response suggests that Navy is not responsible for contaminants related to the use of Goodrich Avenue and the railroad tracks. This is incorrect. Navy is responsible for all contaminants on the site.