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CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING SUBPART X PERMIT APPLICATION ALLEGANY  
BALLISTICS LABORATORY ROCKET CENTER WV  
4/3/2000  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

APR 3 2000

West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection  
Attn: Mr. Michael C. Castle, Director  
10 McJunkin Road  
Nitro, West Virginia 25142

Re: Allegany Ballistics Laboratory

Dear Mr. Castle:

The Navy is in receipt of your letter of February 16, 2000, regarding future Navy study and cleanup actions at the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory (ABL). Over the past months, there have been significant discussions between West Virginia, EPA and Navy personnel on these issues, with a focus on whether the Navy would be taking certain actions under our CERCLA authorities pursuant to the terms of the ABL Federal Facility Agreement (FFA).

The Navy recognizes the unique challenge involved in coordinating actions that cross multiple regulatory programs to address the complex environmental issues that exist at ABL. This letter presents the Navy's proposals to proceed on the following matters.

As stated in a letter to Mr. Mike Stratton of WVDEP dated February 6, 2000, the Navy will address all sites listed in Appendix B of the ABL FFA as CERCLA sites pursuant to the terms of the ABL FFA. Please refer to this letter for a more detailed explanation of Navy plans.

Regarding future Navy actions at Site 1, the Navy will address all areas in which historical releases have occurred at or adjacent to the Site 1 area as CERCLA sites pursuant to the terms of the ABL FFA. Historic releases are defined as releases not related to the Open Burn Unit that operates within the boundaries of Site 1. Based on efforts to date, we feel that this will promote the most expeditious cleanup of past contamination in this area.

As you are aware, within Site 1, there is an Open Burn Unit currently operating under interim RCRA Subpart X permit status. The Navy and Hercules, our previous ABL contractor, submitted a Subpart X permit application in 1988. In January 1999, WVDEP requested that the Navy and Alliant Techsystems, the current ABL contractor, submit an updated Subpart X permit application, which we provided on December 14, 1999.

At this time, the Navy proposes that actions related to the issuance of the Subpart X permit be governed solely by West Virginia RCRA program procedures and requirements, and that such actions be conducted outside of the ABL FFA. Because it is difficult to predict all the issues that will arise during the Open Burn Unit permitting process, the Navy would like to hold open the option to revisit this issue as the process continues. We do not want to preclude the use of the CERCLA program to satisfy RCRA requirements if WVDEP, EPA and the Navy agree that such action would result in a more efficient and effective approach to addressing issues related to Site 1. The Navy also will use information generated from, and actions taken under, other regulatory programs conducted at ABL to satisfy the permit requirements.

We would like to discuss these proposals in more detail with you and/or your staff. If you agree, please contact Mr. Steve Hoffman at (703) 602-4363, X303 to discuss meeting plans. We look forward to our continuing partnership with West Virginia and EPA in the challenging work at ABL.

Sincerely,



ELSIE L. MUNSELL  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Environment and Safety)

Copy to:

NAVSEA (Steve Hoffman, John Aubert, Lou Williams, Dave McBride)  
LANTDIV (Phillip Smith, Steve Martin, Dawn Hayes, Mark  
Kallenbach)  
CNO, N45 (Dave Olson)  
ATK (Alex Priskos, John Waugaman)  
WVDEP (Mike Stratton, Tom Bass)  
EPA Region III (Mr. Bruce Beach)