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NSWC INDIAN HEAD
5090.3a

MARYLAND ST DPET OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE WASTE MGT ADMIN
201 WEST PRESTON ST
BALTIMORE MD 21201

RECEIVED

SEP 6 1984

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

1 R RUEORBA0826 2431832 NA-CNRF
R 291832Z AUG 84

FM NAVORDSTA INDIAN HEAD MD
TO ZEN/COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
ZEN/CHESNAVFACENGCOM WASHINGTON DC
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RUCLRFA/MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
WASTE MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION
201 WEST PRESTON STREET
BALTIMORE MD 21201

ACCT NA-CNRF

UNCLAS //N05090//

SUBJ: HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RELEASE REPORT (REPORT SYMBOL OPNAV 5090-3)

1. CNO FOR OP-45 AND CHINFO, COMNAVFACENGCOM FOR 112, COMNAVMAT FOR
04H, COMNAVSEASYSOM FOR 6412, E, 56Y43, 07C.

2. RELEASE OCCURRED 031530Z AUG 84.

PAGE 02 RUEORBA0826 UNCLAS

3. ACTIVITY ORIGINATING RELEASE: NAVAL ORDNANCE STATION, INDIAN HEAD,
MD 20640-5000. UIC N00174

4. RELEASE LOCATION: TEN YARDS EAST NORTHEAST OF BUILDING 766.

5. SOURCE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE: THE PROCESS CONTROL LABORATORY
WHICH PERFORMS CHEMICAL TESTS FOR THE BIAZZI NITRATION PLANT.

6. TYPE OF CONTAINER FROM WHICH SUBSTANCE ESCAPED: FOUR-INCH-
DIAMETER LABORATORY CAST STEEL DRAINAGE LINE.

7. SUBSTANCE RELEASED: LIQUID MERCURY METAL.

8. FIELD TESTING: SOIL SAMPLES WERE TAKEN TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF
CONTAMINATION. ALL SAMPLES TESTED HAVE LESS THAN 5MG OF MERCURY PER
KG OF SOIL INDICATING NO LATERAL MIGRATION FROM THE LOCATION OF THE
RUPTURED DRAINAGE LINE.

9. ESTIMATED AMOUNT RELEASED: ONE-HALF PINT OF LIQUID MERCURY OR
7 POUNDS OF MERCURY.

10. CAUSE OF RELEASE: CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL RUPTURED A THIRTY YEAR
OLD CAST STEEL SEWER LINE FROM THE LABORATORY IN BUILDING 766. THE
SEWER LINE CONTAINED POOLS OF LIQUID MERCURY METAL. WHEN THE OLD
SEWER LINE WAS RUPTURED, THE MERCURY WAS RELEASED INTO A TRENCH

WHICH WAS BEING DUG FOR A NEW CENTRALIZED SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM. CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL WERE INFORMED OF THE LOCATION OF DRAIN LINES FROM THE BUILDING 766 RESTROOM. HOWEVER, THEY WERE UNAWARE OF THE LOCATION OF DRAIN LINES FROM THE LABORATORY AREA OF BUILDING 766.

11. RELEASE SCENE DESCRIPTION: THIS LOCATION HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN DESCRIBED IN "INITIAL ASSESSMENT STUDY OF NAVAL ORDNANCE STATION, INDIAN HEAD, MD", MAY 1983, NEESA 13-021, NAVAL ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, PORT HUENEME CALIFORNIA, 93043. THIS STUDY IDENTIFIED THE SITE AS BEING CONTAMINATED WITH MERCURY AND RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING STUDIES TO CONFIRM THE QUANTITY AND EXTENT OF CONTAMINATION (CONFIRMATION STUDY). COPIES OF THIS ASSESSMENT STUDY HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO REGION III OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND TO MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. CH2M HILL INC. OF RESTON, VA IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT TO EVALUATE THE SITE, REPORT ON THE EXTENT OF CONTAMINATION, AND RECOMMEND CLEAN-UP ACTIONS.

12. NOTIFICATION MADE AND ASSISTANCE REQUESTED: CHESAPEAKE DIVISION OF THE NAVAL FACILITIES COMMAND WAS NOTIFIED OF THIS INCIDENT ON 7 AUGUST 1984. CHESAPEAKE DIVISION IS THE DESIGNATED FEDERAL ON SCENE COORDINATOR FOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RELEASES IN THIS LOCAL AREA. CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE BY CH2M HILL INC. WAS REQUESTED FOR ANALYSIS OF SOIL SAMPLES FROM THE RELEASE SITE.

PAGE 04 RUEORBA0826 UNCLAS

13. CONTROL AND CONTAINMENT ACTION TAKEN: RELEASE STOPPED AS SOON AS MERCURY DRAINED FROM LINE. NO FURTHER CONTROL ACTION NECESSARY.

14. CLEANUP ACTION TAKEN: IN-HOUSE PERSONNEL REMOVED APPROXIMATELY 25 CUBIC FEET OF MERCURY-CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM THE TRENCH CONTAINING THE SPILL. THIS CONTAMINATED SOIL HAS BEEN PACKED IN 55-GALLON DRUMS AND WILL BE SHIPPED TO AN EPA-PERMITTED FACILITY FOR DISPOSAL. SOIL SAMPLES WERE TAKEN FROM THE SIDES AND BOTTOM OF THE TRENCH TO DETERMINE IF THE MERCURY CONTAMINATION HAD MIGRATED FROM THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE RUPTURED SEWER LINE. TESTING INDICATES NO MIGRATION FROM THE SEWER LINE LOCATION. FURTHER CLEANUP EFFORTS WILL BE BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CH2M HILL ENGINEERING EVALUATION.

15. THIS MESSAGE WAS PREPARED BY THOMAS WOOD, NAVORDSTA CODE SCE, AUTOVON 364-4320/4316, COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE A/C (301) 843-4320.

12:32 EST

MGMCOMP