



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

201 WEST PRESTON STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
AREA CODE 301 • 225- 5647

William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Martin W. Walsh, Jr.
Secretary

July 29, 1987

Mr. R. H. Spatz
Head, Safety Department
Naval Ordnance Station
Indian Head, Maryland 20640

Dear Mr. Spatz:

The Waste Management Administration (WMA) has completed review of your letter of June 2, 1987 concerning the modification to your Aquatic Assessment Plan. WMA has determined that the modifications are acceptable and you should proceed with the study.

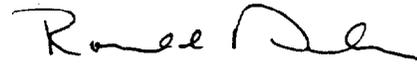
The revised plan drops the idea of using the Nanjemoy as a reference station to determine if measured variations in mercury levels are local or global. You appear ready to rely on the Department of the Environment (DOE) studies for a global reference. It is possible that DOE will discontinue some of the sampling during the next few years. Without a reference, an upward trend in mercury levels may result in extension of the study. Your letter also modifies the collection data in the sediments to allow for mercury enrichment calculations. You do not state that you will report mercury in terms of enrichment. Please include mercury enrichment in your annual reports.

In your letter you indicate that your contractor has prepared a work plan for the clean-up of the most contaminated soils. WMA should be allowed to comment on the plan before you initiate the construction phase.

Mr. R. H. Spatz
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If you have any questions in this matter, please contact
Mr. W. Lawrence Ramsey at (301) 225-5701.

Sincerely,



Ronald Nelson, Director
Waste Management Administration

RN/lak

cc: Mr. William E. Chicca
Mr. Alvin L. Bowles
Mr. Reid J. Rosnick
Mr. W. Lawrence Ramsey