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Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Jane T. Nishida
Secretary

July 27, 1995

Mr. Shawn Jorgensen
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Indian Head Division
101 Strauss Avenue
Indian Head, MD 20640-5035

RE: Draft Summary Biomonitoring Report for Site 8 - Nitroglycerin Plant
Office, dated April 1995

Dear Mr. Jorgensen:

Enclosed are comments from Maryland Department of the Environment,
Waste Management Administration on the above referenced document.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at (410) 631-3440
or 3490.

Sincerely,

Kim Lemaster
Kim Lemaster
Remedial Project Manager
Federal/NPL Superfund Division

KL:asg

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Dennis Orenshaw, US EPA
✓ Mr. Shawn Phillips, USN, EFACHES
Mr. Richard W. Collins
Mr. Robert A. DeMarco
Ms. Hilary Miller



Maryland Department of the Environment
Waste Management Administration
Environmental Restoration and Redevelopment Program

Comments on the
Draft Summary Biomonitoring Report for Site 8 -
Nitroglycerin Plant Office, dated April 1995

1. Section 1.1, page 1-2, paragraph two

The statement that mercury concentrations were measured in marsh sediments from below the quantitation limit (or non-detect) to 13.8 mg/kg is accurate. However, the report does not mention that mercury was measured as high as 61.3 mg/kg in sediments collected from the area designated as "Transect 8" in Figure 2-1, which is just upstream from the pond (Site Characterization Report for Site 8, NUS, 1993). This is significant because Transect 8 is designated as a biomonitoring location in Figure 2-1 of this report.

2. Section 2

The organization of this section is confusing. Why does this report, which should summarize the overall biomonitoring study, begin this section with a detailed discussion of the February 1995 efforts? As written, it is difficult to discern where the narrative changes perspective from the February 1995 efforts to the more important summary material.

3. Section 3

See comment 2.

4. Section 3.5, page 3-22, Table 3-4

Table 3-4 competently summarizes the tissue sampling results to date. However, it would be useful if the table indicated that the tissue samples were homogenized whole body samples, with the exception of the turtle samples. In addition, the table should indicate whether the results are on a wet or dry basis.

5. Section 3.5, page 3-28, paragraph one

The first "z" in this paragraph should be deleted.