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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER FROM U S AIR FORCE REGARDING HERBICIDE ORANGE SITE CONTAMINATION
RECLAMATION NCBC GULFPORT MS
9/12/1980
U S AIR FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

12 SEP 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/MIQ

SUBJECT: Herbicide Orange Site Reclamation (Your Memo,
7 Aug 80) - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

I agree with your assessment that the Air Force must fulfill its commitment to returning Gulfport (NCBC) and other sites contaminated with Herbicide Orange to full and beneficial use. This also includes documenting the levels of contamination and insuring that the toxic components are not transported off site.

The Environics Division of the Engineering and Services Laboratory, HQ AFESC, is eminently qualified to handle the complex integration of environmental chemistry and control technology required to address this problem. It should be noted, however, that the Engineering and Services Laboratory is dedicated to a research mission and not routine field assistance tasks. The monitoring associated with Task 3, Site Residue Monitoring, and Task 4, Analysis of TCDD in Soil and Biologicals, requested in your Memo of 7 Aug, better fits in the Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory (OEHL) unless it is undertaken as part of an overall research program in dioxin environmental chemistry and control. If after completing your evaluation of the protocol you wish to initiate research on the other Tasks, we will route your request through AF/RD and AFSC/DL for proper program direction and funding in FY 81 and beyond. The proposed Tasks exceed current programmed resources in our environmental quality research program.

In anticipation of a formal research need from your office, I have directed the Engineering and Services Laboratory to insure samples from Gulfport and Johnston Island are collected according to established protocols and to work with Eglin AFB and OEHL personnel in setting up a program at Eglin AFB. This will insure the Air Force fulfills its obligation to document the existing contamination and satisfy the public that it is contained and controlled.

William D. Gilbert
WILLIAM D. GILBERT
Major General, USAF
Director of Engineering & Services