



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY  
PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA 93043

01.01- 3/7/84-00159

22-00159

101-3/7/84

IN REPLY REFER TO:

112N:WE:ad

11100/1:283B:0779D

Ser 204

7 MAR 1984

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Energy and Environmental Support Activity  
To: Commander, Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (114)

Subj: Current Environmental Problem Observed

Encl: (1) Greenleaf-Telesca, Inc. ltr of 1 March 1984

1. The Initial Assessment Study (IAS) on-site investigation at Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culbera, St. Thomas, and St. Croix was conducted by personnel from Greenleaf-Telesca and Ecology and Environment from 15 January to 4 February 1984. Purpose of the IAS was to determine potential health and environmental problems due to past disposal operations. However, during the IAS several current operational problems were observed that are not considered sound environmental practices. Since current operations and practices are not within the scope of the IAS, they will not be addressed in this study.

2. This letter serves to inform Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (114), of observed current problems so that appropriate action may begin on the areas listed in enclosure (1).

3. For further information concerning this study, contact the undersigned at AUTOVON 360-3351, FTS 799-3351, or commercial (805) 982-3351.

WALLACE EAKES  
By direction



1 March 1984

Mr. Wallace Eakes  
Navy Energy and Environmental  
Support Activity  
Code 112N  
Building 835, Wing 2, Room 40  
Navy Construction Battalion Center  
Port Hueneme, CA 93034

Dear Mr. Eakes:

During the course of the initial assessment survey, the survey team noted the following items at Roosevelt Roads. Some suggestions for altering the situations are included.

- A. Building 112 and open storage area. Spills and leaks from various drums were noted on two separate occasions. The storage buildings (quonset huts) used for flammable material and acid storage are in poor structural condition.
- B. Building 258, old pest control shop. This building still contains strong odors of pesticides, despite the washdown originally given it. The IAS team strongly suggests that the building NOT be used for any purpose until completely decontaminated. Under no circumstances should the building be used for any purpose that could result in personnel ingesting or inhaling any possible remaining pesticides, such as housing air compressors for the Dive Club.
- C. Building 248, used for OTTO fuel contaminated material storage. The proximity of this building to drainage ditches leading directly to mangrove swamps, and the unsecure nature of the building (open and broken windows and doors) make this structure inadequate for storage of hazardous material.
- D. The area in and around Building 145, generally northwest of Building 31, south of the new pest control shop and west of the dry dock. Numerous drums, cylinders, and CONEX containers with various hazardous wastes contained therein, including the Tunnel of the Drums. The experience with Public Works attempting to move some of the drums illustrates the need for experienced personnel to handle the situation. The IAS team suggested a clearing operation throughout the area to discover all the containers. The team also suggests that the area be declared off limits to all but Public Works personnel until the containers have been removed.

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- E. The area around Building 38, the old power plant. The area contains several cylinders and, more importantly, was the scene of repeated PCB spills amounting to several hundred gallons. Access to Building 38 should be limited until the stored PCBs and asbestos inside the building are removed or mitigated. Access to the area around Building 38 should be limited, and the cylinders moved to the area around Building 145 and consolidated with the other containers.
- F. The area around Substation Number 2, Building Number 90. The area has an estimated 1600 gallons of PCBs spilled over the years. The IAS team recommends access to the area be limited.
- G. The wharf at the Dry Dock. Approximately 125 gallons of PCB in 5-gallon cans was dumped off the wharf in 1968. These containers may still be intact. Before refloating the dry dock floating gate, a survey of the dry dock wharf area by EOD personnel with magnetometers should be undertaken.
- H. The pole yard near Building 42. Many PCB transformers are located outside the fence line. The undergrowth around the transformers should be removed and access to the area limited.
- I. Abandoned landfills at Langely Drive and near the Bowling Lanes. Access should be limited by ensuring the paths cut for the IAS team are not used by other personnel.
- J. The current landfill. Sand borrowing has exposed old garbage formerly covered. The landfill is still used for non-authorized activities such as drum disposal and open dumping of liquid wastes. Scavengers have easy access to the area. These practices should be curtailed.

During the survey of Vieques, Culebra, St. Thomas, and St. Croix, the following items were noted:

- A. On Vieques, near Boca Quebrada Point, the old EOD range. Three surface sweeps have been conducted in the area, but access should be limited due to the possibility of buried munitions items.
- B. On St. Croix, at the Underwater Tracking Range, a splash shield of stones or other material should be placed under the photographic trailer where the sink now empties directly onto the ground.

During the Survey of the San Juan area, the following items were noted:

- A. Building 19, the old laundry, has spent sand blasting grit probably containing heavy metals. Any activities that might stir up this material in the enclosed space should be avoided.

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At Sabana Seca, the following items were noted:

- A. Storage at Building 140, Supply Department. Poor housekeeping was evident. Incompatible materials are stored in proximity to each other.
- B. Ye Olde Nursery, Building 176. Access to the recreation area adjoining the building should be limited until such time as the existence of soil contamination from pesticides can be established.
- C. Runoff from the Bayamon landfill enters the base at the Pistol Range Gate. If possible, this runoff should be diverted.

During the survey of outlying areas, the Generator Building at Pico del Este was noted to have an oil leak, which should be corrected.

The Initial Assessment Team found no instances of life threatening situations, or situations demanding emergency response.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Cuevas, PE  
Project Manager

cc: Mr. Richard Heiderstadt, E&E