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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

28 February 2005

Mr. F. Andrew Piszkin  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Base Realignment and Closure  
7040 Trabuco Road  
Irvine, California 92618

RE: Comment on the Draft Work Plan for Aquifer Characterization and Treatability Testing at Installation Restoration Program Site 1, Former Explosive Ordnance Disposal Range, Former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro, California

Dear Mr. Piszkin:

The EPA has reviewed the subject document. We find the work plan to be thorough and well-prepared; we have but the following comment on the microcosm study to offer.

The protocols for the microcosm study are provided in attachments from CytoCulture International Inc. In these letters it is mentioned that "individual water and soil samples will be...opened by CytoCulture in the anaerobic glove box". Within the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP), it is briefly described how the ground-water samples will be collected to minimize contact with the aerobic environment; however, there is no discussion in the SAP as to how the soil samples will be collected in the field to minimize contamination by aerobic conditions. How will this task be accomplished?

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 415-972-3349.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich Muza".

Rich Muza  
Remedial Project Manager  
Federal Facility and Site Cleanup Branch

received  
3/1/05