

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000

N00296.000796
MOFFETT FIELD
SSIC NO. 5090.3.A



Reply to Attn of:

QE:218-1

30 JUN 2003

Ms. Andrea Espinoza
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
BRAC Operations Office
NAVAFACENGCOM Southwest
1230 Columbia Street, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92102-8517

Dear Ms. Espinoza:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center has received the following report from the U.S. Navy: *Draft Final Northern Channel Feasibility Study*. NASA has reviewed the document and our review comments are provided as an enclosure with this letter.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at 650-604-0237 or by e-mail at Donald.M.Chuck@nasa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald M. Chuck".

Donald M. Chuck
Manager, Restoration and Subsurface
Office of Environmental Services

Enclosure

cc: Alana Lee, US EPA
Lida Tan, US EPA
Adriana Constantinescu, RWQCB
Hilary Waites, Tech Law
Andrea Espinoza, US Navy, SWDIV
Scott Gromko, US Navy, SWDIV
Fred Banker, RMT, Inc.
Bob Moss, Navy RAB Co-Chair
Dr. James McClure, RAB THE Committee
Peter Strauss, PM Strauss & Assoc.
218-1/S. Olliges
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DESIGN AND DOCUMENT REVIEW COMMENTS		
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES		
POINT OF CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER	DATE
Don Chuck	650-640-327	6/26/2003
	Project/Document Title	
	Draft Final Northern Channel Feasibility Study Former NAS Moffett Field NAVFACENGCOM Southwest Tetra Tech EM, Inc. DS.A048.10121 May 15, 2003	

GENERAL COMMENT

NASA supports the selection of Alternative 2 as long as provisions are implemented to protect the Western Pond Turtles and habitat during the remedial action.

In all references to the salt ponds in the text and figures, the name needs to be changed from "Cargill Salt Ponds" to "US Fish and Wildlife Service Ponds. The USFWS obtained the ponds from Cargill Salt in 2002.

COMMENT 1

Sect. 1.0, Par. 1, 1st Sent., Pg. 1

Moffett Field is approximately 1 mile south of the San Francisco Bay, not just south of the bay as stated in the text. Please correct.

COMMENT 2

Sect. 1.2.1, Heading, Pg. 3

Delete "Federal Airfield" and change to "Field."

COMMENT 3

Sect. 1.2.1, Par. 4, Last Sent., Pg. 4

Change the end of the sentence to read: "...renamed Moffett *Field*."

COMMENT 4

Sect. 1.2.2, Par. 1, Last Sent., Pg. 4

Change the sentence to read: "... development of the *former* Cargill saltwater ..."

COMMENT 5

Sect. 1.2.3, Par. 4, Pg. 6

The last two sentences of this paragraph are incorrect. Not all of the PCB-oil-bearing transformers have been removed from Moffett Field. Provide corrections to the paragraph.

COMMENT 6

Sect. 1.2.4, Par. 2, Pg. 6

See Comment 5.

COMMENT 7

Sect. 1.2.5, Par. 2, Pg. 7

See Comment 5.

COMMENT 8

Sect. 1.6.1, Par. 5, Pg. 10

Add that NASA had also identified the Western Pond Turtle, a California species of concern, in the Northern Channel. The reference for this is: Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, NASA Ames Research Center, July, 2002.

COMMENT 9

Sect. 1.6.2, Par. 2, Pg. 11

Add to this paragraph that the Western Pond Turtle, a California species of concern, has been identified in the Marriage Road ditch.

COMMENT 10

Sect. 1.6.4., Par. 3, Pg. 12.

Add to this paragraph that the Western Pond Turtle, a California species of concern, has been identified in the North Patrol Road ditch.

COMMENT 11

Sect. 3.4.1, Par. 4, Next to Last Sent., Pg.65

Remove the extra period from the text.

COMMENT 12

Source Control, 5th Sent., Pg. 74

Change the sentence to read: "PCBs, *chlorinated* pesticides (such as DDT), ..."

COMMENT 13

Source Control, Pg. 74

Add to this paragraph that NASA plans to install a settling basin to trap and remove sediment that is transported to the Northern Channel through stormwater runoff.

COMMENT 14

Sect. 4.2.3.1, Conventional Excavation, Pg. 77

The excavation process would need to be done in stages to maintain the habitat for the Western Pond Turtle. Not all ditches would be dewatered simultaneously. In the second paragraph, delete the third sentence, it is a repeat of the second sentence.

COMMENT 15

Sect. 4.2.3.1, Hydraulic Dredging, Pg. 78

Would the turtles be sucked into the dredging equipment?

COMMENT 16

Sect. 5.1.2, Par. 3, Pg. 88

The paragraph should state that the dewatering will be done in stages so as to maintain the habitat for the Western Pond Turtle.

COMMENT 17

Sect. 5.1.2, Par. 6, 1st Sent., Pg. 88

Change the verb from *are* to *is*.

COMMENT 18

Sect. 5.1.2, Par. 16, Pg. 89

The paragraph discuss the possibility of tilling and air drying the top layers of sediments. Has there been any investigation as to the possibility of seeping of water from the salt ponds into the Northern Channel? It may also be necessary to provide a sediment drying area to allow the work to continue. The dewatering will also need to be done in stages in order to maintain pond turtle habitat. For example, the turtles could be removed from Marriage Road ditch, remediate and restore Marriage Road Ditch, and replace the turtles. The same type of process could also be used for the Patrol Road ditch and for the Northern Channel.

COMMENT 19

Sect. 6.2.2.2, Pg. 99

Add to the section that the excavation would occur in stages to maintain habitat for the Western Pond Turtle.

COMMENT 20

Sect. 6.2.2.7, Pg. 101

Add to the section that the excavation would occur in stages to maintain habitat for the Western Pond Turtle.

COMMENT 21

References, Pg. 116

Add: NASA, 2002. Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, NASA Ames Development Plan, NASA Ames Research Center, July, 2002.

COMMENT 22

Appendix F, Response to EPA Specific Comment 12, Par. 3, Last Sent., Pg. 9

The sentence is incorrect; not all of the known sources of contamination have been removed. NASA is planning to construct a settling basin at Bldg. 191.