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Ser 1813SC/00593
23 JAN 1991

From: Commander, Western Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
To: Distribution

Subj: FEDERAL FACILITIES AGREEMENT MILESTONE DATE FOR CLOSURE OF
"KNOWN" ABANDONED WELLS, NAVAL AIR STATION, MOFFETT FIELD, CA

1. In April 1990 an ambitious schedule for blockage removal at "known" abandoned wells was developed. The schedule indicated the start of blockage removal by July 2 with closure by September 7, 1990. Proceeding with this schedule would have allowed us to meet the October 1, 1990, completion date set out in Attachment 3 to the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). Unfortunately, circumstances beyond our control pushed the actual well closure date to November 20, 1990.

2. In preparing the well closure schedule, a number of assumptions were made. The most significant of these related to the amount of debris and blockage we might encounter in the course of well closures. Our assumptions were necessarily speculative as we had very little data on the contents of the well shafts. As detailed below, the following resulted in the slippage from the original FFA schedule:

a. First, the selection of a lower-tier driller took 2 months longer than anticipated because of the complex nature of the subcontract, and revisions were required because of a reduction in the number of wells to be investigated.

b. Second, the entire column of well 14M01 was filled with silt, pieces of concrete, and metal parts. The situation was not anticipated and required techniques, equipment, and time not envisioned. The drillers spent additional time airlifting the loose debris from the well and had to fabricate at least three special "fishing" tools to extract the heavier concrete and metal items.

c. Third, approximately 250 feet of pump column was in well 14M01. This situation was not envisioned and required mobilization of heavy-duty hydraulic jacks. Finally, at about the 200 foot interval we encountered a metal blockage that had to be comminuted with specialized bits.

d. Whereas the original schedule called for a 7-week effort, it took over 2.5 months to clear the blockages from 14M01 before closure could begin. Fortunately, well 14M02 did not present the same problems.

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3. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, the point of contact is Commander,
Western Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (Attn: Mr. Stephen Chao,
Code 1813SC, (415) 244-2552).

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By direction

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1813SC, Admin. Record, 181, 1813, 1813PK, 09CPB
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File: MOFFETT/FFA