

5090
Ser 1842.1/6237
24 May 1996

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
Attn: Mr. James Nusrala, Project Manager
2101 Webster Street
Oakland, CA 94066

Subj: RWQCB LETTER 2119.1057 (JN), GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION TRENCH,
POINT MOLATE NAVAL FUEL DEPOT, RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Nusrala:

In the subject letter, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requests the status of the construction of a sampling port on the overflow pipe of the groundwater extraction trench; and data regarding tightness and integrity of Tanks 20 and E, or any other tanks that may be used to replace the function of Tanks 20 and E. Engineering Field Activity (EFA) West's response to RWQCB is as follows:

- a) As indicated during our previous phone conversations, the sampling port will be installed as soon as funding is provided for Point Molate. The installation will be included with the Package Water Treatment Project.
- b) Due to the RWQCB concern about the effects of the tank cleaning residuals, the Navy has ceased using Tank 20 as the contingency storage tank for the extraction trench. Tank 1 has replaced Tank 20 for this function. The previously provided Storage Tank Testing Report dated February 1996 provides the requested integrity for Tank 1.
- c) The tests on Tank 20 were inconclusive to prove tightness due to the non-homogeneous mixture in the tank and the inability to isolate the tank from other parts of the fuel oil recovery system. The tank is of the same construction (concrete), age condition as the 17 tanks that were successfully tested in the above report; and the Navy has no reason to believe that it is leaking. This issue may be moot as the Navy intends to empty, clean and remove this tank from service in the next 3 months. There is no known system that can be used to effectively test this tank for tightness and the test would not occur before the tank was removed from service anyway.
- d) Tank E is a steel aboveground tank on a concrete base and is fully bermed. The tank is inspected daily and leaks would be observable as it is an aboveground tank. Our daily inspections reveal no evidence of leaks.

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Should you have any questions on the tanks, please contact Mr. Larry Lind at (415) 244- 2527 and contact me at (415) 244-2743 on any questions regarding the sampling port.

Sincerely,
Original signed by:

ELDON JEMTRUD
Manager, Non BRAC Closure Bases

Copy to:

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (Attn: Randy Adams)
US Environmental Protection Agency (Attn: Phillip Ramsey)
Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Oakland (Attn: Dick Hegarty)
Manager's Office, City of Richmond (Attn: Tom Cowlings)
PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (Attn: Jeff Reichmuth)

Blind copy:

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File: NFD Point Molate