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FINAL

December 22, 1994

The Honorable Peter King
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3203

Dear Mr. King:

This is in response to your letter of December 5, 1994 to the Honorable John Dalton, Secretary of the Navy, concerning the status and timetable for remediating contaminated soils at the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Bethpage, New York. You enclosed a letter dated November 18, 1994 from Councilman Leonard Kunzig, Town of Oyster Bay, New York, in which he expressed the opinion that the Navy should cleanup the soil to a residential land use standard versus the current industrial land use standard.

On November 15, 1994, the Navy held a public meeting at Bethpage to solicit comments from the community regarding the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) to clean up soil contamination at NWIRP Bethpage. The cleanup will address soil contamination which has been discovered on four of the 108 acres which comprise NWIRP Bethpage and will not affect or restrict the residential potential of adjacent properties. At the meeting the Navy presented the PRAP which the Navy considers, and the state of New York concurs, is the remedial action which best balances the amount of site cleanup and the cost. The proposed remediation, using guidance issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will treat soil contaminants to concentrations which satisfy the standards for properties which will be used for industrial purposes. The cost of the proposed remediation is estimated to be \$11 million.

During the process of investigating possible soil treatment alternatives, the Navy considered three alternatives for treating the soil to the residential standards suggested by Mr. Kunzig. These alternatives were substantially more costly, varying in cost from \$43 million to \$106 million, without providing significantly higher levels of protection to human health or the environment.

Concerning the schedule for completing the soil cleanup at NWIRP, the Navy plans to complete major portions of the project, including soil excavation and installation of major treatment equipment, within the next three years.

We appreciate your interest in the cleanup of NWIRP Bethpage, New York. If you desire additional information concerning this matter, please contact Mr. James Colter, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command at (610) 595-0567, extension 163.

Sincerely,

JACK E. BUFFINGTON
Rear Admiral, CEC, U. S. Navy
Commander

Blind copy to:
SECNAVADMIN (4U012446)

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Facsimile Cover Sheet

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