

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



ROBERT J. GAFFNEY  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

N96095.AR.000388  
NWIRP CALVERTON NY  
5090.3a

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

CLARE B. BRADLEY, M.D., M.P.H.  
COMMISSIONER

November 12, 1999

Mr. James L. Colter  
Department of the Navy  
Northern Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
10 Industrial Highway  
Mail Stop #82  
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113-2090

Dear Mr. Colter:

Subject: 5090 Code 1821/JC  
Installation Restoration Program for NWIRP Calverton, New York  
Vacuum Assisted Oil Skimming Workplan

I have reviewed the material that you sent to Marsden Chen on the proposal for Vacuum Assisted Oil Skimming at the fire training area and the fuel calibration area.

I was somewhat dismayed to see that in the documents no consideration was made for the changing groundwater level. Reference was continually made to the air sparging/vapor extraction system Pilot Study performed by C. F. Braun in the fire training area as evidence that this type of system would work. They quoted significant increase in the depth of free product between July 1995 and September 1995 while the system was in operation as being evidence that the system was working. However, in fact, during that period of time the water table dropped 1.25 feet and probably accounted for most of the change in the thickness of floating product.

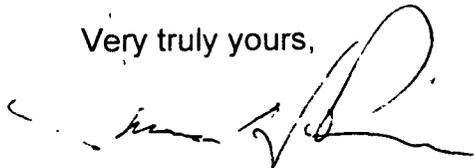
In addition, it was stated that after that time when the system was shut off, the floating product thickness again decreased. In fact, after September 1995, the water table rose again to its previous level, no doubt again obscuring the floating product layer.

The point of this discussion is that testing of the recovery system should be coordinated with groundwater level. It can be expected that when the groundwater table is high, there will be very little free product available for

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recovery but that when the water table drops, the maximum achievable recovery will be possible. If the position of the water table is not taken into consideration when tests are run, there will most certainly be inappropriate conclusions drawn from the test results. For maximum recovery, the test should be run when the water table is at its lowest possible level.

Very truly yours,



James H. Pim, P.E.  
Chief, Office of Water Resources

JHP/pd

cc. Mr. J. McCullough, NYSDEC (Albany)  
Mr. Stan Farkas, NYSDEC (Stony Brook)