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**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

May 8, 2000



**JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR**

**WAYNE MCDEVITT
SECRETARY**

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Mr. Lance Laughmiller
Atlantic Division of Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Code 18235
1510 Gilbert Street
Norfolk, VA 23511-2699

Subject: **Background Evaluation Report** (dated October 1999)
MCAS-Cherry Point, NC

Dear Mr. Laughmiller:

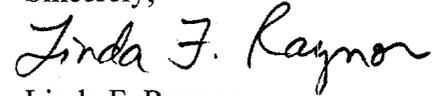
The North Carolina Superfund Section has reviewed the subject document. This document serves the intent of establishing background concentrations for metals in the soils at MCAS-Cherry Point for risk assessment screening purposes. Please note, however, that recommended procedures for establishing background concentrations for soils are currently being drafted by a committee within the Division's RCRA Section. The procedures recommended by the Division will differ somewhat from those used in the Background Evaluation Report, however, the statistical procedures and calculations used in this document are acceptable at this time.

Please also note that the following factors regarding background concentrations for soil and groundwater should be considered when evaluating site conditions:

1. Any metal in soil and groundwater that had a low frequency of detection should not be viewed as "naturally occurring background" or thought of as being "representative" or prominent across the air station since most of the samples collected from similar soil types did not contain that metal.
2. For groundwater, upgradient samples should always be collected during the investigation of a SWMU, Operable Unit or any contaminated site to determine current groundwater conditions. Since groundwater is not static, and the groundwater sample results presented in this document are dated, they should not be used to establish current background conditions. They may, however, be discussed in the risk assessment screening process.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919)
733-2801, extension 340.

Sincerely,



Linda F. Raynor
Environmental Engineer
NC Superfund Section

CC: Beth Hartzell
David May
Michelle Thornton
Dale McFarland
Greg Zimmerman
Taylor Sword
Doug Bitterman