



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

DW-8J

July 21, 2004

Ms. Christine Freeman
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Code RP3-11 B-3245
300 Highway 361
Crane, IN 47522-5001

Re: Southwest Labs Data Quality

Dear Ms. Freeman:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is writing in follow up to your email message forwarding information from Pace Analytical Services dated April 5, 2004. The letter identified potential issues with volatile organics analysis and closure of the Southwest Labs of Oklahoma facility. The Navy has since provided additional information on possibly affected U.S. EPA Corrective Action projects where Southwest Labs provided analytical support via email. However, there are still unresolved questions regarding affected data at certain Navy projects and we would like to get a formal summary of the issues raised for Navy projects.

We would like to know the suspected nature of the problem(s) leading to closure of the laboratory including an explanation of how data validity was manipulated, falsified, or compromised. This should include a detailed description of all affected sample groups and types, Crane project phases, and how quality control samples can be used to vouch for validity of data sets which should be retained. Ultimately, we need to know which samples are no longer regarded as valid or useable.

Please provide this information no later than August 20, 2004.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (312) 886-7890.

Sincerely,

Peter Ramanauskas
Environmental Scientist
WMB, Corrective Action Section

File name: C:\EPA\Work\PRAMANAUCrane\SWLO Issues Letter to Navy.wpd

cc: Bill Gates, SOUTHDIV
Doug Griffin, IDEM
Allen Debus, USEPA
Kevin Bolger, QA Core
Dennis Wesolowski, CRL