



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

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

September 29, 2005

DW-8J

Mr. Tom Brent
Naval Surface Warfare Center
EPD, Code 095 B-3260
300 Highway 361
Crane, IN 47522-5001

Re: Letter of Approval
Final RFI Report SWMUs #4, 5, 9, 10
July 2005

Dear Mr. Brent:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the Navy's Response to Comments and revised Final RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Report for Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) #4, 5, 9, 10 - McComish Gorge, Old Burn Pit, Pesticide Control/R-150 Tank Area, and Rockeye dated July 2005. Samples were collected and analyzed for SWMU specific chemical categories including metals/inorganics, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), semivolatile organic chemicals (SVOCs), energetics, pesticides, herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and dioxins/furans in soils, groundwater, surface water, and sediments. The RFI evaluated risks to human and ecological receptors from the detected chemicals.

SWMU 4 - McComish Gorge

Metals, Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), a herbicide, a pesticide, methylene chloride, and PCBs were retained as chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) in McComish Gorge soils. Metals were retained as COPCs in groundwater, surface water, and sediment.

McComish Gorge is an inactive site. The conclusions of the RFI show no current unacceptable risks to human health or ecological receptors. Non-carcinogenic risks are present to hypothetical future adult and child residents based on exposure to groundwater via ingestion. The risk is due to the presence of metals (iron, arsenic, manganese).

SWMU 5 - Old Burn Pit

Metals, PAHs, VOCs, PCBs, dioxins/furans, and pesticides/herbicides were retained as COPCs in soils. Metals, dioxins/furans, chloroform, and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate were retained as COPCs in groundwater. Metals and VOCs were retained as COPCs in surface water. Dioxins/furans and metals were retained as COPCs in sediment.

The Old Burn Pit is currently an inactive site. The conclusions of the RFI show non-carcinogenic risk to a construction worker (exposure to soil antimony) and carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic risks to hypothetical future adult and child residents (exposure to soil antimony and iron and ingestion of dioxins/furans and manganese in groundwater). The ecological risk assessment concluded that there may be some risk to plants and soil invertebrates from several inorganic constituents. Food chain modeling indicated the possibility of reproductive risk to mammals and birds from exposure to metals and dioxins.

The Navy plans to reuse a portion of the site in the near future and will present a revised risk assessment reflecting this anticipated land use in the upcoming Corrective Measures Study.

SWMU 9 - Pesticide Control/R-150 Tank Area

VOCs, Metals, PAHs, Pentachlorophenol, and PCB were retained as COPCs in soil. VOCs, Metals, and the pesticide dieldrin were retained as COPCs in groundwater. Antimony was retained as a COPC in surface water. PCB and metals were retained as COPCs in sediment.

The conclusions of the RFI show non-carcinogenic risk to hypothetical future adult and child residents from ingestion of groundwater (cis-1,2-dichloroethene, iron, manganese, nickel). Ecological risks were found to be negligible.

Since this report was prepared, the Navy discovered that the actual location of the former Building 55 was greater than 200 feet south of the original Building 55 sampling locations. Additional investigative work in this area is ongoing. The human health and ecological risk assessments will be prepared using the new data collected and will be presented in the CMS report prepared for this SWMU.

SWMU 10 - Rockeye

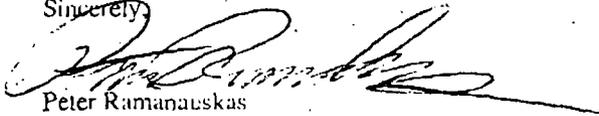
PAHs and explosives were retained as COPCs in soil. Explosives and metals were retained as COPCs in groundwater and surface water. Metals were retained as COPCs in sediment.

Rockeye is an active site. The conclusions of the RFI show non-carcinogenic risk to a construction worker (dermal contact with manganese in groundwater) and carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic risks to hypothetical future adult and child residents (ingestion of explosives, iron, manganese, and nickel in groundwater and dermal contact with manganese in groundwater). There are no unacceptable ecological risks.

The RFI report is approved. The Navy will prepare a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) in which multiple remedial alternatives for SWMU #4, 5, 9, and 10 media are evaluated. The selected remedies will ensure any risks to current and hypothetical future human or ecological receptors at the SWMUs are properly managed.

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

Sincerely,



Peter Ramanauskas
Environmental Scientist
RCRA Corrective Action Section

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cc: Bill Gates, SOUTHDIV
Doug Griffin, IDEM
Mario Mangino, U.S. EPA
Greg Czajkowski, U.S. EPA