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LETTER C

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TO U.S. Navy, Northern Division
10 Industrial Highway, Code 1823
Lester, PA 19113-2090

DATE August 4, 1994	JOB NO. 14300-N41-10
ATTENTION Mr. Franco LaGreca, P.E.	
RE: Additional Pages for McAllister Point Landfill Focused Feasibility Study	

WE ARE SENDING YOU Attached Under separate cover via _____ the following items:

- Shop drawings Prints Plans Samples Specifications
 Copy of letter Change order _____

COPIES	DATE	NO.	DESCRIPTION
5	undated		Double-sided pages to insert into the Draft Final Focused Feasibility Study. ← INSERTED INTO DRAFT FINAL FFS.
1	8/3/93	→	Preliminary Wetlands Assessment.
1	undated	→	Page 3 of Proposed Plan - has new location of public meeting, now at Joseph H. Gaudet School at 1113 Aquidneck Avenue in Middletown.

THESE ARE TRANSMITTED as checked below:

- For approval Approved as submitted Resubmit _____ copies for approval
 For your use Approved as noted Submit _____ copies for distribution
 As requested Returned for corrections Return _____ corrected prints
 For review and comment _____
 FOR BIDS DUE _____ 19 _____ PRINTS RETURNED AFTER LOAN TO US

REMARKS

Addendum to 8/3/93 FFS page inserts. These pages were inadvertently left out of that package.

c: J. Borrowy, NETC - 2x
A. Miniuks, EPA - 8x
P. Kulpa, RIDEM - 5x
T. Prior, USF&W - 1x

COPY TO _____

SIGNED: 

**PRELIMINARY WETLAND ASSESSMENT
MCALLISTER POINT LANDFILL**

**U.S. NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND**

Prepared for:

**TRC Environmental Corporation
5 Waterside Crossing
Windsor, Connecticut**

Prepared by:

**Menzie-Cura & Associates, Inc.
One Courthouse Lane
Suite 2
Chelmsford, Massachusetts**

August 1993

The purpose of the preliminary wetland reconnaissance on the McAllister Point Landfill was to determine those areas which might be regulated by the New England Division of the Army Corps of Engineers (NED-ACOE), the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI-DEM) and the Coastal Resources Management Council (RI-CRMC).

Menzie-Cura wetland ecologists visited the site on July 21, 1993 to flag freshwater wetlands on the landfill and note those coastal resources that would be regulated in the vicinity of the shoreline. Photographs were taken to document general characteristics of the upland, freshwater wetland, coastal bank, beach and shoreline resources/features of the site. Plant and animal species observed were recorded. Freshwater wetland areas were flagged according to the NED-ACOE Guidance for the Interpretation of Wetland Boundaries Using the 1987 Corps Manual in the Six New England States, dated September 9, 1991. Photographs were taken of upland and wetland plots along each NED-ACOE transect. Photographs and NED-ACOE documentation forms are not included in this preliminary discussion of site wetland resources.

General site topography slopes in a northeast to southwest direction. The eastern edge of the site is the Penn Central railroad bed. The western edge of the site along Narragansett Bay is a coastal bank that rises 10 to 15 feet above the beach shoreline. Above the coastal bank, elevations range from 32 to about 15 feet above Mean Low Water (MLW). The area of 100-year coastal flood in the vicinity of the site is 12 feet (N.G.V.D.) and wave action may reach 17 feet (N.V.G.D.) (F.E.M.A. Nation Flood Insurance Program map, Town of Middletown, Rhode Island, Newport County - Panel 1 of 3, revised April 17, 1984).

The majority of the landfill site is an upland mosaic of grass, Knapweed (Centaurea sp.) and Tansey (Tanacetum vulgare) meadow interspersed with shrub thickets of Multiflora Rose (Rosa multiflora), Autumn Olive (Elaeagnus umbellata), Bittersweet Vine (Celastrus sp.), Highbush Blackberry (Vaccinium atrococcum), and Staghorn Sumac (Rhus typhina). The site's flora is not very diverse, however, it provides good habitat for small mammals such as Eastern Cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus) and Meadow Vole (Microtus pennsylvanicus) both of which were sighted during the site reconnaissance. The cover and fruit produced by many of the species also provide good breeding and feeding habitat for bird species.

During periods of heavy rainfall surface water on the site ponds in three relatively small depressions in the north-central portion of the site. These areas are roughly sketched on the attached Figure. Numbers refer to wetland flag numbers. NED-ACOE transects were located at flag 5 in "isolated wetland 1" and flag 8 in "isolated wetland 2." "Isolated wetland 3" was only about 200 square feet and no transect data was generated. These depressions were predominantly vegetated with Common Reed (Phragmites australis) and some Soft Rush (Juncus effusus), and were surrounded by thickets of

Multiflora Rose and Autumn Olive. Surficial soils were the dark gray silt/clay of the landfill cap. At the time of the site visit the soil was moist in "isolated wetland 1" and dry in "isolated wetlands 2 and 3." Although these depressions provide some habitat diversity their value is limited by their relatively small size (from about 200 to 1,000 square feet), the temporary nature of any surface water, and the dominance of Common Reed, a species with low habitat value.

The NED-ACOE may choose to regulate these small man-induced wetlands as "Isolated Waters of the United States." On the other hand, these areas of wet meadow are too small (must be at least 1 acre) to be regulated by RI-DEM Division of Groundwater and Freshwater Wetlands.

The wetland resources of significance for the McAllister Point Landfill are the coastal resources along the western edge of the property. These include areas of coastal bank, dune and beach, and rocky shore. The coastal bank is steep and ranges from about 10 to 15 feet above the beach. Most of the coastal bank was vegetated except at the northern end where it is a nearly vertical wall with exposed slate. Common shrubs on the coastal bank included Bittersweet Vine, Beach Rose (*Rosa rugosa*), Multiflora Rose, and Autumn Olive. At the southwestern end of the shoreline, the beach substrate is a mix of sand, gravel, stone, shells, broken glass and asphalt above mean high water. Some of this area is covered by the dune vegetation, Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*), Beach Rose and American Beach Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*). The wrack line on the beach consisted of several algal species (e.g., Rockweeds, *Fucus* sp. and Bushy Red Weed (*Cystoclonium purpureum*) and Eel Grass (*Zostera marina*). Within the wrack were numerous Beach Fleas (*Orchestia* sp.), Whelk (*Busycon canaliculatum*) egg cases, Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) carapaces and signs of several other marine invertebrates that may inhabit the nearshore waters.

Below mean high water the substrate is rock and cobble with Hollow Green Weed (*Enteromorpha* sp.), and some Barnacles (*Balanus* sp.), Perwinkles (*Littorina littorea*) and Blue Mussels (*Modiolus modiolus*) attached to the rocks.

At high tide the beach is only about 10 feet in width while at low tide it may be as much as 50 feet in width.

Further north the coastal bank is armored with concrete rubble and the shoreline is littered with pieces of metal and concrete which makes walking hazardous. The most northerly portion of the shoreline is armored by rock rubble, and has less debris. The beach is mostly cobbles.

Work in this coastal portion of the site will require coordination with RI-CRMC and NED-ACOE.

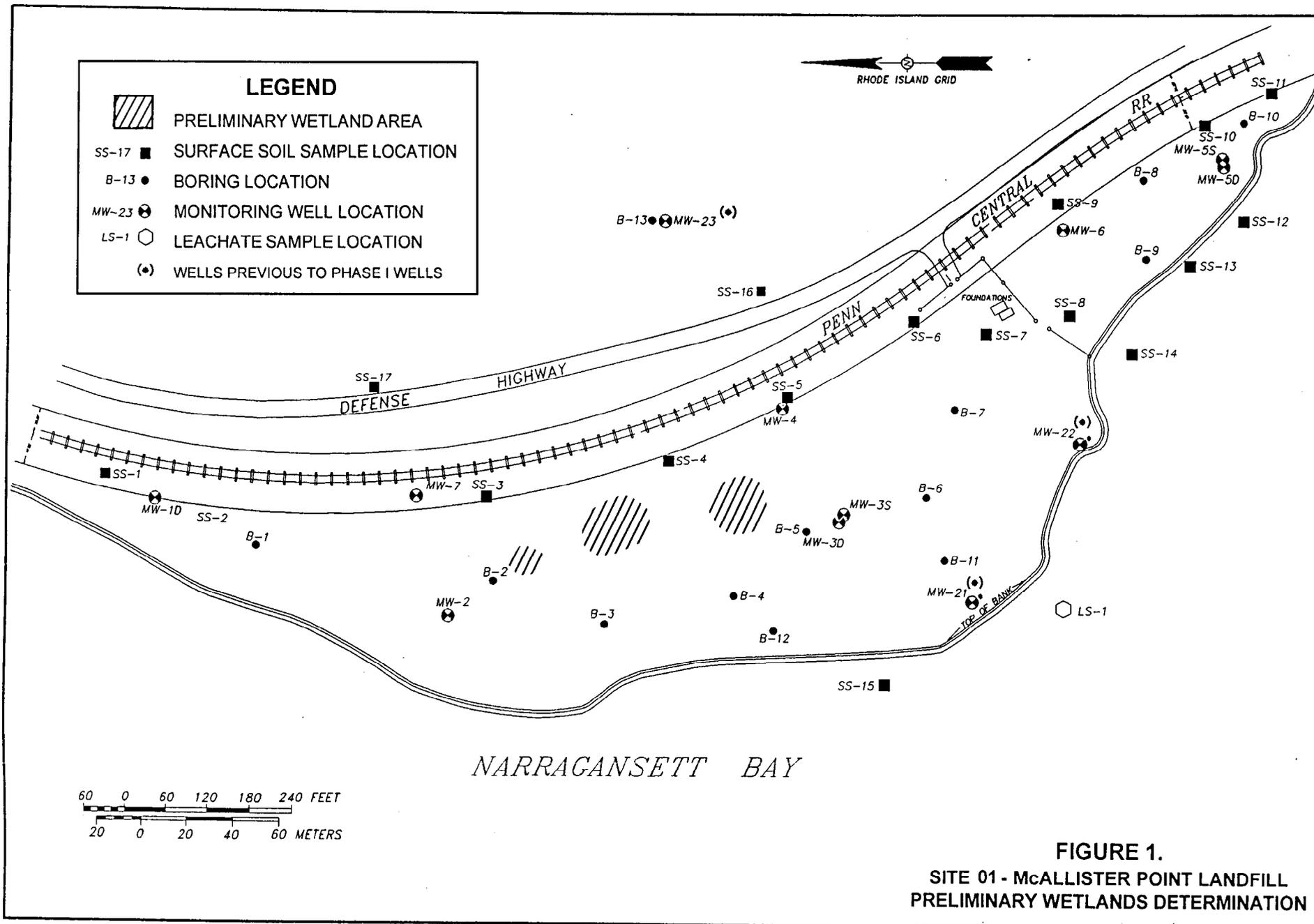


FIGURE 1.
SITE 01 - McALLISTER POINT LANDFILL
PRELIMINARY WETLANDS DETERMINATION