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Project Number 1703

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Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62472-90-D-1298
Contract Task Order No. 0173

Subject: Changes from EAB Meeting No. 4, June 28, 1995

Dear Ms. Carlson:

Summarized below are twelve points which were raised by the USEPA and RIDEM at the fourth EAB meeting held June 28, 1995. Some of these points constitute changes to the Draft Work Plan Addendum B, - Plan for Offshore Ecological Risk Assessment at Derecktor Shipyard. These changes must be evaluated before the Navy finalizes the scope of work for the execution of this Work Plan Addendum.

1. Two maps will be presented, one showing sample stations for sediment, and one showing sample stations for biota. Sample stations will be numbered sequentially, such that samples collected in 1993 are #1 - 12, samples collected in 1994 are #13 - 24, and samples to be collected in 1995 will be #25 - 41. In addition, the sample summary table will be broken down to describe corresponding sediment samples and biota samples and their analytes.
2. At the request of the regulatory parties, one additional mussel deployment was added to the "dead zone" for a total of 8 such deployments.
3. As a response to the written comments, one deep core (three sample depths: surface, intermediate and deep) was added to the dead zone. The RIDEM requested another additional surface sample in this area, for the full suite of parameters (sediment chemistry and toxicity), for a total of 17 sample stations (17 surface samples, 6 one-meter cores to analyze 2 depth intervals, for total of 29 sediment samples).
4. One question from the USEPA centered on the coverage of the biota samples projected, and the spatial distribution. Justification for the samples will be provided for biota sample stations in the same manner as is provided on Table B4-1 for the sediment sample stations. If coverage is lean in some areas, additional samples may be substituted from deperated samples suggested in the Draft Work Plan. Greg Tracy stated that he may contact S. Svirsky to discuss these changes.

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5. There were numerous objections from the RIDEM to the approach of measuring pathogens in sediments as a factor of risk to the system. After lengthy discussions it was decided to measure pathogens in deployed mussels only, instead of analyzing these pathogens in sediments at all stations. As a substitute for these analyses, it was decided to collect BOD and COD samples in the sediment water interface at the sediment stations where toxicity would be measured.
6. In an effort to provide comprehensive data on vertical extent of contamination, 15 vibra-core borings will be performed in the study area. Six of these borings will be a continuation of the 6 - one meter cores currently projected to be performed for chemical analysis. The remaining nine cores will be placed spatially to ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey. Samples from the vibra-core borings will be taken in two foot intervals and analyzed for TOC and Grain Size.
7. An elutriate test will be performed to determine the availability of contaminants to the receptors. Elutriate from surface sediment stations will be analyzed for metals, instead of performing this analysis on pore water. John King and Greg Tracy will investigate the possibility of testing SEM/AVS on this elutriate. This question will be resolved before the meeting minutes are issued in Draft to the Navy (July 11, 1995).
8. The target depth of surface box core samples was extended to 0-20 cm for all stations.
9. It was discussed that an additional diver - video survey might be performed in the "dead zone". The Navy will look into the possibilities of performing such a survey in conjunction with the field work this summer.
10. As a part of the hydrographic study, an additional ship track will be performed in the "dead zone" to determine flushing activity in this area.
11. There was discussion of whether to use mummichog (*Fundulus*) or "cunner" as a pelagic receptor of concern due to availability. It was agreed that *Fundulus* should be used if available.

As a side issue, the USEPA requested that the project team evaluate the possibility of performing tests for mixed function oxidase on the tissue of finfish to show effects to these receptors from PAH contamination. While this can be done for *Fundulus*, the project group agreed that it may not be advisable to try to do it for cunner due to a lack of available reference data. However, Greg Tracy stated that he would look into the issue further and report his findings as a part of the draft meeting minutes (July 11, 1995).

The group should be aware that the mixed function oxidase test is not currently included in Addendum B.



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12. A request was made to compare tissue residues with an organism direct effects database. This has been attempted as a part of the Allen Harbor project, with little practical success. The group decided to follow the approach stated in the work plan, which is to compare the tissue concentrations found with the effects documented in available literature for the COCs at the site. In addition, obvious lesions, tumors and abnormalities will be documented and reported as appropriate.

The issues numbered 7, 9, and 11 (above) will be evaluated over the next week and results of these evaluations will be reflected in the Draft Minutes to the Meeting. The draft minutes will be delivered to the Navy on July 11. Additional discussions can be held at that time.

The Navy should bear in mind that since the field work described in Draft Addendum C for the OFFTA is on hold for the time being, and they do not wish to finalize that addendum at this time, it is advisable to terminate this CTO following the publication of the Final On Shore SASE Work Plan, currently projected for November 15, 1995. Termination of this project at that time will save unnecessary cost impacts for carrying costs incurred by HNUS and their subcontractors. When the Navy obtains funds for the work effort at OFFTA, the Draft Addendum C can be finalized and executed under one CTO.

Very truly yours,



Stephen S. Parker
Project Manager

SSP/ib

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