



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-0001

February 24, 1997

James Shafer, Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Northern Division
10 Industrial Highway
Code 1823, Mail Stop 82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Re: Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act

Dear Mr. Shafer:

At the Restoration Advisory Board meeting on January 15, 1997, Dr. D.K. Abass of the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project indicated that there are known historic shipwrecks in the vicinity of several study areas at the Naval Education and Training Center in Newport, RI. More specifically, the revolutionary warship, Juno, is known to be in the area.

Owing to the sensitivity of the area for discovery of historic shipwrecks, the Navy must comply with the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA"). The NHPA directs federal agencies to comply with cultural resource issues. In particular, a Cultural Resource Survey (Stage 1A) should be started soon. Typically, a Stage 1A includes a literature search and a sensitivity study. This survey should evaluate the current situation and make recommendations for future work.

The McAllister Point Landfill, the former Derecktor Shipyard, and the Old Fire Fighter Training Area should all be evaluated through a Stage 1A survey. EPA can assist you during the development of the Stage 1A.

Since Dr. Abass has made us aware of the sensitivity of this area to the presence of historic shipwrecks, I believe that we should investigate cultural resource issues early in the cleanup process in order to minimize impacts to any historic vessels and avoid unnecessary delays in environmental cleanup activities. I look forward to working with you on cultural resource issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 573-5777 should wish to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,


Kimberlee Keckler, Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Superfund Section

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