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C-NAVY-8-99-1370W

August 3, 1999

Project Number 5278

Mr. Paul Kulpa
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Site Remediation
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Subject: Response Comments on the Draft Human Health Risk Assessment Report
For Recreational Use, Old Fire Fighting Training Area/Katy Field,
Naval Station Newport, Newport, Rhode Island

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62472-90-D-1298
Contract Task Order 0218

Dear Mr. Kulpa:

The Navy has reviewed the comments provided by RIDEM on the draft Human Health Risk Assessment Report (HHRA) for Recreational Use of the Old Fire Fighting Training Area/Katy Field. The Navy understands that RIDEM typically uses an unrestricted exposure scenario to evaluate human health risks at recreational areas. However, the subject HHRA was prepared to evaluate the potential human health risks associated with the continued use of the site in a manner similar to that in which it was used in the past. The exposure scenarios evaluated in the report were developed based on site-specific information gathered from interviews of base personnel and members of the community who have used the site for recreation. The exposure parameters used in the HHRA were agreed to by the Navy, EPA, RIDEM, and other parties at the January 13, 1999 meeting held at Naval Station Newport.

As stated previously, the Navy intends to complete a comprehensive HHRA that will include an unrestricted residential exposure scenario. The comprehensive HHRA will be included in the Remedial Investion (RI) report for the site which is scheduled for submittal in January 2000.

In the interest of moving forward with the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process, the Navy proposes to incorporate the draft HHRA for Recreational Use of the Old Fire Fighting Training Area/Katy Field into the comprehensive HHRA that will be submitted with the RI report. This proposed delay in submittal of the final HHRA for recreational use of the field will not result in any increased risk to the public because the Navy has committed to keeping Katy Field closed until the RI/FS process is complete and any necessary remedial actions have been taken. At this time the Navy has not determined how the site will be used in the future.

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Please contact me or Jim Shafer of the Navy if you have any questions about this transmittal or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Diane K. McKenna
Project Manager

DM:rt

Enclosures

c: ~~J. Shafer~~ NORTHDIV
M. Griffin, NavSta
K. Keckler, EPA
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File 5278-8.0/5278-3.2