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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.
National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
Assessment and Restoration Division
c/o EPA Office of Site Remediation and Restoration (HIO)
1 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02114
17 January 2007

Mr. Curtis Frye
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic
9742 Maryland Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23511-3095

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Dear Curtis:

Thank you for the Workplan for Non-Time Critical Removal Action at the Old Fire Fighting Training Area, NAVSTA, Newport, RI, January 2007. Because this plan focuses on the soil removal at the OFFTA, NOAA normally would not comment; however, the revetment plans result in some questions.

Section 1.2 (Project Objectives) states that the second of two objectives is to construct a stone revetment along the shoreline to prevent erosion. But the document provides little information pertaining to this objective. For example, Section 5.0, Removal Overview provides possibly only one sentence concerning the effort. Section 7.0, Remedial Construction provides no information with regard to the revetment. Most importantly to NOAA is Section 9.0, Sampling Activities, that fails to mention any confirmation sampling below the rocks of the former revetment. NOAA believes such sampling is necessary to learn of any subtidal contamination currently hidden by the rocks of the damaged revetment that will become "visible" once those rocks are removed and replaced by a new revetment.

Please let me know if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Finkelstein, Ph.D

CC: Kimberly Keckler (EPA)
Bart Hoskins (EPA)