



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND, MID-ATLANTIC
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NORFOLK, VA 23511-3095

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IN REPLY REFER TO

15/OPNEEV4/6031

JAN 11 2007

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1 Congress Street
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Boston MA 02114-2023

Paul Kulpa
State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
Providence RI 02908-5767

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Dear Ms. Keckler & Mr. Kulpa

Subject: PROPOSED ADDITION OF A NEW STUDY AREA, FEDERAL FACILITY
AGREEMENT – NAVAL STATION (NAVSTA) NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

In accordance with Article XXXI of the Federal Facility Agreement for NAVSTA Newport, the Navy is hereby providing notification as to the discovery of a release of a hazardous substance at the Melville Water Tower property, located on West Main Road in Portsmouth, Rhode Island adjacent to the Melville School. The Melville Water Tower is part of Naval Station Newport property.

Initial evidence of the potential release of lead into soils was first reported to the Navy in a letter dated March 29, 2006 from the State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Office of Waste Management to NAVSTA Newport's Environmental Protection Office (attached).

It is the Navy's understanding that uncontrolled or partially controlled abatement of lead based paint occurred at this site at various points between 1943 and 1992, which likely resulted in the deposition of lead paint chips and associated dust to the ground surface under the tower. As stated in RIDEM's March 29, 2006 letter, screening analysis of soil samples using an X-Ray Florescent (XRF) device indicated the presence of lead in soils within the fenced area under the tower at concentrations of up to 28,854 mg/kg, and at concentrations of up to 1,053 mg/kg in soils located outside of the fenced area. By reviewing RIDEM's data, it appears that concentrations of lead in soil decrease as the distance from the tower increases. The Navy is providing a RIDEM Notification Form, also attached to this letter, which provides a succinct description of the discovery. Therefore, the Navy is using this form as a matter of convenience.

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As an interim measure and to immediately respond to this concern, the Navy installed a fence around the entire perimeter of the Navy-owned property in order to eliminate contact with this area from students from the adjacent school. The Navy also took other additional abatement actions immediately after issuance of RIDEM's letter.

As of the date of this letter, the Navy has also completed demolition of the water tower due to unacceptable structural deficiencies, developed a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) in order to determine whether or not an actual release of lead to soils had occurred, and implemented the SAP. Copies of the SAP were provided to RIDEM for review and to USEPA for information.

The results from implementation of the SAP were provided to the Navy by our environmental consultant, Tetra Tech NUS, in a letter to NAVFAC Mid Atlantic's Remedial Project Manger (RPM) dated November 21, 2006, and confirmed the presence of lead in both surface and subsurface soils. These results were forwarded to RIDEM and USEPA electronically on the same date. Based on these results, the Navy is adding this site to NAVSTA Newport's Installation Restoration (IR) Program and will reference this site as IR Site 21 - Melville Water Tower.

The SAP and the subsequent Letter of Results are to be considered as the Study Area Screening Evaluation (SASE) Workplan and SASE Report, respectively. Issuance of these documents satisfies the reporting requirements provided in Sections 31.4 through 31.7 of NAVSTA Newport's FFA.

If you would like to discuss this issue further, you can contact me by phone at (757) 444-4217 or by email at james.colter@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



JAMES L. COLTER, P.E.
Remedial Project Manager
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosures

Copy to: (w/o enclosures)
NAVSTA Newport, Cornelia Mueller
TtNUS, Steve Parker
Administrative Record