

Department of Health

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Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov



June 21, 2007

Captain Todd W. Malloy
Commanding Officer
Naval Station Newport
690 Peary Street
Newport, RI 02841

Dear Captain Malloy:

The RI Department of Health appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Navy's proposed cleanup plan for site of the former Melville Water Tower. The RI Department of Health has two primary concerns;

1. The Navy is inconsistent in its approach to addressing hazards associated with arsenic, cadmium and chromium compared to the hazards associated with lead. The Plan calls for removal of soil until lead levels reach residential standards. Confirmatory testing needs to include cadmium, chromium and arsenic. This is the best way to demonstrate that the cleanup is complete. Note that there are site-specific methods for addressing the possibility that confirmatory samples show acceptable levels for lead, cadmium and chromium and elevated background levels of arsenic.
2. An area adjacent to the road with high lead levels is being excluded from the cleanup. Given the admission that this area is downwind of the water tower, it seems reasonable to simply include this area in the cleanup area. Limiting the confirmatory testing is also reasonable, given that only lead levels were elevated.

The RI Department of Health commends the Navy for its efforts to keep the community informed, even to the extent of going door-to-door to inform those closest to the site. We encourage the Navy to continue this commitment to community notification.

I'd be happy to answer any questions. Please call me at (401) 222-7766.

Sincerely,

Robert Vanderslice, PhD
Healthy Environment Team Leader

CC: Rosemary DeMitre, Env. Lead Program Manager, RI Dept of Health
Paul Kulpa, RI Department of Environmental Management
✓ Cornelia Mueller, Naval Station Newport

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