



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

July 25, 2002

Mark Evans, 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: Round 10 Groundwater Monitoring Report for the Area A Landfill

Dear Mr. Evans:

EPA reviewed the *Round 10 Groundwater Monitoring Report for Area A Landfill*, dated June 2002 in light of conformance to the Groundwater Monitoring Plan [1], completeness of the execution and presentation, and any indications of anomalous or unexpected contaminant trends. The report provides a brief review of the site history and documents groundwater analyses based on sampling performed in March 2001. Interpretation of the results is deferred until the next Annual Report. Detailed comments are provided in Attachment A.

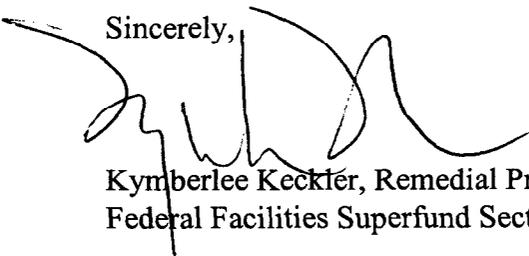
The field and analytical activities summarized in the Groundwater Monitoring Report (GMR) generally follow the Groundwater Monitoring Plan [1]. Exceptions include the omission of four surface water samples and the corresponding surface-water level measurements owing to lack of water at the planned sample locations. All water levels at staff gauges were regarded as suspect, and were not used in contouring the potential surface.

Qualitative review of the data indicates that Round 10 results are generally consistent with past monitoring rounds. There are no detections of VOCs, pesticides, or PCBs. Minor detections of SVOCs were found in groundwater and surface water, consistent with past rounds. Arsenic in groundwater continues to be the most persistent and widespread contaminant of concern in exceedance of primary monitoring criteria; the maximum detected in filtered samples is 38 micrograms per liter (compare to the primary monitoring criterion of 4 micrograms per liter).

Consistent with past observations, the elevated arsenic is associated with highly reducing conditions (ORP ranging from -446 to -124 mV in wells showing As exceedances) and high iron concentrations. An exception to the latter is the filtered sample from 2WMW46DS, which shows the highest arsenic analyzed (38 micrograms per liter) and relatively low iron (42.2 micrograms per liter).

I look forward to working with you and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to protect the environs of the Area A Landfill. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 918-1385 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kymberlee Keckler, Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Superfund Section

Attachment

cc: Mark Lewis, CTDEP, Hartford, CT
Dick Conant, NSBNL, Groton, CT
Jennifer Stump, Gannett Fleming, Harrisburg, PA

ATTACHMENT A

<u>Page</u>	<u>Comment</u>
p. 2-1, §2.2	An anomalous water level at 2LMW20S observed in Round 9 does not appear again in Round 10. The potential surface as contoured in Figure 2-2 is as expected, and consistent with data collected before Round 9.
Appendix E, Table E-1	The ORP is slightly higher at most monitoring points in Round 10 than in Round 9. Round 9 had previously exhibited some of the lowest ORP readings since the initial round of monitoring, possibly owing to a very dry late summer and fall in 2001. In Round 10 (March 2002), ORP is more consistent with earlier rounds, likely because of recharge in late winter and early spring of 2002.

REFERENCE

- [1] Tetra Tech NUS, Inc., "Groundwater Monitoring Plan for Area A Landfill, Naval Submarine Base, New London, Groton, Connecticut," January 1999.