



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

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NSB NEW LONDON
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May 1, 2000

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

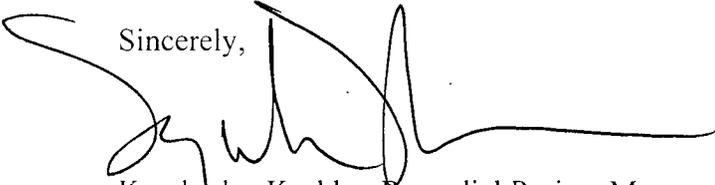
Re: Wetland Assessment Area A Downstream - Stream 5

Dear Mr. Evans:

EPA reviewed the Wetland Assessment Area A Downstream - Stream 5. EPA reviewed the document for technical sufficiency, adherence to EPA guidance and generally accepted practice. Detailed comments are provided in Attachment A.

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

Sincerely,



Kimberlee Keckler, Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Superfund Section

Attachment

cc: Mark Lewis, CTDEP, Hartford, CT
Darlene Ward, NSBNL, Groton, CT
Patti Lynne Tyler, USEPA, Lexington, MA
Jennifer Stump, Gannett Fleming, Harrisburg, PA

ATTACHMENT A

<u>Page</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Figure 1-1	The line for Stream 5 does not appear to properly coincide with topographic lines. Place the stream line so that it agrees with the contour lines, or place a note on the drawing that explains why the stream line is situated as shown.
Figure 1-1	Put a north arrow and a bar scale on the drawing.
§ 1.3, p. 1	Change “U.S. Geological Service Topographic quadrangle” to “U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle,” and provide the name and date of the quadrangle.
§ 2.0, p. 1	Specify the dates of the delineation field work, (already shown in section 1.1). Explain why the field work was not performed within the growing season, and how the various parameters and indicators were evaluated due to this schedule.
§ 2.0, p. 1	Benjamin Scholl and Kevin Prestage are named as the on-site investigators, but J. Fischl and T. Fowler are shown as investigators on two of the three field data sheets. The text should be corrected or explain this discrepancy.
§ 2.0, p. 3	The final sentence of the first paragraph makes reference to “narrow flats.” Use “narrow flat” or the word “area” to simplify.
§ 2.0, p. 3	On areas less than or equal to five acres, the routine, onsite method does not involve the use of transects. Repword the methods to indicate that three data point locations were selected to represent the vegetative community within the study area.
§ 3.1, p. 3	Indicate if water was recorded in the shovel pits/auger holes. This is an important visual indicator to record and report if available.
§ 3.2, p. 3	The second paragraph should be re-arranged so that the surface horizon is described first. The data sheets for data points 1 and 3 do not agree with the second paragraph. Change the text to agree with the data sheets.
§ 3.3, p. 4	The second paragraph notes that “the sapling stratum was under-represented,” but later states that <i>Rubus idaeus</i> “dominated the relatively dense shrub layer.” This discrepancy should be corrected and the text should be made consistent.
§ 3.3, p. 4	Unless one of the purposes of the field review was to search for protected species, remove the first sentence of the final paragraph. If protected species searches were

part of the scope, add a detailed description of the methods and agency correspondence.

Appendix B The data sheets are not from the 1987 U.S. Army Corps Manual. Add a statement to Section 2.0 that indicates the use of these data sheets rather than the 1987 Manual data sheets.