



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



May 12, 1993

Ms. Deborah Stockdale
Environmental Restoration Branch
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Way (Mail Stop 82)
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113-2090

Re: Action Memorandum, Naval Submarine Base New London (NSBNL)
Building 31

Dear Ms. Stockdale:

In a letter dated April 16, 1993 staff of the Permitting, Enforcement and Remediation Division of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) provided comments pertaining to the document titled "Action Memorandum for Building 31, Naval Submarine Base New London" (Action Memo), dated April 1993. The Action Memo was prepared by Halliburton NUS Corporation for the Northern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NORTHDIV).

The Action Memo details the Navy's proposed remedial measures to be implemented at Building 31 at the Naval Submarine Base New London (NSBNL). It is our understanding that the proposed remedial measures would consist of excavating contaminated soil, mixing the soil with a cementitious material and placing the soil/cement mixture in the excavation within the confines of the building. In areas where utility lines will be located, excavated soil will be removed from the site and properly disposed.

The April 16, 1993 letter identified two major concerns with the removal action planned for Building 31: (1) the durability of solidified soil within a tidally influenced subsurface environment, and (2) the proposed cleanup standard and leachability performance standard for the solidified soil. In an attempt to resolve these issues NORTHDIV submitted the document titled "Response to CTDEP Comments, Action Memorandum for Building 31" ("Response") dated April 27, 1993, and convened a telephone conference call on May 3, 1993.

It is our understanding that NORTHDIV will address the durability issues during the design phase of the project. Specifically, NORTHDIV has proposed to identify design criteria and performance standards within a design document that will be submitted to the CTDEP and EPA for review. The State will reserve final comment on the viability of solidification technology at Building 31 until the design details are reviewed.

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The cleanup standard and leachability performance standard issues were not resolved during the conference call of May 3, 1993 or in NORTHDIV's Response. In the Response, however, NORTHDIV questioned if the State's cleanup level was an applicable or relevant and appropriate requirement (ARAR). The State believes that a soil cleanup and solidified soil leachability performance standard of 15 ppb, based on the toxicity characteristic leaching procedure, should be considered an ARAR (Please note, the cleanup standard identified in the State's April 16, 1993 letter was incorrectly identified as 50 ppb based on TCLP). The State's promulgated Drinking Water Standard of 15 ppb should be considered the maximum leachable concentration of lead that can exist within soil, or solidified soil. Our specific reasoning and justifications are provided below.

The State's position regarding cleanup levels and leachability performance standards are contained in the third paragraph of the April 16, 1993 letter which stated:

"Connecticut's standards for leaving contaminated soil in place require that, based on the results of a toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP) analysis, the TCLP leachate not exceed drinking water standards. In addition, the State's promulgated Water Quality Standards prohibit the placement of materials in GA goal groundwater areas that could be a source of pollution to those groundwaters."

The State's Water Quality Standards (WQS), adopted pursuant to section 22a-426 of the Connecticut General Statutes, have been consistently considered an ARAR at federal Superfund sites throughout Connecticut, including the Naval Submarine Base, New London (see Phase I Remedial Investigation Report) and are consistently applied at remedial projects overseen by the State. Further, a precedent has been established to tailor treatment systems and limit the impact of discharges to conform to Connecticut's WQS. Listed below are a few examples of how WQS have been applied at federal Superfund Sites in Connecticut:

1) Yaworski Lagoon, Canterbury

applicability: chemical, location, and action specific
ARAR

synopsis: "discharges to surface water and groundwater must not degrade the designated quality of the water."
(chemical)

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"criteria must be incorporated into alternatives potentially impacting the [Quinebaug] river." (location)

"If reasonable controls or best management practice is required, treatment facilities and discharges must meet these requirements." (action)

2) Linemaster Switch, Woodstock

applicability: Chemical specific ARAR

synopsis: "chemicals released to surface water and groundwater must not degrade the designated quality of the water."

3) Solvents Recovery Services of New England, Southington

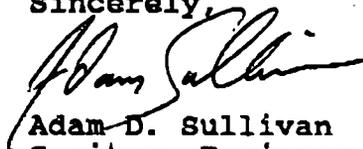
applicability: Action specific ARAR

synopsis: "discharges to surface waters shall be treated to ensure that there are no violations of the WQS."

By not removing soil with leachable concentrations of lead in excess of drinking water standards, and by placing solidified soil which could potentially contain leachable levels of lead well above drinking water standards, a source of pollution to the waters of th State will be maintained and possibly created. As proposed, this action may violate Connecticut's WQS's. The Navy must adhere to the 15ppb (TCLP) cleanup level for soil and 15 ppb (TCLP) leachability performance standard for solidified soil to ensure compliance with the WQS's - an ARAR.

If you have any questions please contact me at 566-5486.

Sincerely,



Adam D. Sullivan
Sanitary Engineer II
Permitting, Enforcement and
Remediation Division
Bureau of Water Management

cc: William Mansfield, NSBNL
Carol Keating, USEPA
John Looney, Office of the Attorney General