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JUL 17 1990

The Honorable Owen B. Pickett  
Member, United States House of Representatives  
815 Federal Building  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Mr. Pickett:

This letter is in response to your letter of June 28, 1990 which expressed the concerns of Mr. Roger Feltz of the Glenwood Park Civic Club. Mr. Feltz asked for more information on five existing sites and requested a list of all landfill remediations on Naval Base, Norfolk. These sites are part of the Navy Installation Restoration program.

The Installation Restoration program, which is similar to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program, evaluates sites where hazardous materials may have been used, spilled, or disposed of in the past. Although these past practices were the accepted methods of disposal at the time, more recent information on the fates of these chemicals in the environment has prompted us to take a closer look at potentially-contaminated sites.

The Installation Restoration program is a three-phase process. The first phase, Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation, identifies potential sites and performs initial sampling to determine if contamination exists. The second phase, Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, determines the extent of the contamination, evaluates the risk to humans and the environment, and performs an analysis of alternatives for cleaning up the site. The third phase is the actual site remediation. This procedure is mandated by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. Funding for the Department of Defense Installation Restoration program is specifically allocated by Congress. Funds are allocated DoD wide on a worst-site, first-priority basis.

The first phase of the Installation Restoration program identified 18 potentially contaminated sites on the Naval Base with regard to contamination characteristics, migration pathways and pollutant receptors. These 18 sites were identified based on information from historical records, aerial photographs, field inspections and personnel interviews. The study concluded that none of the sites posed an immediate threat to human health or the environment; however, six sites warranted further investigation. Thus, the following six sites were further studied through a Remedial Investigation: Camp Allen Landfill, Q Area Drum Storage Yard, Transformer Storage Area, Slag Pile, Pesticide Disposal Site and the CD Landfill. A map of these sites is enclosed.

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An additional site, Buildings V-60/V-90, was later added to the Installation Restoration program. As stated in Mr. Feltz's letter, we briefed the Glenwood Park Civic Club on this site and our ongoing cleanup actions in a May 29, 1990 meeting.

At the Civic Club meeting, citizens expressed concerns over the Camp Allen landfill and the CD landfill. The Camp Allen landfill, encompassing an area of 45 acres, was used for the disposal of wastes generated by the Naval Base from the early 1940s until about 1974. Incinerator ash, power plant ash, industrial sludges, overage chemicals, solvents, acids, caustics, paints, pesticides, asbestos, scrap metal, and construction and demolition debris were disposed in this landfill. The majority of the Camp Allen landfill is currently covered with grass and a brig and a heliport have been constructed over a portion of the landfill.

The CD landfill, thirteen acres in size, has been used for the disposal of mainly nonputrescible, nonhazardous materials from 1974 until 1987. Mostly construction and disposal debris and ash from the salvage fuel boiler and power plant have been disposed in this landfill. However, an estimated maximum of 1,500 cubic yards of sandblasting dust contaminated with cadmium was also landfilled.

In regard to objects being buried at the CD landfill, the landfill is currently inactive; thus, nothing is presently being buried there. We believe that Mr. Feltz is referring to an incident which took place at the landfill during daylight hours in the winter of 1986. Thirty-seven drums and seven metal containers were disposed there which contained dirt, stone, steel and inert materials, none of which is hazardous. Based on our knowledge, this is the only incident of this type which has occurred.

The Remedial Investigation commenced at the Naval Base Norfolk in 1983. Analysis of samples taken from the Camp Allen landfill has shown localized contamination of the shallow ground water and identified organic constituents in an adjacent surface drainage ditch. Analysis of samples taken from the CD landfill area indicate that the sediment in drainage ditches around the site contains cadmium. Additional samples are required to determine the extent of contamination at both sites. Neither site is believed to pose a threat to human health.

The Navy will take cleanup actions based on the finding of our Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and will incorporate comments by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Virginia Department of Waste Management. Both agencies, along with representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, City of Norfolk, and the community serve on a Technical Review Committee which is given the opportunity to review and comment on all documents, including conclusions and recommendations, produced as part of the Installation Restoration effort.

Site-specific maps, all reports produced to date, and background information on the Installation Restoration program is available for review by the public at the Mary Pretlow branch library in the East Ocean View section of Norfolk,

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the Naval Air Station branch library in Building U-16 and the Larchmont branch library on Hampton Boulevard in Norfolk. Information on the V-60/V-90 site is contained in the first two libraries listed and in the Naval Aviation Depot Civilian Personnel Office, Building U-69, Naval Air Station, Norfolk.

Additional information on this matter is available from Mr. Seamus O'Boyle of our Public Affairs Office at 444-2163.

I hope this information is helpful in responding to Mr. Feltz's concerns.

Sincerely,

K. L. CARLSEN  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Encl: (1) Map of Installation Restoration sites



NORFOLK NAVAL BASE

INSTALLATION RESTORATION SITES

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