



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NORTHERN DIVISION  
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND  
10 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY  
MAIL STOP, #82  
LESTER, PA 19113-2090

IN REPLY REFER TO

5090  
Ser 1886/1823/FL

MAY 27 1993

Ms Kristen Fadden  
Public Affairs Office  
U.S. EPA Region I  
JFK Federal Building  
Boston, MA. 02203-2211

Re: NAVY COMMENTS ON EPA'S PROPOSED PUBLIC RELEASE ARTICLE FOR  
THE EPA PROPOSED FOUR NEW ENGLAND SITES TO SUPERFUND  
NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

Dear Ms. Fadden:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft EPA Proposed Public Release Article for the four proposed New England sites. I have asked my RPMS in union with the proposed installations' personnel to review the EPA draft article and provide me with their comments. Comments on the three Navy proposed NPL sites are as follows:

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine

It is recommended that the following paragraphs be substituted for those in EPA's Draft Public Release.

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was established in 1800 on Seavey Island which is located in the Piscataqua River. In the past, the Shipyard was used for the construction of wooden ships then submarines for WWII, and now the shipyard overhauls modern submarines. More than 30 source areas in which hazardous wastes have been stored, deposited, spilled, and/or treated exist at the Shipyard.

Among the contaminants found at the site are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and heavy metals (like chromium, lead, cadmium). Resources potentially threatened by past waste handling practices at the Shipyard include tidal wetlands bordering Seavey Island; groundwater on Seavey Island near the Jamaica Island Landfill; and the Piscataqua River. Results just released of the initial phase of the ongoing estuary study as part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) EPA Corrective Action Permit have identified and assessed the contaminants of concern and important ecological resources in the lower part of the estuary.



This phase I report indicates that the contaminant levels are below U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) action levels for fish and shellfish and that no widespread toxicological impacts are seen, although there is some evidence of ecological stress.

The POC for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is Jim Tayon, Environmental Affairs-121.5, Portsmouth, NH. 03804-5000, Phone (207) 438-3832, Fax (207) 438-1535/3526.

Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant, Bedford, Massachusetts  
It is recommended that the following paragraphs be substituted for those in EPA's Draft Public Release.

The Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) is located in the Town of Bedford along Hartwell Road. NWIRP Bedford is a government-owned and contractor-operated (GOCO) activity with Raytheon Corporation as the operator. The facility is a 45.65 acre site which was constructed in 1952 as a facility for the design, fabrication, and testing of prototype weapons equipment, such as missile guidance and control systems. Waste generation at NWIRP Bedford has resulted from laboratory research, electroplating operations, and vehicle and aircraft maintenance. Contaminants found at the site include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum products, waste paints, solvents, and thinners.

The chief concern at NWIRP is the potential threat to area groundwater resources. The Navy has determined that volatile organic compounds (VOC) were widely distributed in groundwater across the site and is presently designing a Short-Term Remedial Measure (STM). The STM will contain groundwater migrating from the northwest area of NWIRP Bedford, the area with the highest levels of groundwater contamination. The STM will abate and prevent existing or potential VOC contamination of drinking water supplies and environmentally sensitive areas.

The POC for Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant, Bedford, MA. is Art Mathers, Public Affairs Officer, Lester, PA. 19113-2090, Phone (215) 595-0613, Fax (215) 595-0555.

South Weymouth Naval Air Station, South Weymouth, Massachusetts  
The following suggestions are made to the three EPA paragraphs:

First paragraph - accurate, except NAS occupies 1442 acres.

In the second paragraph, the Navy suggests that the Coast Guard buoy maintenance area and the 12 PCB transformers be removed from the list of on-site potential sources of contamination. The Navy feels EPA should restrict statements only to those areas that have at least some data to suggest that they may be potential sources of on-site contamination. These two sites are not IR sites. The PCB transformers are in complete compliance with current federal and state laws, are inspected regularly, and non-IR investigations have revealed no evidence to suggest that they

have ever leaked. The Navy is finishing the design plans and specifications to remove all remaining PCB items from the station this year.

In the third paragraph, the Navy suggests the following sentence be added to the end of the paragraph as completed IR investigations affirm that "At this time, none of the drinking water in the area appears to have been affected by the Naval Air Station IR sites."

The POC for Naval Air Station, South Weymouth, MA. is LT Jerry Innella, Public Affairs Officer, South Weymouth, MA. 02190-5000, Phone (617) 786-2607, Fax (617) 786-2948.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (215) 595-0567.

Sincerely,

*F. A. La Greca.*

F. A. LA GRECA  
Head, Restoration Management Section "B"  
By direction of the Commanding Officer

Copy to:  
NSY Portsmouth (Code 121)  
NAVSEA Pomona (Code 55)  
NAS South Weymouth (Code 00, 80)

Internal copy:

1823

1823DC/

1823MK

New England Team Leader, C1