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LETTER REGARDING U S EPA REGION I GRANTING A TIME EXTENSION TO THE U S
NAVY ON THE OPERABLE UNIT 3 (OU 3) RECORD OF DECISION NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
6/18/2001
U S EPA REGION I



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

June 18, 2001

Mr. Fred Evans
Department of the Navy
Northern Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Hwy., Mail Stop #82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Re: Request for Time Extension on the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 3
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Kittery, Maine

Dear Mr. Evans:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the Department of the Navy's request for a time extension for submittal of the Operable Unit 3 draft final Record of Decision (ROD) for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS). The Navy's request is made pursuant to Section XIII, Extensions, of the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The Navy's request was submitted to EPA in a letter dated June 6, 2001.

The Navy requests that the deadline for submission of the draft final ROD be changed from June 15, 2001 to July 6, 2001. This represents a time extension of 21 calendar days for submittal of the draft final OU3 ROD.

As indicated in your letter, the Navy believes that the additional time is necessary in order to allow the Navy to prepare responses to the large number of comments received on the draft ROD. EPA notes that the majority of the comments were related to the Responsiveness Summary. EPA believes that the requested time extension is warranted and will allow the Navy adequate time to provide additional information in response to the comments raised. Improving the Responsiveness Summary will provide a means of clarifying and documenting information to the public.

Based on the information provided, EPA believes that the Navy has shown that good cause exists to justify a time extension. Therefore, EPA believes that the schedule should be adjusted accordingly.

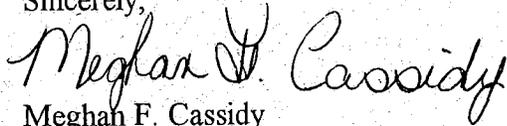
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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (617)918-1387.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meghan F. Cassidy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Meghan F. Cassidy

Remedial Project Manager

cc: Marty Raymond/PNS
Iver McLeod/ME DEP
Carolyn Lepage/Lepage Environmental
RAB Members
Mary Sanderson/EPA
Betsy Mason/EPA