



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

N00102.AR.000704
NSY PORTSMOUTH
5090.3a

July 15, 1999

Mr. Fred Evans
Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Northern Division
10 Industrial Hwy., Mail Stop #82
Lester, PA 19112-2090

Re: Response to Comment Letter
Draft Site Screening Report
Sites 30 (Building 184), 31 (West Timber Basin) and 32 (Topeka Pier)
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Kittery, Maine

Dear Fred:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Navy's response to comment letter on the Draft Site Screening Report for Sites 30 (Building 184), 31 (West Timber Basin) and 32 (Topeka Pier) at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. The responses provided by the Navy pertain to EPA's comments dated April 12, 1999.

EPA has the following comments based on the information provided.

- Comment 4. The response does not provide sufficient information to explain the comparison of site data to "background" DRO and GRO concentrations, even if these concentrations are not used in the risk screening process. The text should further clarify the use of these values for "comparison only".
- Comment 5. The Navy includes the following statement in their response: "Risk assessment is not warranted at the present time because no site-related contaminants have been identified". This statement is not understood since previous analysis of the crystalline substance indicated that it was composed of sulfur compounds, magnesium, aluminum, iron, sodium, zinc manganese, nickel, copper, and chromium. Several of these metals were found to exceed one or more risk screening criteria in site surface soil, subsurface soil, and groundwater. Elevated levels of sulfate were also detected in surface soils, subsurface soils, and groundwater. Clarification

Toll Free • 1-888-372-7341

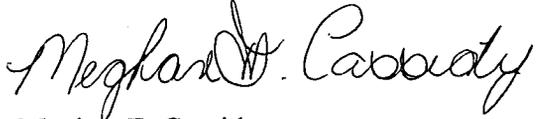
Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov/region1>

Recycled/Recyclable • Printed with Vegetable Oil Based Inks on Recycled Paper (Minimum 30% Postconsumer)

is required.

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
Eileen Curry/Dynamac
Carolyn Lepage/Lepage Environmental
Deborah Cohen/Tetra Tech
Linda Klink/Tetra Tech
RAB Members