



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

AP-
N00102.AR.001763
NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
5090.3a

5090 IN REPLY REFER TO
Ser 451/6U396315
11 December 1986

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Snowe:

This is in response to your letter of September 12, 1986 to the Director, Environmental Policy, Department of Defense concerning the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Jamaica Island landfill.

In 1980, the Chief of Naval Operations initiated the Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants (NACIP) Program. This three-phase program provides for the identification, assessment and control of environmental contamination which may have resulted from past disposal practices at naval activities.

Phase I, the initial assessment study, collects and evaluates information concerning the existence of pollutants at a site.

Phase II, the confirmation study, consists of physical and/or analytical testing, monitoring and evaluation of the suspected pollutants.

Phase III, consists of the remedial-action feasibility study, remedial-action design, and the remedial-action necessary to mitigate or eliminate problems.

The Phase I initial assessment study of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was conducted in 1982 by an independent environmental consultant firm under contract to the Navy. The final report was completed in 1983. A copy of this report was forwarded in 1983 to EPA Region I and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. This study determined that the general purpose Jamaica Island landfill (in operation from 1940 to 1976) did receive materials which today are considered hazardous. The Navy was concerned that these past hazardous substances management practices, although legal and acceptable at the time, have the potential to cause long-term environmental problems. Accordingly, a Phase II confirmation study was begun in 1984.

The Phase II confirmation study was also conducted by an independent contractor. The final report was completed in June 1986. A copy of this report was forwarded in October 1986 to EPA Region I and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The confirmation study determined that there are slightly elevated levels of some pollutants along the face of the landfill; however, there is no immediate danger to life or health.

-The Navy at this time is selecting a civilian environmental consulting firm to perform the Phase III Remedial Action Feasibility Study scheduled to begin in Spring 1987. The Phase III study will use the most sophisticated methods and procedures available to collect and evaluate data to identify and implement any appropriate remedial action.

As the above explanation indicates, we are pursuing correction of any environmental problems associated with the Jamaica Island landfill, and will cooperate fully with Federal and State regulatory agencies.

Sincerely,



B. C. MCCAFFREE, JR.
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Assistant Deputy Chief of
Naval Operations (Logistics)

Blind Copy to:
CMR (6U395329)
OLA (6U395329)
COMNAVSEASYSOM
COMNAVFACENGCOM
NORTHNAVRACENGCOM
NSY, PORTSMOUTH, NH
OGC