



Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry  
Atlanta GA 30333

NOV 05 1996

Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove  
Environmental Department Bldg. 78  
ATTN: Jim Edmond  
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania 19090-5005

Dear Mr. Edmond:

I have recently been assigned the Willow Grove facility as Dr. Rick Canady has accepted another position within the Division. Dr. Canady informed me of your request for comments on the proposed groundwater sampling plan to be made as soon as possible. Dr. Canady and I have reviewed the proposed sampling plan and have the following comments:

ATSDR believes that in order to protect public health, your proposed sampling plan may be inadequate to address the public health impact of other residents beyond Horsham Road. The proposed sampling plan appears to involve only locations on Horsham Road. It does not appear that a groundwater well/use survey has been performed. We recommend that you conduct a groundwater well survey of homes within at least 1/2 mile of the facility in the direction of the plume migration. Such a survey would identify wells used as primary water sources and also provide information on their history of use. The information obtained from a well survey, with other information such as direction of flow and flow rate, is necessary to design an adequate sampling plan and to indicate potential receptors.

Additionally, we recommend that you consider the following possible scenarios resulting from your proposed actions: (1) if contaminants are detected at low concentrations, will you be able to perform an adequate risk assessment in the proposed time frame? (2) if contaminants are detected at higher concentrations, are you prepared to provide alternate water sources and how will you decide to whom you will provide alternate water? (3) will residents, whose wells are not proposed to be sampled, also want their wells sampled and question your selection process?

If you would like to discuss these comments or would like to discuss other concerns, please contact me at 404-639-6014 or e-mail at [def6@ATSDTO1.em.cdc.gov](mailto:def6@ATSDTO1.em.cdc.gov). I am looking forward to working with you at Willow Grove and want you to feel comfortable discussing matters with me.

Sincerely yours,

David A. Fowler, Ph.D.

cc:

Andrea Lunsford, NEHC

Wendy Bridges, NEHC

Jim Colter, Northern Division, NAVFACENCOM

Tom Stukas, ATSDR

Robert Lausch, EPA