



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

N00158.AR.000108
NAS WILLOW GROVE
5090.3a

IN REPLY REFER TO
5090
Code 1821/JLC

AUG 15 1997

Mr. David Fennimore, P.G.
Senior Hydrologist
Earth Data Incorporated
Whiteland Technology Center
924 Springdale Drive
Exton, PA 19341

Dear Mr. Fennimore:

This letter is being submitted in response to your letter to me dated July 30, 1997. In that letter, the Navy was asked to confirm that MTBE, which was recently detected in the nearby Tinius Olsen supply well, was not the result of a release of MTBE or MTBE-containing petroleum products from within the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NASJRB) Willow Grove near the vicinity of Tinius Olsen.

The Navy's aircraft parking apron is located adjacent to the Tinius Olsen facility and isolated releases of jet fuel have been known to occur. However, it has been confirmed through discussions with NASJRB Willow Grove personnel that MTBE is not a constituent of jet fuel and never has been. Therefore, it is not possible that the MTBE detected in the Tinius Olsen supply well was the result of a NASJRB Willow Grove on-site release of jet fuel.

Furthermore, it is suspected that groundwater flow near the Tinius Olsen facility is to the northwest. Actual groundwater flow directions will be determined upon receipt of data from the new wells installed on the Navy's property in this vicinity. If groundwater is confirmed to be flowing to the northwest, then any releases from the Navy's property would flow away from the Tinius Olsen property as their property is located to the east (upgradient) of the Navy's property.

I hope that this information proves helpful in your efforts. If I can be of any further assistance, please give me a call at (610) 595-0567, extension 163.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. COLTER
Remedial Project Manager
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

copy to:
NASJRB Willow Grove, Jim Edmond