

N62604.AR.000135  
NCBC GULFPORT  
5090.3a

LETTER FROM U S NAVY REGARDING DIOXIN RUN OFF CONCERN NCBC GULFPORT  
MS  
3/6/1980  
NCBC GULFPORT



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER  
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

06 MAR 1980

Mayor Jack Barnett  
City of Gulfport  
Post Office Box 1780  
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

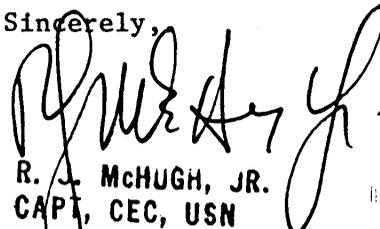
Dear Mayor Barnett:

While I appreciate the concern of citizens in the area regarding Herbicide Orange, I want to assure them, and you, that the levels of dioxin which had migrated off the Seabee Center pose no threat to the nearby community. They were found only in the large canal adjacent to Canal Road and not in drainage ditches east of that area. The levels of dioxin found in biological samples were three times lower than the Food and Drug Administration's suggested permissible level for edible fish life. In addition, it has only been within the last several months that the "state of the art" has progressed to the point that we are able to detect dioxins in such minute quantities as found here.

A containment project is presently under construction as a preventive measure to ensure that even such small quantities as these cannot migrate from the former storage site in the future. The Navy and Air Force are anxious to allay any fears of the local community by preventing any further erosion or migration from the site. Enclosed are copies of the two most recent press releases providing more detailed information concerning soil erosion and containment problems.

I want to reassure you that I feel very comfortable that the problem is nowhere near significant and that we are taking extra measures to ensure that it does not develop into a problem.

Sincerely,

  
R. J. McHUGH, JR.  
CAPT, CEC, USN  
Commanding Officer

