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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER FROM AIR FORCE REGARDING POTENTIAL HAZARDS RESULTING FROM
CONTAMINATED EXCESSES EQUIPMENT NCBC GULFPORT MS
4/30/1985
U S AIR FORCE



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BOLLING AFB, D.C. 20332 - 6188

30 April 1985

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SGES

SUBJECT: Decontamination of Excessed Equipment Naval Construction
Battalion Center (NCBC)

TO: HQ AFESC/DEV

1. This letter provides you our assessment of the potential hazards at the NCBC DPDC site, based on information at hand; however, we reserve the opportunity to reassess this position when additional soil characterization data is available. Also our forthcoming meeting with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), where soil standards for a commercial/industrial setting (Johnston Island) will be discussed, may provide additional information pertinent to this situation.

2. Specifically, in response to your questions:

a. Reference 1a: We would recommend a decontamination process for equipment/vehicles being removed from the area. It should be conducted in a manner which ensures that the wash waters drain back or remain in the contaminated area. A soap and water brush-washing process should be sufficient; although, a pressure steam process would be preferable. Personnel conducting this activity should wear coveralls or rain gear, and cover booties/rubber boots. Disposable wear would be preferable. While we do not think that a significant health hazard exists at this site, this recommendation represents good hygiene precautions for both the employees and the public.

b. References 1 b & 1c: Using the rationale in our letter to AF/LEEV, 23 January 1985, which provides our observations to date on the Air Force Ranch Hand population, we see no need to conduct any medical evaluations of personnel previously or currently employed in this area. However, we do suggest that a list of these personnel, to include name, grade, SSN, Duty Title, current address and length of employment in the contaminated area, be assembled and transmitted to this office. This will be forwarded to the Air Force Ranch Hand office. Should adverse health effects from Agent Orange be demonstrated in future studies, these individuals could be readily contacted.

c. Reference 1d: Because normal weathering and subsequent use of the equipment would be expected to result in a natural decontamination effect and the contamination levels are low, we see no need to accomplish any follow-up actions on equipment already released from the site.

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3. Following the final results of the soil characterization effort and the meeting with CDC, the above positions may be refined. In addition though not specifically addressed in your letter, additional recommendations on the continued use of the DPDO site and/or remedial actions may be made.

4. Please direct any questions to the undersigned at AUTOVON 297-5873.

Robert A Capell

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