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LETTER FROM U S NAVY REGARDING PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN FOR HERBICIDE
ORANGE STOCKS NCBC GULFPORT MS
3/11/1986
U S NAVY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER

GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39501-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO

11 March 1986

Colonel Jerry Singleton, U.S. Air Force
Commander
3380th Air Base Group
Keesler Air Force Base, MS 39504-5000

Dear Colonel Singleton:

As you know, the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, was a storage site for the U.S. Air Force Herbicide Orange stocks between 1968 and 1977. Although the stockpile was destroyed, spillage from leaking drums has resulted in approximately 18 acres of the former storage area being contaminated with residue of the herbicide. The Air Force has conducted extensive sampling of the site to determine the exact location of the herbicide spillage. Starting in June 1985, the Air Force conducted pilot scale tests at the site to evaluate methods for Herbicide Orange site restoration. Preliminary results of the pilot studies indicate that these technologies may be useful for ultimate site restoration.

In January 1986, the Air Force, with our concurrence, initiated a research project which will culminate in a large-scale incinerator test. This test, which is now undergoing EPA review and permitting, will provide critically required maintainability, reliability, and cost data on the incinerator. The incinerator will be operated around-the-clock for 90-120 days. A fringe benefit of this test protocol is the complete clean up of the contaminated site.

The Air Force will present a briefing to inform you and the general public about the proposed project to clean up the contaminated site. A special briefing will be held for the Mayors of Gulfport, Long Beach and Biloxi; Chamber of Commerce presidents from those cities; the President of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors; and local Congressional liaison staff, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 1986, in the Construction Battalion Center Headquarters Conference Room, second floor, Building 60. Please note that this briefing will be held in advance of the press and general public briefings. Please advise my office at 865-2201 if you plan to attend and which gate you will enter the Center so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

I sincerely hope you can attend the briefing which is of vital interest to the Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. W. Marshall".

D. W. MARSHALL
Commander, CEC, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer, Acting

"Home of the Atlantic Fleet Seabees"