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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER REGARDING FUNDING OF CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES REGARDING DIOXIN
CONTAMINATION NCBC GULFPORT MS
2/7/1997
CITY OF GULFPORT

39501-ASSOCIATED AO
13.01.00.0003

CITY of GULFPORT

KEN COMBS
Mayor



Mayor-Council Form of Government

Richard Rose
Councilman, Ward Two

Gordon D. Allen, Sr.
Councilman, Ward Three

Kim B. Savant
Councilman, Ward Four

Ricky Dombrowski
Councilman, Ward Five

P.O. BOX 1780
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39502
TELEPHONE (601) 868-5700

February 7, 1997

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Commanding Officer, Southern Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
ER,N Project Validation team (EPVT)
Attn. Charles D. Black/Code 185
2155 Eagle Drive, P.O. Box 190010
North Charleston, South Carolina 29419-9010

Dear Mr. Black and the EPVT,

I have been informed by citizen members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) of NCBC Gulfport that input from the RAB and the City would be valued by your office in the prioritization process for funding of clean-up activities around federal installations, in particular NCBC Gulfport.

First, let me thank you for allowing us the opportunity to have input into your decision. As an elected representative of the citizens of our City and especially those citizens that live on and around NCBC Gulfport, I am very pleased to have this opportunity.

I understand that there are several areas of concern at the base, but I assure you none are more critical than those concerns about the dioxin that apparently leaked from barrels of the herbicide Agent Orange stored on NCBC Gulfport by the United States Air Force during and after the Vietnam War.

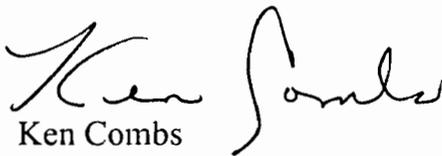
Previous testing indicates that some of the dioxin may have escaped the base into ditches in our City. This possibility has posed a very grave concern to our citizens for a number

of years. NCBC Gulfport Commander Captain Frank DiGeorge and I have discussed this issue and are both resolved to see this investigation through to the end. However, as you are well aware, adequate funding is required for this to happen. I urge you to consider this activity as the top priority for NCBC Gulfport and one of your top priorities in the southeast. It is an urgent matter that adequate testing be done to determine exactly what conditions do exist on and off the base and make sure any possible migration of dioxin be halted.

As a result of information provided by officials at NCBC Gulfport, we have held off cleaning some drainage ditches near the base until testing is completed. It is critical that we be able to clean these ditches as soon as possible, because if we are forced to wait too long, heavy rains will cause some homes to be flooded. Additionally, we understand that at least one bank has held up funding on a home near the base pending the testing results. It should not be necessary for me to explain to you the effect that could have on our citizens.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and I thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance to our community.

Sincerely,



Ken Combs
Mayor

cc: Captain Frank DiGeorge
RAB NCBC Gulfport