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LETTER REGARDING MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND ECOLOGICAL EXPOSURE
ASSESSMENT AT SITE 8 NCBC GULFPORT MS
11/1/2001
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
JAMES I. PALMER, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commanding Officer
Mr. Dan Owens
SOUTHNAVFACENGCOM
P.O. Box 190010
North Charleston, S.C. 29419-9010

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Dear Mr. Owens:

RE: Proposal for Human Health and Ecological Exposure
Assessment for the Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi

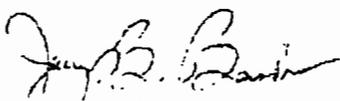
Staff review of the above referenced document revealed that the scope and content of the proposed assessment is excellent, however; we have the following comments and recommendations:

- 1) The scope of the assessment is aimed at Site 8 which raises several concerns. First, I would like to have it clearly known to all just exactly what is Site 8 - I think of it in terms of Areas A, B, and C and the ash piles. Second, while we agree that the majority of the dioxin is logically associated with the aforementioned areas, we must not forget that dioxin contamination has been detected in the groundwater at the landfill adjacent to Canal #1 and the dioxin level found in the southwest corner of the base in Canal #1 is still unexplained.
- 2) We have heard some rumors that some of the ditches around the base may have been dredged or cleaned out and the sediments placed on the banks of the ditch. These rumors need to be investigated as obvious potential avenues of exposure.

- 3) The State Department of Health's epidemiologist Dr. Robert Hotchkiss (601-960-7725) or a member of his staff should be involved in the human health and ecological assessment and investigation of the health status of the population on and around the base. Also, do not forget about the on-site exposure to military and civilian personnel.
- 4) The Department of Environmental Quality's laboratory personnel should be included in your human health and ecological assessment since they have been involved in an extensive dioxin investigation regarding the paper mills in the State.

If you have any questions please let me or Phillip Weathersby know.

Sincerely,



Jerry B. Banks, P.E., DEE
Chief, Hazardous Waste Division

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