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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IV

345 COURTLAND STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30365

NAS Jacksonville Administrative Record  
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AUG 19 1981

Honorable Lawton Chiles  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Chiles:

This is written in response to your letter of August 3, 1981, in which you requested that we respond to concerns that have been voiced by Mr. John N. Austin concerning chemical dump sites and PCB's at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida. Your inquiry also concerned environmental problems at Cecil Field and Mayport Naval Station.

Regarding the matter at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, which includes the Naval Air Rework Facility, our investigation reveals that the Navy does indeed have a pollution control problem at this facility. A review of our Federal Facilities Information System which lists active pollution abatement projects for the Department of Defense shows that the Navy has programmed a design project to abate the pollution in the chemical and oil waste pits that have been reported. These projects are in the FY 1982 budget and are expected to cost approximately \$90,000 each.

Even though these projects are not presently funded, the Navy is proceeding with available funds to enter into a design contract to abate these sources of pollution. In addition, there is a PCB cleanup project programmed for \$98,000 that is also in the FY 1982 project. In talking with the Navy Facilities Engineering Command in Charleston, South Carolina, I have been assured that these projects will be effective.

In May 1980 the problem with PCB's at Cecil Field came to our attention, at which time Mr. Carlton Lane of my staff was assigned to investigate the extent of PCB involvement at this installation. Mr. Lane's report indicated that a PCB problem did exist and that the Navy had a project programmed and funded to begin cleanup. The cost of this project was approximately \$104,000 and funded in FY 1980 and 1981. Contracting difficulties delayed the start of this cleanup. A contractor was on site in May 1981 and it is reported that this contractor will complete cleanup in December of this year. I might add that an interim plan of cleanup was started by the Navy prior to the contractor coming on post.

As a followup to our inspection in 1980, Carlton Lane once again visited this facility on July 22. Mr. Lane's report is not available at this time, but if you wish we will forward it to you as soon as it is available.

At the present time I do not have any information regarding problems at Mayport Naval Station except that they do have a project programmed for FY 1982 that is planned to control hazardous wastes generated at that facility. The cost of this project is \$32,000.

From the information available to this office, one must conclude that the Navy is doing a very satisfactory job of controlling their environmental problems in the Jacksonville area. The projects listed above are all necessary and will cost the Federal government some \$464,000. As an agency, this Regional Office has been concerned with the pollution control activities of Mayport, Cecil Field, and the Jacksonville Naval Air Station for a number of years. The PCB problems for which a concern has been voiced pose no danger to the people working on the installations or to the people of Jacksonville. Reported levels of PCB contamination are relatively low. We have been working with the restoration teams and have been impressed by their competent work and innovative ideas.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact this office.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John A. Little  
Deputy Regional Administrator

Charles R. Jeter  
Regional Administrator

~~Very Charles~~

PCB Problem at Cecil Field-Chronology-Code 18HW/Mr. Carl Zilling (OP-45)

227-3639/89 19 August 1981

19 May 79 216 1140

- 26 Mar 79 Southern Division 6240 re Disposal, Storage and Marking Requirements for PCBs
- 15 Apr 79 Cecil Public Works Department Environmental Engineer looks at PCB situation re (1) disposal of contaminated sand (Building 101) from leaking drums and (2) leaking PCB transformers
- 4 May 79 ESR #9130-117 for contaminated sand removal and leaking transformer repair
- 8 May 79 Contract awarded to Holley Electric for PCB transformer survey
- 5 Jun 79 Southern Division field inspection of various sites, including Buildings 67, 101.
- 8 Jun 79 Cecil Public Works Department Environmental Engineer req Naval Regional Medical Center sample air in Hangar 67.
- 11-18 Jun 79 Holley Electric completes survey of PCB transformers and submits report
- 2 Jul 79 Cecil Public Works Department submits special project (#RC39-79R) to repair PCB transformers, build dikes and roofs.
- 5 Jul 79 Contract awarded to Holley Electric for resurvey 3 transformers in Hangar 67 to be completed 20 August.
- 11 Jul 79 Air in Hanger 67 sampled by Naval Regional Medical Center, Jacksonville
- 1 Aug 79 VA-174 (Hangar 67) personnel and Public Works Department electricians sent to medical for exams. Negative results.
- 6 Aug 79 ESR 9130-117 completed. Forwarded to Naval Facilities (by Southern Division) with a recommendation of priority for pollution abatement funding.
- 14 Nov 79 Naval Regional Medical Center, Jacksonville reports negative results on air samples from Hangar 67.
- 16 Jan 80 Southern Division approves and forwards special project RC39-79(R) to Naval Facilities. Scheduled for FY80. Cost estimated \$96,300.
- 6 May 80 Facility inspection by Mr. Carlton Lane, Environmental Protection Agency Region IV.
- Contract awarded for design of PCB repair/clean-up project.
- 12 Dec 80 PCB repair/clean-up project advertised.
- 8 Mar 81 Project opened.
- 6 May 81 Contract awarded to WEC Construction. Precon held.