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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32212-5000

June 11, 1990

Stephen R. Wise
Representative, 14th District
Florida House of Representatives
P. O. Box 7914
Jacksonville, Florida 32238-0914

Dear Representative Wise:

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the current status of the Installation Restoration (IR) Program at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville. A contract was awarded in December 1989 to Geraghty and Miller engineering firm for analysis and restoration work. They are busy preparing work plans for upcoming projects at NAS Jacksonville IR sites and these work plans, when submitted, will be reviewed by our Technical Review Committee in a meeting this summer.

As part of this contract, a Geraghty and Miller representative will be here in July or August to assist me in preparing the formal Community Relations Plan. In an effort to determine the most effective means of communicating with the public throughout this lengthy process, I plan to interview a wide range of affected or interested individuals. I would like the opportunity to interview you, either in person or by phone, as well as your constituents who have expressed environmental concerns or questions. I anticipate that these interviews will be conducted in July. I would appreciate it very much if you could forward a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers to me so that I might make arrangements for the interviews.

In March of this year, we were fortunate to have personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station spend a week on board with their cone penetrometer. The cone penetrometer is a truck mounted device which can hydraulically push a pointed rod through the ground. By measuring the pressure at the tip and along a slightly movable sleeve, the operator can determine soil type (i.e. sand, clay, silt, etc.). The purpose of this March visit was to survey selected sites on the Air Station in anticipation of returning at a later date with a larger machine which can measure in-site hydrocarbon concentrations below ground. Some of the advantages of this methodology include: 1) continuous hydrocarbon concentration data over the entire depth of the hole rather than a single reading averaged over the screened portion of a well; 2) instantaneous hydrocarbon concentration data during the push; 3) hole grouting while removing the rod; and 4) the ability to quickly push numerous holes in a day. We anticipate having the hydrocarbon sensing cone penetrometer on-board NAS Jacksonville in July.

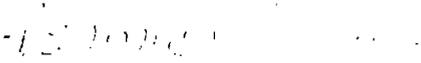
A Federal Facilities Agreement has been negotiated between the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. We have forwarded the agreement up our chain of command for signature. This is a precursor to the interagency agreement required by CERCLA later on in the clean-up process. It governs how the agencies conduct business with each other and outlines specific requirements.

On April 20, 1990, Ms. Jacquelin Schaefer, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, visited NAS Jacksonville. The purpose of her visit was to familiarize herself with the Air Station and, in particular, the IR sites. Ms. Schaefer is a former member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and previous Administrator of EPA Region II. We are fortunate to have her in such a senior position of civilian Navy leadership.

Lastly, I would like to update you on some of the environmental projects underway or completed at NAS Jacksonville. We have replaced a major storm sewer line under Wright Street in the Naval Aviation Depot. This project corrected many improper connections to the old storm sewer. Other projects underway or about to start include: new domestic sludge drying beds; total wastewater recycling at the plating shops and paint stripping hangar at the Aviation Depot; and an upgrade of the existing domestic wastewater treatment plant. These projects, scheduled to be completed in 1992, will allow us to shut down our industrial wastewater plant and, hopefully, reclassify all treatment plant sludges as non-hazardous.

I hope this information is of interest to you. I will contact your office prior to conducting citizen interviews and will make an appointment to interview you at that time. Please contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Veronica C. Schauer