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LETTER REGARDING STATUS OF REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION FIELD PROGRAM
OPERABLE UNIT 3 (OU3) STUDY AREAS 8 AND 9 NTC ORLAND FL
8/4/1998
HARDING LAWSON ASSOCIATES

Harding Lawson Associates

August 4, 1998

Commanding Officer
SOUTHNAVFACENGCOM
P.O. Box 190010
2155 Eagle Drive
Charleston, SC 24019-9010

ATTN: Ms. Barbara Nwokike, Code 187300

SUBJECT: Status Update
Operable Unit 3 (Study Areas 8 and 9), NTC Orlando
Contract N62467-89-D-0317/CTO 107

Dear Barbara:

Harding Lawson Associates (HLA) has prepared the following status update for Study Areas (SAs) 8 and 9, Operable Unit (OU) 3 at NTC, Orlando. These issues were discussed with you in our telephone conversation on August 4, 1998, and this status update provides a summary of our discussion. The following issues are discussed in the subsequent paragraphs of this letter:

- damaged well at Study Area (SA) 8
- water level measurements at SAs 8 and 9
- remedial technologies for SAs 8 and 9

Damaged Well at SA 8

On July 30, 1998, while HLA personnel were recording water level measurements at the OU, it was observed that microwell OLD-08-09 had been destroyed (see attached figure). Apparently, earlier in the month of July, the chain-link fence surrounding the southern end of the Greenskeeper compound and the roof of the covered parking area within the larger fenced area at the SA8 were removed (see attached figure).

It appears that microwell OLD-08-09 was destroyed during removal of the fence. The well pad was flipped over and pushed off to the edge of the brush. The microwell riser was broken off at the first casing joint, approximately two feet below land surface (bls). At that time, HLA personnel attempted to abandon the well, however, this was difficult due to the depth of the break in the well and the soft nature of the soil in the area.

Therefore, HLA personnel returned to the SA on August 4, 1998 with a metal detector and were able to locate the remains of the microwell. The top two feet of soil surrounding the microwell was excavated, and an attempt was made to extricate the microwell screen from the ground. After several attempts at pulling the microwell with ropes, a jack, and a lever, HLA was only able to retrieve one three-foot length of microwell screen. The remaining 6 feet of microwell screen remained firmly stuck in the ground. Therefore, the remaining microwell screen had to be abandoned in place, and, subsequently, the microwell screen and borehole were backfilled with granular bentonite. The excavation was then backfilled to approximately 1 foot bls, and the remaining excavation was covered with native soil. The microwell location was marked with a piece of galvanized pipe.

Engineering and
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Conversations with Lt. Whipple and Mark Zill of the NTC, Orlando Public Works Department on August 3, 1998, indicate that the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation department removed the fence and the parking area roof, and that no other demolition activities are scheduled for the site.

Water Level Measurements at SAs 8 and 9

As stated in the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report and our status letters dated March 18, 1998 and May 12, 1998, only one of the subsurface soil samples proposed in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Workplan has been collected at the OU. This was due to the presence of a high water table at the time of sample collection for the RI field investigation. In our status letter dated May 12, 1998, HLA indicated that water level measurements would be collected at the OU to evaluate whether subsurface conditions allow collection of unsaturated subsurface soil data.

The depth of the water table at the OU was most recently measured on July 30, 1998. At that time, the depth to water was still high, ranging from approximately 1.5 to 2.5 feet bls at SA 8 and from 2 to 3 feet bls in most areas at SA 9. Based on these observations, collection of unsaturated subsurface soil samples to depths up to 5 feet bls is still not possible.

HLA will continue to monitor the water table at OU3. If conditions for collection of non-saturated subsurface soil samples to a reasonable depth become favorable prior to completion of the final RI Report, the feasibility of conducting subsurface sampling at that point, including any schedule and budget impacts, will be discussed.

Remedial Technologies for SAs 8 and 9

As discussed at the July OPT meeting, HLA looks forward to discussing remedial technologies for contaminated media at SAs 8 and 9 (refer to our letter report dated July 21, 1998) with the Navy's Technical Assistance Group. It is anticipated that a conference call will be scheduled with this group the week of August 10, 1998. A brief update on remedial technologies for OU 3 will then be presented at the August OPT meeting.

It should be noted that a thorough screening of remedial technologies for OU 3 will be conducted as part of the FS. The FS is scheduled to begin following submittal and discussion of comments on the draft RI Report from the regulatory agencies. Once these comments have been received and discussed, the FS will start in earnest. At that time, several analyses and calculations (i.e., identification of regulatory requirements and Remedial Action Objectives, calculations of volumes of contaminated media, etc.) will be completed, which will further aid in the process of identifying and screening remedial technologies. Until that time, HLA is committed to identify appropriate technologies for remediating contaminated media at the OU, and, as such, looks forward to discussion of remedial technologies for the OU with the Navy's Technical Assistance Group.

If you should have any questions or comments regarding these matters, please call me at (703) 769-8145.

Very Truly Yours,
HARDING LAWSON ASSOCIATES

Shannon B. Gleason, P.E.
Task Order Manager

attachment

SG/sg
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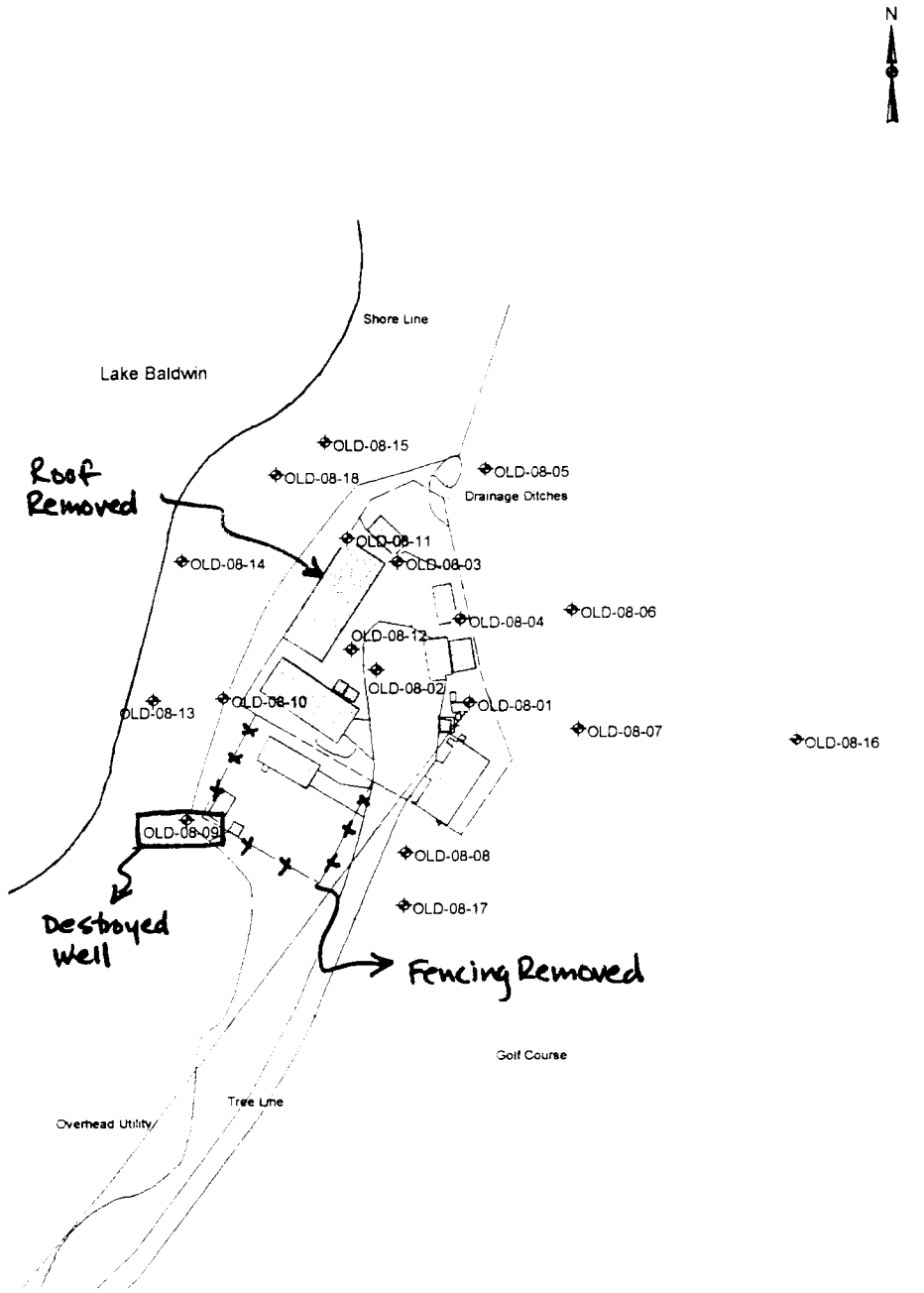
cc: Wayne Hansel, Southern Division
Nancy Rodriguez, USEPA Region IV
John Mitchell, FDEP
Lt. G. Whipple, NTC-Public Works Officer
Bob Cohose, BEI
Steve McCoy, Tetra Tech/NUS
Rick Allen, HLA
John Kaiser, HLA
file



LEGEND

Well location

Structure

20 0 20 40 Feet

SCALE: 1 INCH= 60 FEET

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION
OPERABLE UNIT 3
NAVAL TRAINING CENTER
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Figure Attachment

Finally, by convention, the risk assessment process is based on the assumption that data is representative of standard conditions at the site. Collecting saturated samples to represent subsurface soil conditions to a depth of six feet is not representative of these sites under standard conditions.

In order to complete the Phase II RI, ABB-ES proposes the following. Our current estimate is that the high water table conditions will have receded sufficiently by mid-April to enable the subsurface sampling as proposed. However, the continued influence of El Nino may require further delay. We are currently monitoring the water table at SAs 8 and 9, and will mobilize as soon as conditions are favorable. Once the sampling is completed, we will request expedited turnaround from the laboratory. Samples from SA8 will be analyzed for SVOCs, pesticides, PCBs, herbicides, and TAL metals, while samples from SA9 will be analyzed for only pesticides and TAL metals, in accordance with the workplan for Phase II activities, as discussed at the January OPT meeting. If sampling can occur by mid-April, the overall schedule for submittal of the draft RI (July 10) will not be affected. If sampling must be delayed until May, the submittal date will need to change.

It should also be noted that collection of subsurface soil samples to 5 ft bls may not be practical. For soil borings closer to the lake, it is possible that unsaturated soil may be encountered at a depth of less than 5 ft bls. ABB-ES will attempt to collect as many of the subsurface soil samples from the intervals stated in the workplan. Any change to this plan will be discussed with the OPT.

ABB-ES will provide schedule updates as information becomes available. Thank you for your continued patience. If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please call me at (703) 769-8145.

Very Truly Yours,
ABB ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

for

Shannon B. Gleason, P.E.
Task Order Manager

cc: John Kaiser, ABB-ES
Nancy Rodriguez, USEPA Region IV
John Mitchell, FDEP
Barbara Nwokike, Southern Division
Lt. G. Whipple, NTC-Public Works Officer
Bob Cohose, BEI
Steve McCoy, Brown & Root
file

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