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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REGION IV

345 COURTLAND STREET, N.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30365

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NAS PENSACOLA
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Mr. James Malone
IR Section Manager
Southern Division
NAVFAC/ENGCOM
2155 Eagle Drive
P.O. Box 10068
Charleston, S.C. 29411-0068

Subject: EPA QA/QC Oversight of Analytical Laboratories for
Superfund Sites

Dear Mr. Malone:

EPA and the Navy have resolved most technical issues on the RI/FS Work Plans for NAS Cecil Field. One of the remaining issues involves EPA QA/QC oversight of the Navy's analytical laboratory results. Per a telephone request by Ms. Monique Williams of your staff, EPA by this letter is informing you of the QA/QC protocol and the number of samples that will need to be written into the Navy's contracts.

As part of the EPA protocol for QA/QC oversight, EPA will split samples with the Navy. Our Environmental Services Division (ESD) asks that we do splits on approximately five to ten percent of the samples collected for each medium. These split samples are analyzed by the EPA laboratory in Athens, Georgia. The analyses will then be checked against the results of the Navy lab to determine how the two laboratories compare. This is an empirical observation only. Therefore, a second more rigorous check is needed to ensure that the Navy's laboratory can calculate recoveries accurately. EPA performs this oversight QA/QC procedure by providing the facility with a spike and a blank during the split sampling event. The spike and blank are to be included among the facility's samples that are to be shipped to and analyzed by their laboratory. The spike and blank are not to be identified as such but should be labeled consecutively with the other samples to represent a fictitious sampling location or monitoring well. When the facility data is received by ESD, the Navy needs to indicate which sample numbers are the spike and blank. ESD will then be able to determine the Navy laboratory's ability to reach the necessary quantification levels.

The Navy may substitute EPA's spike and blank for those that would ordinarily be submitted under your own QA/QC check. Other Federal facilities are currently proceeding in this manner.

EPA would provide one spike and one blank for each media sampled. Therefore, at NAS Pensacola and NAS Cecil Field, EPA would provide at each facility three spikes and three blanks during the remedial investigations. This would be six samples at each facility.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Nancy Dean at (404) 347-3016.

Sincerely yours,



**James H. Scarbrough, P.E., Chief
RCRA & Federal Facilities Branch
Waste Management Division**

cc: Monique Williams, NAVFACENGCOM
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