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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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NAS PENSACOLA
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March 10, 1992

Allison Drew
Remedial Project Manager
DOD Remedial Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
345 Courtland Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

Subject: Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP)
March 5 - 6 Site Visit and Scoping Meeting for Bayou Grande, Pensacola Bay, and NASP Wetlands (Operable Units 15, 16, and 17, respectively).

Dear Ms. Drew:

Following are our comments you requested for preliminary Remedial Investigation work plans for the surrounding water bodies and wetlands. Further reflection and study were needed to provide you with adequate input on how work should progress at these operable units.

Further and more detailed surface water and sediment sampling is needed adjacent to those sites which are directly adjacent to a water body and wetland. Also other areas of the water bodies and wetlands need to be investigated as all surface drainage from the base leads into these areas. This may seem to go beyond the current focus, but all surface drainage leads into other areas of the base which may be impacted from ambient sources. Most of the investigations performed at specific PSCs have discovered unexpected contaminants which are attributed to ambient sources.

Other areas which should receive preliminary sampling include any drainage areas which lead from the base. Those which have not already been sampled include:

1. the drainage ditch/slough which flows through Site 16;
2. the drainage ditch, at the west end of Forrest Sherman Field, which drains into a slough at the western part of Bayou Grande;
3. the wetlands at the west end of Forrest Sherman Field, which appear to drain into a larger wetland that drains into Perdido Bay;
4. any drainage ditches or outflows into Sherman's Inlet, Sherman's Cove, or Big Lagoon.

We realize many of these are at the west end of the base which has apparently had the least use. However, due to the ambient contamination existing at most of the identified PSCs, these areas

should not be overlooked. Once we have received the surface water drainage plan for NASP from Ron Joyner, we can better determine those areas which may be impacted.

In developing the work plans for these operable units in relation to the biota, research should be done to identify what flora and fauna would likely be found in the adjacent waterbodies and wetlands. Following this, a biota survey should be done to see what is currently present in the operable units. Locating representative background areas will also be necessary. The other areas identified in the previous paragraph may be found suitable for background sites, if no contamination exist in these areas,

Some bioassays (surface water and sediments) and tissue analysis should be performed at those areas of the OUs which appear to have already been impacted by some of the PSCs. Specifically, these are the wetlands and waters within and adjacent to Sites 1, 2, 11, 13, 14, 30, and 38.

We would also like to make some specific comments in relation to some of the sites:

Site 1 (Sanitary Landfill): This site has likely impacted the waterbodies and wetlands. It also has a potential to impact human health, as it is next to the primitive Boy Scout camping area which is accessed through the site. Also it is adjacent to "Ski Beach" which is used by boaters and swimmers. Until more is known about the impact the site may be having on these areas, the site should be fenced off and warning signs put in place. A public health risk assessment is needed to determine if it may be necessary to close the campground and the beach area.

Site 11 (North Chevalier Disposal Area): Warning signs denoting potential contamination should be placed in the arm of Bayou Grande in the vicinity of this site. A public health risk assessment is needed to determine if fishing should be disallowed in this area. The NASP marina is located just north of this site. Also, this area of the bayou is impacted from Site 30.

Site 14 (Dredge Spoil Pile Area): The wetland at the south edge of this site has apparently been impacted by runoff from Chevalier Field and groundwater leachate from the site. Further sampling and analysis should be performed in this wetland.

Site 30 (Building 649, Building 755, and Creek): On the date of the site visit, this was a continuous flowing stream from a heavily impacted headwater. Surface water and sediment samples have been taken upstream from the junction of the stream with the concrete drainage ditch west of Chevalier Field. During the time of the site visit, there were active drainage outfalls along the bank of the stream.,

Any drainage outfalls along the embankment of this stream need to be identified on the site map, and the source of these outfalls should be determined. Also, this stream likely floods its lower banks during extreme rainfall, the soils of this floodplain should be sampled and analyzed.

Site 39 (Oak Grove Campground): During our visit to this site, both the Navy and the contractor's representatives felt the best remedy was the excavation of the contaminated soils. They did not appear to believe this site needed any further study.

There is no historic evidence identifying the reason for these contaminated soils, yet the pollution exists. Besides the contaminated soil, the vegetation in this area was obviously stressed. Broken brick in the area denotes the probability of a building having been at this site.

We believe further investigation is needed since this site is only several hundred feet from Pensacola Bay and Sherman's Inlet. If this site is so old that no history can be determined for it, groundwater may be contaminated below and more likely beyond the site, toward the bay. Until further sampling and analysis is performed, the site should be fenced off and warning signs installed to prevent campers at the adjacent campground from being exposed to possible contaminants should they explore this area.

We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the meetings and negotiations related to the remediation at NASP. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (904) 488-2960.

Sincerely,



John W. Mitchell
Project Manager

JWM/jm

cc: Suzanne Sanborn, USN
Ron Joyner, USN
Waynon Johnson, N O M
Jim Lee, DOI
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