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CERTIFIED MAIL- RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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NAS PENSACOLA
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Ms. Allison Drew
Remedial Project Manager
DoD Remedial Section
Federal Facilities Branch
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
345 Courtland Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

Dear Ms. Drew:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your letter of May 18, 1992, in which you express your concerns of us invoking the "Force Majeure" provisions, and our request for extensions relating to the field work for Batches 1, 3, and 4 based on our funding shortfalls.

After many conversations and our meeting on May 28, 1992, we agreed that our main intent was to request the extensions and to notify you of our funding situation, and not to invoke the provisions of "Force Majeure."

We understand from your letter, EPA's concerns center on the submission of the Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report which has an enforceable deadline, and not on the start date of the field work which is an interim goal and does not operate under an enforceable deadline. We were only notifying you of the delay to the field work schedule and any plans you had for sampling. The start date of field work will impact the delivery of the Draft RI Reports. Our intentions are to proceed with as little delay as possible. In addition, as a result of our May 28, 1992 meeting, EPA has agreed to write the Draft RI and Draft Baseline Risk Assessment (BRA) reports for Batch 3: Group O: Operable Unit 10 by taking the existing CERCLA/RCRA information, and the results from the Final RI/FS Workplans which was approved on April 1992. Also, we met on June 16-17, 1992 to discuss the RI/FS investigative prioritization, strategy, and management of all 42 Potential Sources of Contamination (PSC) sites. This meeting resulted in the decision to not proceed with several of the sites identified in Batch 1, and 4 as scheduled, but to proceed with those sites identified as higher priority due to health risk, and levels of contaminants.

We agree that the all the parties need to discuss ways to minimize the impact of future NAS Pensacola investigations/remediations will have on available funds and research/implement in-house remedial activities which could be accomplished without the use of contract funds. We look forward to additional discussions on the IR Program for NAS Pensacola and your suggestions/recommendations to expedite the process.

If you should have any questions or need further clarification and assistance in these matters, please contact *Mr.* James B. Malone or *Ms.* Linda Martin at (803) 743-0581/0574.

Sincerely,

J. L. McCauley, P.E.
Deputy Director
Environmental Division

copy to:

NAS Pensacola (Mr. Ron Joyner)
FDER (*Mr.* Eric Nuzie)

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