



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REGION IV

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

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NAS PENSACOLA  
5090.3a

JUN 22 1992

4WD-FFB

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Suzanne Sanborn  
Remedial Activities Branch  
Department of the Navy - Southern Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
2155 Eagle Drive  
Charleston, South Carolina 29411-0068

Re: Region IV Risk Assessment Policy for the collection of surface soil  
samples  
NAS Pensacola

Dear Ms. Sanborn:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Navy with a formal response to a question which arose during the RPM Meeting held June 16-17, 1992 at NAS Pensacola. The question pertained to the preferred method for collecting surface soil samples. It is EPA Region IV policy that, in general, surface soil samples should be collected from a depth range of 0 to 1 foot in order to assure adequate assessment of the direct exposure potential due to surface soil contamination. It is believed that this depth range will, in most instances, provide the most conservative estimate of the contamination present in surface soils. In particular, this depth range would seem to be preferable when investigating older sites (e.g. 20-plus years), since volatile concentrations in the top 6 inches are more likely to be depleted with time. If site-specific circumstances indicate that a different sampling interval would provide an equally, or more, conservative value, this alternate sampling interval may be submitted to the agency for consideration and review.

Please contact me at 404/347-3016 should you have further questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Allison W. Drew, RPM  
Department of Defense Remedial Section  
Federal Facilities Branch

cc: Ron Joyner, NAS, Pensacola  
Eric Nuzie, FDER