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NAS PENSACOLA  
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ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMENTS FROM FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGARDING WETLAND 3 AS TREATMENT SPACE FOR  
GROUNDWATER DISCHARGING NAS PENSACOLA FL

3/14/1997

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Bcc:

Subject: NAS Pensacola Site 1 - Wetland 3

Attachment: Headers.822

Date: 3/14/97 9:52 AM

Bill:

As you are aware, the team is looking at the possibility of using Wetland 3 for continued treatment of the groundwater discharging high levels of iron and aluminum into this wetland. We do not know all the ins and outs of this related to any permitting or mitigation issues which may need to be addressed from the District Wetlands Resource Section, and possibly the District Waste Water Section and Solid Waste Section. We would appreciate having someone from Wetlands Resources and/or the other sections to discuss with the team any possible hindrances or positive aspects of our approach. Would you please forward this message to the appropriate people in your district who would have input on the subject. The following provides a little of the site history, investigative results, and the proposed remedy:

Site 1 is an old unpermitted landfill located at NAS Pensacola. It is bordered by Bayou Grande to the North; Redoubt Bayou to the west, a golf course to the east, and a road to the south. Groundwater flow radiates to the NW, North and NE from the site toward the nearest water bodies. Investigations have found low levels of volatile organic constituents and very high levels of iron and aluminum; especially on the eastern side of the landfill. The highest iron detection was 180,000 ppb in the well adjacent to Wetland 3. Surface Water Standards were exceeded for iron in this wetland.

Wetland 3 does not have any large areas of open water, but is primarily grasses, cattail, and wax myrtle. The department has determined the wetland to be jurisdictional. Depending on the season, the wetland varies from standing water to dry, but is always moist. Groundwater seeps are known to occur along the bank of the landfill into this wetland. According to site history, this may have not always been a wetland, as the area was dug out during landfill operations in the 1960s to collect leachate. There are some concrete collection structures in the upper portion of the wetland. The wetland discharges through a small culvert pipe into the upper portion of a golf course pond which eventually discharges into Bayou Grande. No surface water exceedences of iron have been detected in the golf course pond.

The remedial action proposed for this site is long term monitoring of the groundwater around the perimeter of the landfill, with the groundwater leaching into Wetland 3 being treated via the wetland through natural attenuation. Monitoring would also occur for

the surface water in Wetland 3, the golf course pond, and other wetlands downgradient of the landfill.

The questions we have are related to using Wetland 3 for the attenuation of the metals in groundwater. If no further disturbance of the wetland occurs, will any permitting or mitigation be required? Will mitigation be required for alteration of the wetland such as diking to increase length of time for water to migrate through the wetland prior to discharge into the golf course pond; for replacement of flora to enhance the treatment process; enlargement of the wetland; etc.?

Our NAS Pensacola Team meeting is from 0800 - 1700 on March 26 and 27 in the fifth floor conference room. If anyone wants additional information, please call me at SC 291-9989.

Thanks!