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NAS WHITING FIELD  
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LETTER REGARDING FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
COMMENTS ON CLEAR CREEK FLOODPLAIN INVESTIGATION NAS WHITING FIELD FL  
9/16/1993  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Lawton Chiles  
Governor

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

09.01.00.0039

00347

Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Virginia B. Wetherell  
Secretary

September 16, 1993

Ms. Kim Queen  
Code 1859  
Department of the Navy  
Southern Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
P.O. Box 10068  
Charleston, South Carolina 29411-0068

Re: *Clear Creek Floodplain Investigation Report*, NAS Whiting  
Field, July 1993

Dear Ms. Queen:

We have reviewed the above referenced document and provide the following comments:

1. Section 2.2 (Ecological Characterization)

This section states, "several specimens of the white-topped pitcher plant were observed at and in the vicinity of the clear creek floodplain site." We recommend that the location of this species, identified by the State of Florida as endangered, should be shown on the map.

2. Section 2.3 (Background)

The reason for further study in the floodplain was due to previous surface water and sediment sampling results in Clear Creek near Site 16. This area is also in the vicinity of Site 15. We recommend the document figures be expanded to include these sites. Also, the drainage ditch which flows into this area is interconnected to other drainage pathways from the base. A larger map, showing the complete surficial drainage system of the NAS and the flow direction would be of benefit.

The preliminary hydrological assessment of Sites 15 and 16 indicates groundwater flow in the direction of the floodplain and creek. A map showing the groundwater contours should also be included.

This information will enable us to better evaluate the possible source(s) of contamination which has been discovered in the floodplain, and help in determining possible remedies.

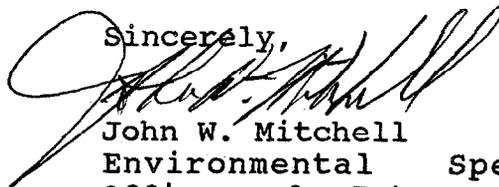
September 16, 1993  
NAS Whiting Field  
Page 2

The detected levels of contamination in the sediments of the floodplain exceeded NOAA ER-L and ER-M values at several stations. The limited areas sampled in the vicinity of the north beaver pond indicate the likelihood of additional areas of contamination which will require further study.

The levels of contamination detected have been shown to be harmful to aquatic life, and, for certain contaminants, may bioaccumulate within the food chain. This is especially true of the highly elevated levels of inorganics. To determine if the Clear Creek floodplain and the areas of Clear Creek where contamination was above surface water standards and sediment values, a biological evaluation is needed. We suggest a study of both the benthic and aquatic community (flora and fauna) be performed to evaluate the extent of injury, if any, to these natural resources. This should include bio-diversity, toxicity, and bio-accumulation analysis.

Please keep us informed of the investigative and remedial activities and plans at Whiting Field. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (904)488-0784.

Sincerely,



John W. Mitchell  
Environmental Specialist,  
Office of Intergovernmental  
Programs

JWM

cc: Pat Kingcade, FDEP  
Eric Nuzie, FDEP  
Waynon Johnson, NOAA  
Jim Lee, DOI  
Rob Pope, EPA  
James Holland, USN  
Mike Brim, USFWS