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NAS WHITING FIELD
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RESPONSE TO FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMENTS
ON CLEAR CREEK FLOODPLAIN INVESTIGATION REPORT NAS WHITING FIELD FL
10/1/1993
NAVFAC SOUTHERN

09.01.00.0041

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**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
of
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Clear Creek Floodplain Investigation Report
Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Florida**

Comment	Response
<p>1. <u>Section 2.2 (Ecological Characterization)</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>A locational survey of the white-topped pitcher plants will be conducted in October 1993. The location of this species will be presented on a map in the Risk Assessment Work Plan and future Clear Creek Floodplain reports.</p>
<p>2. <u>Section 2.3 (Background)</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>A larger map that includes Sites 15 and 16, the drainage ditch and other drainage pathways will be included in future Clear Creek Floodplain Investigation reports.</p> <p>A map showing groundwater contours in the vicinity of Sites 15 and 16 will be included in future Clear Creek Floodplain Investigation reports.</p> <p>Agree.</p>

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	<p>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.</p>	<p>Agree.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Details of a biological evaluation of the Clear Creek Floodplain flora and fauna will be presented in the Risk Assessment Workplan.</p>

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1.	Geophysical sampling (Magnetic Survey and EM Induction) to the northwest of the southern beaver pond (the area not sampled due to standing water) when the area is conducive to sampling.	The area northwest of the southern beaver pond is covered with four to six feet of water throughout the year prohibiting conducive conditions to conduct a geophysical survey. The water in the southern beaver pond is only one to three feet deep and allowed personnel to carry equipment into this area and complete the geophysical survey.
2.	Sediment TPH field screening samples from the northwest corner of the floodplain study area (north beaver pond - the area not sampled due to water depth) when the area is conducive to sampling.	Agree. Future investigations will include sediment sampling from a boat in the northwest part of the study area and screening for TPH.
3.	Surface water samples from the concrete drainage ditch effluent discharge.	Surface water samples will be collected in future investigations from the unnamed tributaries (further downstream from the drainage ditch discharge) where the highest TPH concentrations are present in the sediments. TPH screening of sediments near the drainage ditch outfall did not indicate the presence of contamination.
4.	Resampling sediment locations of samples containing acetone and MEK, to determine if these constituents are lab contaminants or present at the site. Due to their presence in the field samples and not in the blanks (trip, rinsate and field) or the background sample it seems doubtful they are laboratory contaminants.	Locations that exhibited high concentrations of acetone and MEK will be resampled during the next sediment sampling episode.
5.	Please include a figure illustrating the relationship of the floodplain to the surface water stations with the highest levels of contamination detected in the Remedial Investigation Study (Stations 2 of Phase I/Station 4 of Phase II-A).	These sampling locations will be included on figures in future reports.

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General	Note, the source and extent of the contamination needs to be delineated before either site can be adequately addressed in a Baseline Risk Assessment.	Agree.