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NAS WHITING FIELD  
5090.3a

LETTER REGARDING U S EPA REGION IV REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON INITIAL  
ASSESSMENT STUDY OF NAS WHITING FIELD FL  
8/26/1985  
U S EPA REGION IV

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IV

345 COURTLAND STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30365

AUG 26 1985

4PM-EA/AGL

Commanding Officer  
Department of the Navy  
Naval Air Station  
Whiting Field  
Milton, Florida 32570

ATTENTION: Mr. R.A. Kechter or  
Danny Locklear  
5090 Code 18300/SER

Dear Sir:

This office has reviewed the May 1985, Initial Assessment Study of the Naval Air Station Whiting Field that was conducted pursuant to the NACIP and CERCLA.

The following comments are offered for your consideration:

1. There are several sites (#4,7,8,9 & 12) where tetraethyl lead is the principal pollutant of concern due to disposal or release of POL or fuel sludges. While the proposed soil sampling will help confirm the presence/absence of lead, it would be desirable to sample the shallow groundwater for lead and POL as well. Indeed, if the soil samples confirm presence of lead, the groundwater will need to be sampled in the next phase of investigation.
2. Due to the possible diversity of pollutants at sites 1, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16 a wider range of parameters are to be analyzed. This is well justified and the parameters appear to be selected to detect possible release of pollutants, however the Navy may wish to consider analysis of the groundwater for all 123 priority pollutants on a one time basis.
3. Whenever groundwater sampling is proposed using a single well point we note that it probably will not be possible to confirm that the sampling well is located downgradient from the potential source without more information on water table elevations. This may be alleviated by comparing observed water tables in several wells when they are within the same groundwater flow regime, as when sites are in proximity to one another, however it may be desirable to install more than one well at some sites.

Encl- (3)



The proposed study does not appear to provide for collection of background groundwater quality data at any site. Such data is necessary to confirm or evaluate degradation or changes due to potential releases.

5. If sampling of the shallow groundwater indicates presence of pollutants associated with these sites it will be necessary, in subsequent investigations, to determine if there is vertical migration to lower aquifers. This is already of concern to the authors of the proposed study as they discuss possible impacts on the Navy's Northern and Southern potable supply wells. At a minimum, we recommend that these wells be sampled and analyzed for all 123 priority pollutants if this data is not currently available.

EPA Region IV appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed study plan and to provide comments which are offered in a constructive sense. Further inquiries or requests may be directed to either Arthur G. Linton, Federal Facilities Coordinator, at FTS 257-3776 or Wayne Mathis at FTS 257-4096.

Sincerely yours,

  
Arthur G. Linton, P.E.  
Federal Facilities Coordinator  
Office of Policy and Management

cc: Mr. D.R. Spell, Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Mr. Eric Nuzie, Florida Department of Environmental Regulation