



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

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MCAS EL TORO
SSIC # 5090.3

November 8, 1996

Joseph Joyce
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Environment and Safety (Code 1AU)
MCAS El Toro
P.O. Box 95001
Santa Ana, CA 92709-5001

Dear Mr. Joyce:

EPA has reviewed the "Draft Final Phase II Remedial Investigation (RI) Report-Operable Unit 2C (Sites 3 and 5)." These documents are approved without revision, however, Comment #1 should be addressed in a technical memorandum and/or BCT meeting:

- 1) Please update with the BCT the status of isotope analyses in the current groundwater sampling program. These should be included as agreed at past BCT meetings.
- 2) Section 7, Conclusions and Recommendations; EPA does not agree that it can be conclusively stated that benzene in the groundwater underlying Site 3 is only attributable to Tank Farm #5. Additionally, EPA cannot agree that landfill contents have not leached to groundwater, given the low levels of SVOCs, as well as the benzene, detected in groundwater samples.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, I can be reached at 415/744-2368.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Arthur
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Cleanup Office

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Mr. Joseph Joyce
November 8, 1996
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cc: Tayseer Mahmoud, DTSC
Larry Vitale, RWQCB
Bernie Lindsey, Southwest Div.