



Department of Toxic Substances Control



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Agency Secretary
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May 10, 2002

Mr. Dean Gould
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GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION, INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM SITES 2 AND 17, MARINE CORPS AIR STATION (MCAS) EL TORO

Dear Mr. Gould:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a letter from the Department of the Navy (DON), dated May 7, 2002. The letter requests a timely response and concurrence regarding the DON's approach to addressing deformation and settlement at Site 2. A DTSC response and concurrence are needed for the DON to meet the due date for submittal of the 90 percent Remedial Design (RD) as dictated in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) schedule. Specifically, the DON requests that DTSC respond by May 10, 2002; otherwise, DTSC will need to submit an extension request for the FFA schedule.

In response to the letter prepared by the DON, DTSC is compelled to clarify the following events associated with the geotechnical investigation that is an integral part of the RD for Sites 2 and 17.

May 9, 2001: DTSC provided comments on the 30 percent RD requesting that a seismic evaluation be conducted for Sites 2 and 17. During subsequent meetings, conference calls and field visits, DTSC requested that the engineering properties to be used in the evaluation be submitted for review prior to completing the evaluation. This would allow for agreement upon the engineering properties which, in turn, would facilitate review of the subsequent evaluation.

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- January 30, 2002: DTSC was informed during a Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team (BCT) meeting that the data from the geotechnical field investigation would be forwarded during the week of February 4, 2002.
- March 4, 2002: DTSC received the data from the geotechnical field investigation ("Supplementary Geotechnical Field Investigation for Former MCAS El Toro Landfills," dated March 1, 2002) that was originally scheduled to be forwarded the week of February 4, 2002. However, only the field data was provided and the engineering properties and evaluation were not included.
- March 27, 2002: During a BCT meeting, DTSC was informed that the draft geotechnical evaluation would be forwarded on April 10, 2002.
- April 16, 2002: DTSC received the draft geotechnical evaluation ("Draft Geotechnical Evaluation Results, Installation Restoration Program Site 2 and 17 - Remedial Design, Former Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro," dated April 15, 2002) that was originally scheduled to be forwarded on April 10, 2002. Although the delay required rescheduling of staff, DTSC proceeded to expedite review of the evaluation.
- April 25, 2002: After a week and a half review, DTSC participated in a BCT conference call and informed the DON that the evaluation did not include justification for the engineering properties used.
- May 2, 2002: DTSC received the justification for engineering properties ("Engineering Properties Characterization Summary, Geotechnical Evaluation for Former MCAS El Toro Landfills," dated May 2, 2002) requested during the April 25, 2002 BCT meeting.

As a result, DTSC has had a complete geotechnical evaluation as of May 2, 2002. Without discussion regarding a mutually agreeable time frame for DTSC to complete its review of the complete package, the DON requested a seven-day review period and receipt of DTSC's response by May 10, 2002 or else DTSC would have to submit a request for extension to the FFA schedule.

Please note that the DON did not submit the engineering properties and associated justification prior to completing the evaluation as requested by DTSC. Agreement on the engineering properties up front would have facilitated review of the subsequent evaluation. Although the DON did not accommodate DTSC's request, DTSC has expedited review of portions of the evaluation as they were received.

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Based upon the chronology of events that have impacted the preparation of the 90 percent RD, if an extension is necessary after DTSC has had adequate time to review the complete geotechnical evaluation, the DON should prepare a request for extension of the FFA schedule and accurately discuss the events or issues that have contributed to the delay. Subsequently, the request for extension should be submitted to the BCT for approval. Please contact me at (714) 484-5395 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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