

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

REGION 2
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March 29, 1996

Mr. Robert D. O'Brien
Director of Radiological Control
Mare Island Naval Shipyard
Vallejo, California 94592-5100

**MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD FINAL RELEASE REPORT, GENERAL
RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (G-RAM) RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY PLAN, VOLUMES 1
AND 2, DATED 3/28/96, AND WITH CHANGE PAGES RECEIVED 3/29/96.**

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (Department), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board), and the Department of Health Services (DHS) have reviewed the subject document. The subject document describes the plans and final results for surveys and any necessary remediation for 106 G-RAM sites at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Our review of the Survey Plan consisted of reviewing changes made to this document from the previously agreed to revision of the plan. Our review of the Final Report primarily consisted of reviewing it for consistency with the Survey Plan and for consistency with previously reviewed and agreed to site specific release reports.

Our review of the groundwater report section for the Final Report is in progress, as we just received this section this week. We expect to complete the groundwater section review by the end of next week. We also yesterday received additional Cs-137 data for the Building 629 Yard. We are continuing to evaluate this data and will contact the Navy soon to discuss resolution of this outstanding concern. This remains the only release report, other than the groundwater report, for which we have not yet concurred for the Final Report. Lastly, we have one other comment on the Final Report. In Section A, page 1, a discussion is provided on Ra-226 concentrations in water samples collected at Dry Dock #2. Please verify the Ra-226 concentrations in this discussion as well as the Th-234 concentration reported. The higher Ra-226 concentration is reported for the sample that did not include sediment, instead of for the sample with sediment as would have been expected. Please also identify the specific sump location where the sample was collected.

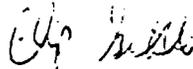
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Further, in a joint effort with the USEPA to assess the quality of the GRAM radiological decommissioning survey program for Mare Island, we have: inspected on several occasions the Mare Island Analytical Laboratory and assessed quality control procedures and documentation; reviewed backup documentation supporting Site Specific Release Reports and analytical data; observed Navy field surveys and other field work in progress; reanalyzed selected Mare Island samples at the USEPA NAREL Laboratory for data confirmation; and performed independent field instrument surveys at selected sites. The findings from these oversight activities identified one concern which was an overestimation error for Th-234. This concern has been satisfactorily addressed in the final report. Otherwise, the findings from this effort have to date demonstrated data quality and integrity consistent with the standards and procedures established for the GRAM radiological decommissioning survey program and have not uncovered any problems which would alter the conclusions contained in the final report.

In addition, we would like to acknowledge the significant cooperative effort on the part of the Navy and the many Mare Island personnel that have been involved in the decommissioning program. The committment to thoroughness and the committment to fully address State Agencies concerns has been exceptional and noteworthy.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please call me at (510) 540-3816.

Sincerely,



Chip Gribble
Remedial Project Manager
Base Closure Unit
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