

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000

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MOFFETT FIELD
SSIC NO. 5090.3



Reply to Attn of:

DQH: 218-1

April 10, 1997

Mr. Stephen Chao
Department of the Navy
EFA West
900 Commodore Way, Building 210
San Bruno, California 94066-0720

Dear Mr. Chao:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has reviewed the comments from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) of the *Draft Final Station-Wide Feasibility Study Report* submitted for review on February 14, 1997. In regard to the RWQCB's General Comment Number 10, NASA would like to provide the following information on the cleaning of the storm drain system at Moffett Field, California.

NASA-Ames has had a service contract since 1994 for the cleaning of the storm drain system. In 1996, this service contract was expanded to include Moffett Federal Airfield. Under this contract all the catch basins at Moffett Field are cleaned annually. The catch basins are cleaned upgradient and downgradient from the manhole a minimum of five (5) feet. The solid and semi-solid material is siphoned with a vacuum system from the catch basin into a tank and transported to an appropriate storage site for classification. Sections of the storm drain system beyond the five (5) foot minimum are cleaned every five years.

The cleaning of the storm drain system at Moffett Field is conducted by using high velocity hydrocleaning equipment. Sections of storm drain system piping are isolated with inflatable dams. High velocity jets of water with a minimum capacity of 60 gallons per minute and a working pressure of 1,200 pounds per square inch are blown through the isolated section. Whenever the storm drain system piping shows evidence of being more than one-half filled with solids; bucket machines and/or rodding machines are utilized to remove the major portion of the solid material before the high velocity hydraulic equipment is brought into use.

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All dirt , rocks, sand, grease, sludge and other solid or semi-solid materials resulting from all cleaning operations are trapped and removed at the downstream manhole of the section being cleaned. Solid and semi-solid materials removed from the storm drain system are transported to an appropriate storage site for classification. Passing materials from manhole section to manhole section; which could cause accumulations of sand in wet wells, line stoppage and/or damage to pumping equipment, is not permitted.

Liquids removed from the storm drain system are pumped into the sanitary sewer system at designated locations. No solid or semi-solid materials are allowed to enter the sanitary sewer system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Draft Final Station-Wide Feasibility Study Report*. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me (415) 604-3355 or Tina Pelley at (415) 604-1315.

Sincerely,



Sandra Olliges, Branch Chief (Acting)
Safety, Health and Environmental Services Office

cc: Loren Henning, U.S. EPA
Michael Gill, U.S. EPA
Joseph Chou, DTSC
Derek Whitworth, DTSC
Michael Rochette, RWQCB
Don Chuck, Navy MFA
Ingrid Chen, Raytheon Co.
Tom Jones, Schlumberger Corp.
Peter Strauss, MHB