

Thomas C. Andrews  
DIRECTOR



STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
WATER RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION  
TAWES STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
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May 24, 1979

Mr. Joseph S. Delasho  
Director, Maintenance/Utilities Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command.  
Bldg. 57 Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, D.C. 20374

Re: 140/JT  
6240

Dear Mr. Delasho:

We have reviewed the "Study for Source Abatement" submitted to Ms. Higginbotham on May 16, 1979. The study plan appears adequate to develop data necessary to design treatment facilities at Indian Head. This program should be put into effect as soon as possible.

The most intriguing arguments between your office and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation are in the area determinations of sources of mercury. We do not believe that existing operations contribute mercury to the wastewaters and should not be considered in your design of treatment facilities. We do believe that some sort of study could be conducted to determine the source of mercury contamination. The most likely source of contamination is the prior use of mercurical dentonator compounds. This mercury is probably being recycled throughout the area. Unfortunately we know of no practical or exotic method of removing mercury from such a large area. It appears that we are limited to allowing natural process to dilute this pollutant.

Sincerely,

*W. Lawrence Ramsey*

W. Lawrence Ramsey, Assistant Chief  
Permits Section  
Industrial & Hazardous Substances Division

cc: Ralph W. Siskind  
Betty C. Higginbotham

MLR:cfs