



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL ORDNANCE STATION
INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND 20640

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NSWC INDIAN HEAD
5090.3a

IN REPLY REFER TO

5090
Ser 04C/102
19 NOV 1985

Mr. Ronald Nelson, Director
Waste Management Administration
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 West Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I have enclosed a copy of a Confirmation Study which was prepared by CH₂M Hill Inc. A copy of this Confirmation Study is also being mailed to the Environmental Protection Agency Region III. This document gives the result of a survey of environmental contamination at three sites within the Naval Ordnance Station, Indian Head, MD. This Confirmation Study contains the information requested in Items (4) and (5) of Complaint and Order Number C-0-85-165 and in your letter of August 13, 1985. We believe the Complaint and Order has been satisfied with the submission of this Confirmation Study.

Briefly summarized, this report discusses the consulting engineer's findings at three environmentally suspect locations within the Naval Ordnance Station. For the most severely impacted location, the report states there are approximately 488 pounds of mercury in the sediment deposited in a 10-acre low-lying area of the Station. This mercury was released over a 30-year period from the chemical analysis laboratory at our Biazzi nitration facility. (We have taken action to eliminate the possibility of any future discharges of mercury.) The report evaluates the environmental hazard and possible remedial actions, including removal of the mercury from the entire 10-acre site. The report concludes there is no current threat to human health and the environment and recommends reducing the potential risk by removing mercury from a small area of less than one-tenth of an acre, which is adjacent to the point where the mercury was released and which has the highest recorded concentration of mercury. The report also recommends monitoring of the stormwater runoff from the entire area to insure the problem is confined inside the station boundary. There is a substantially lesser degree of hazard for the other two locations which are included in this report; thus no remedial action is recommended for these sites.

Navy environmental specialists will consider comments from the Maryland Waste Management Administration in implementing the recommended remedial actions for this area.

I would appreciate your referring all inquiries on this matter to the Naval Ordnance Station. Press inquiries should be addressed to Mr. Michael Ward, Public Affairs Officer, at telephone (301) 743-4627. Other inquiries should be addressed to Mr. Jerry Volman, the senior staff officer coordinating the environmental program at this activity. Mr. Volman may be reached at telephone (301) 743-4485.

Please call Mr. Thomas H. Woo, the Naval Ordnance Station's Environmental Coordinator, at (301) 743-4320 if you have any questions about this report or our planned actions.

Sincerely,

JAMES D. TADLOCK
 Captain, USN
 Commanding Officer

Encl: (1) Confirmation Study

Copy to:

CHINFO (01-5) w/o encl

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Mr. John W. Koontz, WMA w/o encl

Mr. Harold L. Dye, Jr., WMA w/o encl

Mr. Reid Rosnick, WMA w/o encl

Mr. Francis J. Mulhern, EPA III w/o encl

Writer: T. Woo, 04C, X4320

Typist: C. Davis, 15 Nov 85

Route corresponden
 to Code as indicated
 for initialing prior to
 signing.

C O D E	I N I T I A L S	D A T E
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