



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

INDIAN HEAD DIVISION
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER
101 STRAUSS AVE
INDIAN HEAD MD 20640-5035

5090
Ser 046/82
1 Jun 00

Mr. Elmer Biles
6315 Indian Head Highway
Indian Head, MD 20640

Dear Mr. Biles:

We are writing in response to your letter of May 31, 2000, concerning the Installation Restoration (IR) Program draft final Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan for IR Sites 11 (Caffee Road Landfill), 13 (Paint Solvents Disposal Ground), 17 (Discarded Metal Parts Along Mattawoman Creek Shoreline), 21 (Bronson Road Landfill), and 25 (Hypo Discharges from Building 588) dated May 2000. We appreciate you taking the time to review this document and provide your comments to us.

As stated in your letter, improperly abandoned wells can be a conduit for contamination on the surface and in the shallow groundwater to enter the drinking water aquifer. Therefore, at the recommendation of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) during the preparation of the Public Health Assessment for our Activity (final report dated January 2, 1998), we developed a wellhead protection plan. The plan was prepared in conjunction with personnel from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and was officially forwarded to personnel in the MDE Public Drinking Water Program on July 9, 1997.

For the wellhead protection plan, record searches and site visits were conducted to determine the status of all wells (active and abandoned) drilled at our Activity. Information in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Report "Geologic Framework, Hydrogeology, and Ground-water Quality of the Potomac Group Aquifer System, Northwestern Charles County, Maryland of 1997 (Report #91-4059), was used as the baseline. The report identified 57 wells (active and abandoned), both on the main side and at our Stump Neck Annex. As a result of our efforts, 20 wells (including active wells) were physically located, 14 wells have sealing reports on file, and 20 wells have other sources of information indicating they have been closed (notation on well Completion Reports by the well driller, previous memo or survey results, etc.) However, three wells at our Stump Neck Annex were not able to be located and insufficient information was available to determine their status.

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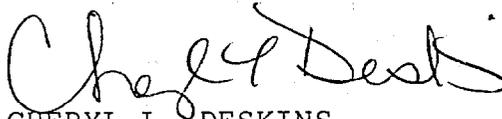
Ser 046/82

In an attempt to locate these three wells, Activity personnel used old Activity maps, old building lists, the USGS map provided in the USGS Report, and interviews with long-time employees. Unfortunately, there were no application permits, state permit numbers or other documents of record available to determine the location of these wells. Therefore, if contaminants are found at our Stump Neck Annex that have the potential to migrate down into lower drinking water aquifers, we may install deep wells, in addition to shallow wells, to determine if migration has occurred. In addition, we will put the suspected location of these three wells on maps for Stump Neck sites, if the location is near the site.

Since information on abandoned wells has been documented, we feel that it is unnecessary to include the location of these properly abandoned wells on site maps. However, we agree that showing the location of active production wells would help us to identify potential drinking water issues. Therefore, as we have done in the past, we will include the drinking water well locations on site maps if they are within the boundaries of the site map. Regardless, we will also include verbiage in the document that states the location, i.e., general direction from the site and distance, of the nearest well to the site.

We hope that this response adequately addresses your concerns. If you have any additional comments or questions, please contact Mr. Shawn Jorgensen of my staff on (301) 744-2263.

Sincerely,



CHERYL L. DESKINS

Director, Waste Management
and Prevention Division

By direction of the Commander

Encl:

(1) E. Biles ltr of 31 May 00

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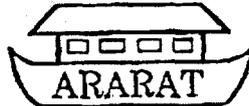
RAB Members

Interested Parties

CH2M Hill (A. Estabrook)

TetraTech NUS (G. Latulippe)

ATSDR (D. Jackson)



6315 Indian Head Highway
Indian Head, Maryland 20640

FAX 301 744 4180

Ms. Cheryl L. Deskins, Director
Waste management and Prevention Division
Indian Head Division
Naval Surface Warfare Center
101 Strauss Ave.
Indian Head, MD 20640-5035

May 31, 2000

REF: Remedial Investigation Plan for Sites 11, 13, 17, 21 and 25

Dear Ms. Deskins:

This is in reply to your letter of May 8, 2000 regarding the above work plan.

I have reviewed the proposed work plan for the above cited sites and have no comments other than to request that the maps identifying each area be modified to show any drilled production wells or abandoned drilled wells that may be in the vicinity. Any abandoned drilled wells should be reviewed to make certain they have been appropriately capped (covered). Abandoned wells are a potential for groundwater contamination of the aquifer. This is particularly important where the potential groundwater run-off could contain harmful chemicals.

Sincerely,



Elmer S. Biles
301 283 6298