



6315 Indian Head Highway  
Indian Head, Maryland 20640

Mr. Shawn Jorgensen  
Naval District Washington, Indian Head  
ATTN: Code 044SJ, Bldg. D-327  
101 Strauss Avenue  
Indian Head, MD 20640-5035

July 9, 2004

- RE: 1) Final Remedial Investigation (RI) Report for Sites 6, 39, and 45 of April 2004  
2) Final RI Report for Sites 11, 13, 17, 21 and 25 of April 2004  
3) Final Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) Problem Formulation and Work Plan for Sites 11 and 17 of May 2004

Dear Mr. Jorgensen:

I have no comments relating to the Final Remedial Investigation Reports for any of the sites noted above.

The following comments concern the proposed Final Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) and Work Plan for Sites 11 and 17.

1. Am I correct in assuming that the approach taken in this proposal will be similar to the approach taken in 5.0 Ecological Risk Assessment in the Mattawoman Creek Study?
2. Why is this Work Plan site specific to only 11 and 17 rather than also as an addendum to the Mattawoman Creek Study?
3. Members of RAB had suggested an expansion of coverage to areas in Mattawoman Creek other than those in the Bullit's Neck area. Will other studies or work plans address these areas as well?
4. On page 4-2 in the table "Summary of Samples to be submitted to the laboratory" it is proposed that 4 samples of Tissue (fish and invertebrates) be taken. Why 4 samples and not 6 or 10? Is it believed that 4 samples will be representative? On what basis is this judgment made? Will any distinction be made as to the species of fish or invertebrates that will be selected for the sample(see also 3.2.3 Tissue Samples)? What are forage-size epibenthic fishes?
5. On page 4-3 in paragraph 4.2.2 Bullit's Neck Investigation it is noted that surface sediments will be collected at a depth from 0-6 inches. What is the depth of sediments in this area? What is the range of sediment depths in other areas of the Mattawoman? Notwithstanding the statements in step 4 "Define the Study Boundaries" can we expect any variation in an analysis for Target Compound List (TCL) volatile organic compounds from different depth levels in the sediment? From time to time there has been some mention of selected dredging of the

Mattawoman. Would this likely change the risk assessment? Would this study help in such an assessment?

6. I am pleased to see the level of detail specified in Step 2 "Identify the Decisions" on page 3-4.
7. Do you have a target date for this study to begin? Will the study be influenced by the season in which it is conducted?

Thanks for the opportunity of commenting.

~~Sincerely,~~

  
Elmer S. Biles  
RAB Member (Community)  
301 283 6298