



00079

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2500 Broening Highway • Baltimore Maryland 21224
(410) 631-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • <http://www.mde.state.md.us>

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Jane T. Nishida
Secretary

January 12, 2000

Mr. Walter Legg
Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake
Washington Navy Yard, Building 212
901 M Street, S.E.
Washington DC 20374-5018

RE: Basewide Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment, Former NSWC White Oak,
Silver Spring, Maryland. Dated: October 1999

Dear Mr. Legg:

Enclosed are comments from the Maryland Department of the Environment, Waste Management Administration on the above-referenced document.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 631-3440.

Sincerely,

Jeff Thornburg
Remedial Project Manager
Federal/NPL Superfund Division

JT:bjm

cc: Mr. Richard Collins
Mr. Karl Kalbacher

**Maryland Department of the Environment
Waste Management Administration
Environmental Restoration and Redevelopment Program**

Comments on:

Basewide Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment, Former NSWC White Oak
Silver Spring, Maryland. Dated: October 1999

General Comment

Prior to the initiation of the base-wide screening level ecological risk assessment, a significant amount of data has been collected from within and around the facility. Background sampling was included in past investigative efforts. It is not clear in the text or in the eight-step process described in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's guidance on how background levels of naturally occurring compounds will be compared to existing concentrations at the facility. Please clarify how the Navy intends to address this concern.

Specific Comment

1. Section 6.0, Site 4-Chemical Burial Area, page 6-1, 4th paragraph
Section 6 mentions the Site 4 removal action conducted in late 1999. The text does not include the details of the action, including dates, volume of waste removed, and characterization of wastes. Please provide a complete description of the removal action in this section.