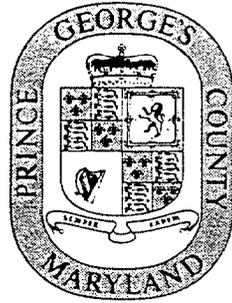


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Prince George's County Health Department

Environmental
Health

10210 Greenbelt Road
Lanham-Seabrook, MD 20706-2292
301/794-6800 (TDD) 301/773-8717
September 22, 1993



Mr. Dorn Carlson
Environmental Coordinator
White Oak Environmental Office (C831)
Naval Surface Warfare Center
10901 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903-5000

Re: White Oak NAVSWC Installation Restoration Program

Dear Mr. Carlson:

After reviewing the various restoration methods for the seven remediation sites at the above referenced facility, this office supports the recommendations suggested by Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., with the following conditions:

1. A review of the thermal destruction method of reducing PCBs and hydrocarbons from the soil to ensure that air quality and other environmental standards are met.

2. It is recommended that soil flushing be considered once the soils have been excavated from Sites 4, 7, 8, 9, and 11. This method should facilitate the removal of any hydrocarbon that may still be bound to the soil, thereby expediting the cleanup. Extraction wells must be operational prior to initiating this method.

3. From a public relations effort, the final soil cover for Site 2 should be clean fill, free of PCBs.

This office proposes the following rankings for prioritizing the remediation efforts at this facility:

1. Site 2 - this is the only site which is currently detrimental to personal health and to the environment. Capping the landfill is a mandatory requirement.

2. Site 9 - Protection of ~~Little~~ Paint Branch is paramount not only for the environment, but also to public health. Leaching of contaminants into Little Paint Branch creates the next most likely human exposure route. It is also the next most detrimental concern to the environment. Site 9, located adjacent to Little Paint Branch, also offers the fastest rate of transmission of contamination.

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3. Site 4 - While not of immediate threat to public health or the environment, this site supports one of the greatest concentration of contaminants and has the second fastest rate of transmission.

4. Site 11 - This site is earmarked for construction. The timing of construction could easily move this site up or down the priority list. It is expected that total remediation of this site will take an extensive amount of time. The location of the contaminant plume and the associated placement of the extraction wells in relationship to the proposed construction will, ultimately, determine its ranking. The excavation and treatment of contaminated soils and other materials can easily be accomplished in a comparably expedient manner. If the location of the extraction wells can be located without interfering with the proposed construction, then remediation of this site can occur in two stages - soil and material excavation prior to construction, and groundwater remediation during and after construction. Under such scenario, it is conceivable that this site be given a third priority. If the location of the new building is altered by the remediation effort such that the remediation of the site has no bearing on the construction, then the priority of this site greatly diminishes to last place in the rankings. It is important to understand the impacts of construction on the remediation efforts. It is also important to assure that a clean environment exists before construction at the site begins. The location of the plume, in relationship to the location of the structure, is the ultimate key in the ranking of this site.

5. Site 3 - The capping of the landfill is a mandatory requirement. Since the capping of Site 2 is being considered by this office as the first priority, it may be more cost effective to cap the landfill on Site 3 concurrently with the landfill on Site 2. Groundwater remediation for this site does not appear to warrant priority as some other sites. As such, it may be appropriate to cap the landfill concurrently with the Landfill on Site 2 and remediate the groundwater at a later date. Groundwater monitoring must continue at this site, even after capping, to determine if groundwater is inundating the landfill below ground grade, thereby necessitating the need for constructing slurry walls or some other protective barrier. The installation of this barrier, if necessary, can also be postponed provided that its construction will have no impact on the integrity of the cap and its liner.

6. Site 8 - This site has minimal impact on the environment and human health. The migration of the material and/or contaminants off site is debatable. However, due to its proximity to a residential community, and the public relation's impact that might occur if it is not remediated, consideration for remediation of this site should be given.

7. Site 7 - This site also offers no immediate threat to public health and the environment. Potentially, it offers a new technology to the site and, as such, may not be as cost effective. For these reasons, this office considers this site to be as high a priority as the other sites. If soil flushing is considered

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necessary for other sites of a higher priority, then the technology may be available on-site and consideration of a higher priority of this site should be given.

In summary, this office believes that the PCBs must be removed from the soils from Site 2, the landfills on Sites 2 and 3 be capped, extraction wells initially installed on Sites 4, 8, and 9 and then on Sites 2, 3, 7 and 11 in that order. Excavation, treatment or proper disposal of soils and other contaminated materials at Sites 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11 (depending on construction), should be accomplished in that order.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on extension 285.

Sincerely yours,



Paul Meyer, Engineer
Environmental Health

cc: Melanie Christodoulou