Prince George's County Health Department

Division of Environmental Health

9201 Basil Court, Suite 318
Landover, Maryland 20785-5310
301/883-7600 (TDD) 301/883-5025

March 13, 1996

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:

This office has reviewed the various restoration methods for the two landfills (Sites 2 and 3), and offers the following comments for your review and consideration:

1. The consultants are proposing merging the two landfills by combining the materials from Site 3 with Site 2. The consultant also proposes to use soils excavated from Site 4 as part of the fill/cover material for Site 2. In order to properly evaluate the proposal, the following additional information is requested:

   a. A comparison between the proposal and the other three proposals as to their existing wetlands and forest land.

   b. A schematic for this proposal.

   c. A determination as to whether Site 2 is penetrating the watertable, and the potential for an increase in groundwater contamination by this proposal.

   d. Procedures to be used to eliminate potentially obnoxious gases during the breakdown of construction and demolition (C&D)/domestic waste materials in the landfill.

   e. Verification that the proposal is consistent with State regulations.

2. Other options that were not mentioned in the review are as follows:

   a. Excavate both landfills, remove all potentially hazardous, putrescible and C&D materials off-site, and reestablish the areas as a Class I, II, or III landfill depending on potential future use. This option removes the potential for further groundwater contamination and reduces the cost of monitoring, and possible remediation. Removing all the unnatural and potentially hazardous materials from the sites, reduces the stigma of having potentially hazardous materials on-site.

   b. Establish a rubblefill on-site that will not endanger ground or surface waters. Once developed, permitted materials can be transported to this landfill reducing the cost of off-site disposal. Disadvantages for this option are: (1) the potential cost in developing the rubblefill and shifting materials to that site, and (2) finding a site on the base large enough to accommodate the fill from Sites 3 and 2. Clean soils from other sites could be used for cover.

Before a solution to the landfill issue is determined, it is important that short- and long-term cost estimates are obtained, potential groundwater contamination evaluated, and the perceptions of neighboring residences and on-site employees considered.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at 301/883-7602 weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Yours truly,

Paul Meyer

Paul F. Meyer, Engineer
Environmental Health

PM:mbb

cc: Melanie Christodoulou