From: Richard Parkin
To: Jonathan Freedman; Mary Queitzsch
Subject: Fw: LST 1166 Summary Information for the Navy
Date: 04/05/2010 11:03 AM

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From: Christine Reichgott/R10/USEPA/US
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Date: 04/02/2010 11:16 AM
Subject: LST 1166 Summary Information for the Navy

The 378-foot LST-1166 was built in 1954 as a tank landing ship for the United States Navy, converted to a Navy minesweeper in February, 1973 (MSS-2). After being decommissioned in August of 1973, it was used commercially and eventually towed to Astoria, Oregon, because of mechanical troubles in 1980. Since that time, it has been essentially inactive and is currently owned by a non-profit organization. It was towed to its current moorage near Rainier, Oregon in 2002. The non-profit owner is for all intents and purposes defunct. The US Coast Guard has been dealing with the abandoned, derelict vessel as it has become an environmental and safety hazard. The US Coast Guard has removed all accessible oils and hazardous materials including paints, batteries, and mercury; removed friable asbestos and encapsulated all other asbestos containing material; patched the hull and dewatered the machinery spaces. However, paint containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and wiring that may contain PCBs continue to be present. The US Coast Guard has maintained contracted armed security on the vessel at a cost of $2,100 per day in order to deter the drug users and scrap thieves. The US Coast Guard has notified EPA of its intent to dispose of this vessel in the ocean with the PCB paint and is seeking EPA's concurrence immediately. Because of limited funds, the US Coast Guard plans to terminate all actions related to this vessel, including security within a month or two. The level of PCBs is greater than that allowed under the general permit for open ocean disposal (50 ppm). Efforts are underway to look at all viable alternatives for disposal.

One possibility would be an arrangement for additional vessel cleanup and scrapping or for additional cleanup and vessel disposal under SINKEX per 40 CFR 229.2. Actions to be considered would include additional waste removal at Navy facilities to render the vessel suitable for sale as scrap or suitable for use as a target vessel pursuant to EPA's general permit using the 1999 agreement with EPA for the PCB levels (which allows levels higher than 50 ppm).

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