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Division of Environmental Remediation
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Joe Martens
Commissioner

February 11, 2015

Ms. Nina M. Johnson
Northeast IPT
Team Leader, Environmental Business Line
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic
9324 Virginia Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23511-3095

Re: Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant
NWIRP-Bethpage (130003B) OU2 Remedy

Dear Ms. Johnson:

This is in response to your December 1, 2014 letter to Bob Schick regarding the recently identified groundwater hotspot in the OU-2 plume that is located immediately upgradient to the Bethpage Water District Plant 6. We acknowledge the amount of effort that the Navy has undertaken to further characterize the groundwater plume associated with OU-2. This work has identified a hotspot. We also acknowledge that additional efforts are needed to fully delineate this hot spot and complete the characterization of the plume in this area. However, given the magnitude of this hotspot, (4.3 ppm), and its location, (immediately upgradient of BWD Plant 6), action is needed as soon as possible.

In all likelihood, a number of extraction wells may be needed to acceptably address it. As indicated in your letter, the use of BWD well 6-2 may well be part of the solution. Your letter indicates that you have been exploring the option. This option was also recommended by the 2011 Remedy Optimization Team Report requested by the Navy. We are also aware that the Navy has had at least preliminary discussions with the Bethpage Water District regarding the use of well BWD well 6-2 to control the hotspot. A recent meeting was held with EPA, DEC and the BWD where they indicated support for the idea, including use of the treated water by the Water District.

While use of BWD well 6-2 may not be the only or complete solution, it is readily implementable and should be pursued as quickly as possible. While we acknowledge that additional efforts are needed to fully delineate this hot spot and complete the characterization of the plume in the area downgradient of BWD well 6-2, it is important that a plan be developed that outlines additional characterization to be performed as well as next steps to design a system to address higher levels of contamination in this area that are not captured by operation of BWD-

well 6-2 In addition, it is apparent that we need to discuss legal and technical changes that are necessary to better address the ongoing cleanup efforts for the site. Please have your legal representatives contact Rosalie Rusinko to schedule a meeting in the near future to discuss the legal and technical changes that are necessary.

Please contact me if there are questions.

Sincerely

James B Harrington, PE
Director, Remedial Bureau A

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