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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, S.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

July 13, 1999

4WD-FFB

Ms. Katherine Landman  
Department of the Navy - Atlantic Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Code 1823  
Norfolk, Virginia 23511-6287

SUBJ: Aquatic Assessment for Stone Bay

Dear Ms. Landman:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing comments on this assessment to address the concerns of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB has expressed concerns regarding the possibility of ecological effects in Stone Bay from the firing range activities.

The maximum detected concentrations of copper and lead were below Region 4 sediment screening levels. These levels are very protective of ecological health. When the maximum levels at a site fall below the screening levels, no further assessment is necessary. Hence, the other activities described in this document are over and above what Region 4 would require. Any ecological risk assessment activities for copper and lead in Stone Bay would be completed at this point.

As an aside, the sampling of biota should have been performed along a concentration gradient to ascertain a site specific effect level. However, the possibility that an effect would be observed at Stone Bay seems vanishingly small. Additionally, the great blue heron is a poor choice of receptor because of its large home range. The green heron would be a better choice.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at (404) 562-8538.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gena D. Townsend".

Gena D. Townsend

Senior Project Manager

cc: Dave Lown, NCDEHNR  
Rick Raines, MCB Camp Lejeune