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OFFICER IN CHARGE
NAVAL ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY
PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA 93043

IN REPLY REFER TO:
113S:KR:lm
3263.3A
Ser: 893
22 MAY 1981

From: Officer in Charge
To: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Subj: Status of Health Physics Support At Insect Vector Compound and Hazardous Waste Disposal Pit; interim report of

Ref: (a) FONECON btwn Industrial Hygiene Officer (NRMC Camp Lejeune) and J. Orr (NEESA) on 1 Dec 80
(b) NAVSUPINST 5101.9B

1. As requested by reference (a), the Naval Energy and Environmental Support Activity (NEESA), Port Hueneme, California conducted a health physics support visit during the period 11-13 December 1980 to evaluate the Naval Field Research Laboratory site, adjacent areas, and a hazardous waste disposal pit. A follow-up visit was made during 9-11 April 1981 to conduct additional sampling.

2. Five-hundred-eighteen beta buttons containing 207,200 uCi of strontium-90, two ~~animal carcasses~~ contaminated with strontium-90, and 160 pounds of soil contaminated with strontium-90 have been recovered from the burial site located in the northwest corner of the Insect Vector Compound. The contaminated material has been safely stored in Building PT-26 awaiting containerization and shipment to an Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved burial site at Barnwell, South Carolina. The material is expected to be placed in Department of Transportation authorized shipping containers before 1 July 1981. Actual shipment of the material will depend on coordination with the Naval Supply Center, Norfolk, Virginia in accordance with reference (b). No health hazard exists to Marine Corps Base (MCB), Camp Lejeune personnel under the current storage conditions.

3. Seventy-five soil samples have been taken from the burial site. Results of laboratory analysis of these samples has not provided conclusive evidence that the site may be released for unrestricted use. Additional sampling from one portion of the burial site is required and currently is underway. Final sampling results and release of the site is expected before 1 July 1981.

4. Personnel interviews generated concern that:

a. Rooms formerly used as laboratories in Building PT-37 may be contaminated.

b. An incinerator adjacent to Building PT-37 may be contaminated from burning of animal carcasses injected with strontium-90.

c. Radioactive material may be present in a man-made pit located in the hazardous material dump site.

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5. Wet rag and paint samples were taken from rooms in Building PT-37. Ash samples were taken from the incinerator and the incinerator ash dump site. Soil and water samples were taken from the dump site pit and adjacent areas. Analysis of samples indicated that strontium-90 and cesium-137 were not present.

6. A comprehensive detailed report containing background information, actions taken, results of soil samples and recommendations will follow this interim report.

William J. Morris
W. J. MORRIS
By direction

Copy to:
NAVFACENGCOM (112N)
NRMC Camp Lejeune

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