



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

September 30, 2009

Captain G.K. David
Commanding Officer
Department of the Navy
NAS Whidbey Island
Oak Harbor, Washington 98278-5000

Dear Captain David:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 has reviewed the Third Five Year Review report for the Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island Ault Field and Seaplane Base Superfund sites in Oak Harbor, Washington. EPA reviewed this report for technical adequacy, accuracy and consistency with EPA guidance.

EPA concurs that the remedies at these sites currently protect human health and the environment because all current exposure pathways have been addressed and there are institutional controls in place to prevent human exposure to contamination remaining at the site. However, in order for the remedy to remain protective in the long-term, the Navy needs to continue operating the groundwater extraction and treatment system at Ault Field Operable Unit 1 Area 6 and to complete the followup actions described in the report in a timely manner. While the Seaplane Base site has been deleted from the National Priorities List, waste remains in place and Five Year Reviews are required. EPA appreciates the Navy's efforts to ensure the long-term administration of institutional and land use controls at both Seaplane Base and Ault Field.

Please note that to meet the statutory deadline, this Five Year Review should have been completed by May 5, 2009. We are pleased that the Navy was able to finalize the report by the end of this fiscal year. However, the next Five Year Review will be due on May 5, 2014, and we hope that in the future, this kind of delay will be avoided.

EPA will post this Five Year Review on the Region 10 website and we suggest that the Navy make this report available on your website as well. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Harney of my staff at (206) 553-6635.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Cohen".

Lori Cohen
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Cleanup