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Item ID Number 04060

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Report/Article Title Memorandum: From John R. Watson, Director of Medicine and Education, USAF regarding designation of Alvin L. Young to chair group to develop Herbicide Orange Storage Site Reclamation in Gulfport, Mississippi, dated January 31, 1980

Journal/Book Title

Year 1980

Month/Day January 31

Color

Number of Images 5

Description Notes Attached memos regarding Herbicide Orange Storage Site Reclamation dated January 15, 1980, January 9, 1980 and December 10, 1979

1st Ind to HQ AFSC/SGP Ltr, 15 Jan 80, Defining Research Required for Reclamation of Herbicide Orange Storage Site - Gulfport, Mississippi

HQ AMD/SG

TO: USAFSAM/CG

BW → *EK*
 1) Interact w/ Col Mahan
 re: OEHHA assistance 31 JAN 1980
 2) Plan to brief SAM & AMD o/a 2 March 80
 3) Scope of work should include WAG. on time / \$'s / MY's. *BW*

1. Request you designate Maj Al Young to chair a group of his choosing to develop the scope of the work requested by the attached letters. Should Maj Young wish to utilize personnel outside your organization, those individuals should be identified to HQ AMD/SG for proper coordination.
2. It is our position that the organization best suited to monitor or conduct such research would be the AFESC, Tyndall AFB FL.

FOR THE COMMANDER

[Handwritten Signature]
 JOHN R. WATSON
 Colonel, USAF, MSC
 Director of Medicine & Education

1 Atch
 nc

	INFO	ACTION	INITIALS
			DATE
CEA			<i>R</i> 1 Feb 80
SGP	X		<i>X</i> 1 Feb 80
CE	X		<i>P</i> 4 Feb
CP	X		<i>TDY</i> <i>BW</i>
CC	X		<i>TDY</i>

Copy to:
EK 1 Feb 80

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, DC 20334



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SGP


15 JAN 1980

SUBJECT: Defining Research Required for Reclamation of Herbicide Orange Storage Site - Gulfport, Mississippi

TO: AMD/SG

1. We have been tasked (see attached) to identify research required to return the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Herbicide Orange storage area to full and beneficial use and to determine ultimate fate of TCDD. This tasking was the result of the USAFOEHL monitoring study at NCBC and subsequent briefings of their findings to the Secretariat and the Air Staff on 29 Nov 79.
2. We do not anticipate AMD manpower or resources being used to actually conduct research in this area. However, the broad experience base of personnel within USAFSAM/EK and USAFOEHL who have been involved with studying environmental fate and disposal of Herbicide Orange must be used to develop the scope of work identifying follow-on research needs to meet the stated objectives.
3. Request you pull together the AMD expertise required to address this task. The scope of work should be forwarded to this office no later than 5 Mar 80. Any recommendation including an appropriate rationale you may have regarding the best organization to conduct or manage this research would also be helpful.

FOR THE COMMANDER


RONALD D. BURNETT, Lt Colonel, USAF, BSC
Command Bioenvironmental Engineer
Office of the Command Surgeon

1 Atch
HQ USAF/SGES Ltr, 9 Jan 80
w/Atch

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BOLLING AFB, D.C. 20332



9 January 1980

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SGES

SUBJECT Herbicide Orange Storage Site Reclamation - Gulfport, Mississippi

TO: HQ AFSC/SG

1. Request that a scope of work be developed addressing follow on research to determine possible methods for returning the storage area to full and beneficial use and to include a determination of the ultimate fate of TCDD (Atch 1). Additionally, your response should recommend an appropriate lead office or agency for the project.

2. Your response should be provided not later than 10 March 1980.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Phillip G. Brown", is written over the typed name.

PHILLIP G. BROWN, Major, USAF, BSC
Assistant for Bioenvironmental
Engineering
Office of the Surgeon General

1 Atch
OAS(ES) Memo, Dec 10, 79

Copy to: SAF/MIQ
(Lt Col Laney)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

December 10, 1979

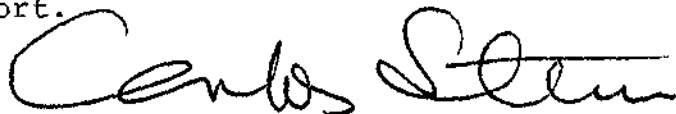
MEMORANDUM FOR AF/SG

SUBJECT: Herbicide Orange Storage Site Reclamation -
Gulfport, Mississippi

A 12-acre storage area on the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Gulfport, Miss., was used for the long-term storage of 840,000 gallons of Herbicide Orange from mid-1968 to mid-1977. Following disposal of these stocks in 1977 by at-sea incineration, the Air Force began monitoring soil residues in order to determine if the site could be returned to full and beneficial use. On November 29, 1979, the USAF Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory (USAF OEHL) briefed the Secretariat and Air Staff on results to date from these monitoring studies conducted at NCBC. The principals were Mr. Joe Meis, Acting Assistant Secretary for Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Installations, and Mr. Lloyd Mosemann, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Logistics. On December 3, 1979, representatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (MRA&L), Chief of Naval Operations (OP-45), and HQ NAVFAC were briefed.

Study results indicate that the herbicide is rapidly degrading, but the toxic contaminant, TCDD, is reducing very slowly. The data indicate that erosion is moving some contaminated soil from the old storage area to sites off-base. A crawfish and a sediment sample, taken 2000 feet off-base, each had a measurable level of 20 parts per trillion of TCDD. Concern for those off-base positive samples and their future implications are the reasons the Secretariat requested a briefing. Recommendations were (1) to leave the site in its present undisturbed state, (2) stabilize drainage ditch banks, (3) construct siltation ponds in the drainage system, and (4) consider follow-on research to determine the ultimate fate of TCDD. The Assistant Secretary approved all the recommendations and stressed the requirement for early development of a protocol for research to determine possible methods for returning the storage area to full and beneficial use.

Request Air Force Systems Command be tasked to develop the protocol discussed above; an expeditious response is desirable. Please advise this office by January 4, 1980 of your estimate for submittal of the requested protocol along with your recommendation for the most appropriate organization to conduct this follow-on effort.



CARLOS STERN, Ph.D.
Deputy for
Environment & Safety

cc: AF/RD
OASN (MRA&L)