



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HUNTINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
502 EIGHTH STREET  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701-2070

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

April 22, 1996

Programs and Project Management Division  
Project Management Branch

Mr. Mark F. Bohne  
P.O. Box 477  
Milan, OH 44846

Dear Mr. Bohne:

Thank you for your letter of February 21, 1996. I am sorry that you could not attend our workshops, but I look forward to meeting you at future activities. I have tried to provide responses to your questions regarding the former Plum Brook Ordnance Works (PBOW).

First, I assume the twin lakes referred to is what we call the red water ponds. The red water was the wash or rinse water to carry off impurities in the manufacturing process of TNT. This area is one of our main focuses in the Phase I RI currently being conducted. We have done soil sampling, ground-water monitoring (both shallow and deep aquifers), and sediment sampling in the ponds themselves. The data will be available in the final report due late spring of this year (May 96).

Second, we are in the initial phase of an RI at the red water ponds and the location of the ponds have not been fully defined in relationship to the potential aquifers that may exist under the PBOW site. Determining ground-water gradient is part of the Phase I RI discussed above.

Third, our Design Center in the Nashville District is aware of the ground-water issues concerning the Erie County Landfill, but neither of us have reviewed any reports. The landfill is not believed to be down-gradient of Plum Brook Station or the PBOW site. Our studies to date and in the near future are limited to the former Plum Brook Ordnance Works Site. We are only investigating the "potential" contamination which might have resulted from past Department of Defense (DoD) usage. If we determine that there is DoD contamination migrating from PBOW, the investigation will have to be expanded. A risk assessment will be performed after the necessary data is collected.

Fourth, the Corps of Engineers have been aware of the potential for DoD contamination since the 1986 time frame at the time of the approved Inventory Project Report (INPR). The INPR

is our authorizing document equivalent to a Preliminary Assessment to determine project eligibility for environmental restoration under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). Our initial studies were performed in the 1989-1990 time frame. Lack of funding delayed further investigation until our current studies began. I do not know to what extent any state or local agencies have been aware of any potential contamination. The Ohio EPA did participate in our development of a Site Management Plan (SMP) during the past year. The SMP is part of the Administrative Record (AR) file. Our investigations were initiated with the passage of the DERP-FUDS program, which was authorized by the passage of "CERCLA" in 1980 and "SARA" in 1986, and not by any apparent problems or initiatives by other agencies.

The latest engineering information we have will be available early this year when the final report is produced. Previously developed data and reports are included in the AR file.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate call me at (304)529-5388. If you wish to use e-mail, my adress is:  
INET:RICKME@MAIL.ORH.USACE.Army.mil.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Meadows  
Project Manager  
Programs and Project  
Management Division