Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove
Commanding Officer
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania 19090-5005

Dear Commanding Officer:

We are writing to provide you with the site ranking for Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove which is based on our site visit June 26-27, 1996.

Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove received a "D" classification based on our site ranking scheme (see Note of Explanation). The ranking included combined consideration of all identified contamination at the base (including Air Force Reserve and Pennsylvania Air National Guard sites). This means that Willow Grove has received a low priority for receiving a full public health assessment this fiscal year. A more detailed site visit summary report will be sent to you by September 25, 1996. That site visit summary will indicate any health questions we think require further evaluation or actions we recommend the Navy to take with regard to Willow Grove.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Richard Canady at (404) 639-6009.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra G. Isaacs
Acting Chief
Federal Facilities Assessment Branch
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation

Enclosure

CC:
Yvonne Walker, NEHC
Wendy Bridges, NEHC
Andrea Lunsford, NEHC
Jim Colter, Northern Division, NAVFACENGCOM
Jim Edmond, NAS Willow Grove
NOTE OF EXPLANATION OF THE ATSDR SITE RANKING

ATSDR health assessors conduct site visits at all hazardous waste sites that are proposed or listed on the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Priorities List (NPL) including Department of Defense facilities. During the site visits, the health assessors collect available data and information to be included in the public health assessment. The information that is collected documents the nature and extent of contamination, identifies site-related health issues of concern to the community, and provides insight into the health status of the community.

Because current resources at ATSDR are inadequate to write public health assessments at all of the Federal Facilities listed on the NPL. ATSDR has developed an interim Site Ranking Scheme (57 FR 37382, August 18, 1992) as a planning tool to identify facilities that pose the greatest hazard to public health. Those sites posing a greater relative hazard to public health will receive public health assessments before sites posing a lesser relative hazard. This action ensures that ATSDR’s resources can be directed to the most critical sites first.

Using the interim Site Ranking Scheme, ATSDR assigns points for contaminated media, populations within one mile, possible human exposures, and community health concerns. The points are totalled to give sites a single numerical score from 0 to 140 points. The 140 point scale is divided into five Site Ranking Categories based on their numerical ranges: Category A -140-80; Category B -79-55; Category C -54-35; Category D - 34-20; and Category E -19-0. The higher the score, the greater the relative hazard and, therefore, the higher priority in the public health assessment process.