



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

cc Mr Thomas Morris 0398

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

February 23, 1993

Mr. Neal Paul
IRD/EMD
Building 1
USMC Naval Base
Camp LeJeune, North Carolina 28542

Dear Mr. Paul:

I recently spoke with Mr. Thomas Morris of your staff about obtaining more detailed information about the potential contamination of drinking water data at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL). Mr. Morris indicated that I should make my requests in writing to you.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is mandated to assess any potential health risks associated with exposure to hazardous substances at Superfund sites such as MCBCL. In particular, we are interested in characterizing any residential exposure to contaminants in drinking water at MCBCL prior to the closure of contaminated wells at Hadnot Point, Tarawa Terrace and Rifle Range Areas.

As the Navy has noted, the discovery of contamination in potable wells at these sites does not in itself imply that anyone actually drank or washed with contaminated water; the water was treated and diluted before distribution. Therefore, I would like to examine the data from samples of the tap water which was actually distributed to individual residences and housing areas on the base. In particular, I would like to know: what treatment processes raw water undergoes before it reaches the tap in each of the seven water systems at LeJeune; when tapwater was first analyzed for contaminants at MCBCL; the dates when contamination was first discovered in raw water potable wells and in tapwater; the date that each contaminated potable well was closed; the frequency of tapwater sampling prior to and after closure of contaminated potable wells; the number of samples analyzed at the time of each sampling; the types of compounds analyzed; and the results of each analysis (i.e. the concentration of all contaminants detected).

In addition, I am trying to assess how many people consume water from which wells, and for how long. I would like a list of all housing areas on the base, the location of these housing areas, the number of people in each housing area, and the source of water for that area. Pump schedules of each of

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the seven water distributions systems and any information on the number of MCBCL and off-site residences or commercial establishments whose water is supplied by private wells, the location of wells, and any tap sampling conducted on water from private wells would be most useful. Finally, I would like a rough estimate of the number of people who had lived at LeJeune for longer than five years and the number of people who had lived at LeJeune for longer than 10 years at the time that the contaminated wells were closed.

For your information, I have enclosed the only set of pre-1985 drinking water data currently available to me. As you will note from the enclosure, the detection limits listed for several organic compounds are theoretically impossible, and that the correct units are most likely ppm, **not** ppb. If you have any information on these results I would appreciate your sending them as well.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you or Mr. Morris.

Sincerely yours,


Nancy L. Sonnenfeld, M.S.P.H.
Epidemiologist, Epidemiology
and Surveillance Branch
Division of Health Studies

Enclosures

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