



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

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LFL/CL
13 AUG 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY)

Subj: FUNDING STUDY OF CHILDHOOD CANCER ASSOCIATED WITH
EXPOSURES TO TCE AND PCE MCB CAMP LEJEUNE, NC

Ref: (a) Navy Route Slip 97U103000320 dtd 16 Jul 97

1. The reference tasked this Headquarters to comment and provide a recommendation on funding a study of childhood cancer associated with exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, NC. The estimated cost of this proposed study is \$1,790,000.
2. The Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC) is the Department of the Navy's (DON) technical expert for public health issues. The Center also acts as a liaison to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for Navy and Marine Corps installations. As such, NEHC is very familiar with this issue at MCB Camp Lejeune and is conducting a comprehensive review of the work proposal and the basis for the study (Woburn study) for technical merit and cost effectiveness. This review should provide the necessary technical data to recommend a preferred DON position.
3. We understand that an initial epidemiological study at MCB Camp Lejeune did not generate sufficient proof of causation to warrant a full scale study. Since limited information exists, we recommend that a smaller scale pilot study be conducted. Additional information collected during the pilot study will allow an informed decision regarding the necessity and value added of a full scale study. This approach will ensure protection of human health in a fiscally responsible manner.
4. A small scale pilot study will also allow time for a determination of the appropriate cost allocation should a full scale study be necessary. A significant share of the contamination entering the MCB Camp Lejeune drinking water system prior to 1985 can be attributed to an off-base source (ABC Cleaners). The cost of a full scale study should rightfully be borne by all the parties responsible for the contamination.

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5. The point of contact for this Headquarters (LFL-6) is Ms. Kelly Dreyer at (703) 696-2138, facsimile: (703) 696-1020, or internet: dreyerk@hqi.usmc.mil.

Frank G. Weirick
FRANK G. WEIRICK
Assistant Head, Land Use and
Military Construction Branch
Facilities and Services Division
Installations and Logistics Department
By direction of the Commandant
of the Marine Corps

Copy to:
CG MCB CAMP LEJEUNE, NC (EMD/IRD)
NAVFAC (Code 42WJ)
CNO (N453)
NEHC (Attn: Ms. Lunsford)

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