

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**Ames Research Center**  
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



January 20, 2011

Reply to Attn of: J: 200-9

Ms. Jane Diamond  
Director, Superfund Division  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Diamond:

Thank you for your response dated January 12, 2011, to Deputy Center Director Lewis Braxton's memo to Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld discussing our concerns regarding the relative clean up responsibilities at the former NAS Moffett Field site. We appreciate the recent actions the EPA Region 9 has taken in general, and more specifically, in expediting the 2010 Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway.

We did not knowingly set a precedent for vapor intrusion sampling for the purpose of tiering buildings and installing remedies under the MEW ROD and ROD Amendment. We conducted limited sampling of selected buildings located over known hot spots:

- To better inform ourselves of the risk posed by MEW and Navy contamination such that our comments on the MEW and Navy remediation efforts are more meaningful, the intent being to assure remediation efforts are protective of personnel and the environment at Ames.
- To evaluate potential NASA sources.
- To limit our liability by providing disclosures under sec. 120 Comprehensive Environmental Restoration and Compensation Liability Act and related laws, such as the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, to prospective tenants.
- To more accurately disclose our liability on the Agency's financial reports to Congress.

We are pleased that our efforts did not go unnoticed by the EPA.

The Navy's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) voted during their January 13, 2011 meeting concerning the vapor intrusion issue supported the NASA position that air sampling and mitigation of vapor intrusion as interim actions are a function of the environmental mitigation responsibilities of the Navy and not functions of NASA operations and management of facilities. Thank you for EPA's support during this vote.

Your expectations with regard to NASA's role as property custodian and operator at Moffett Field will be met to the fullest extent. We will continue our cooperation with efforts to implement the MEW ROD Amendment by: identifying current and future occupancy plans, floor layouts, and status of HVAC systems; providing reasonable access; providing any data we may have collected for independent reasons, and implementing the required controls in operations and management after the remedy has been determined by EPA to be effective.

NASA not only acknowledges that we have responsibilities as the property custodian, but we are also proactively addressing the remedial objectives as set forth by your Agency as well as the State of California for each of our contaminated sites. It is our desire to restore the environment at Ames and to reduce NASA's overall cleanup liability. We are committed to continue our work in cooperation with you and the State to ensure we meet our obligations. NASA's position continues to be that we do not need a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) for work that NASA is already performing in cooperation with all parties.

Thank you for providing an effective partnership with EPA for environmental cleanup and for the protection of our employees and tenants.

Sincerely,



Deborah L. Feng  
Director of Center Operations

cc: (via e-mail only)  
NASA HQ/Ms. Olga Dominquez  
NASA HQ/Dr. James Wright  
NASA HQ/Mr. James Leatherwood  
NASA ARC-J/Mr. Lewis S.G. Braxton, III  
NASA ARC-JQ/Dr. Ann Clarke  
Navy/Ms Laura Duchnak  
Navy/Mr. Scott Anderson  
Water Board/Mr. Terry Seward  
Water Board/Ms Elizabeth Wells