



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
700 FEDERAL BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106-2896

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

July 1, 1991

Special Projects Section, Toxic and
Hazardous Waste Management Branch

SUBJECT: Laredo International Airport, LPST ID No. 95021

Mr. Dan Airey
Texas Water Commission
P.O. Box 13087
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Airey:

The Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers has forwarded the Texas Water Commission's letter of June 18, 1991 to this office for action. Please be advised that all subsequent correspondence concerning this site should be directed to the Kansas City District, rather than Fort Worth, as Kansas City is responsible for this project.

It is unclear as to why your office would expect a response to your October 9, 1990 letter from the Corps of Engineers, as your letter was addressed to the City of Laredo.

On June 24, 1991, Ms. Linda Houston, of my staff, spoke with Mr. Randy Niebuhr of the Fort Worth District regarding the site. She was informed that a statement made in a November 1, 1990 letter from the City of Laredo to your office was in error. The letter states that, "Corps representatives agree that the Air Force was the party responsible for subsurface contamination." This statement is incorrect. Mr. Niebuhr stated to Ms. Houston that he had informed the City of Laredo only that the site had been reported to Corps' headquarters as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) project, for possible further investigation.

An additional statement made in the November letter could be misleading. Specifically, the letter states that the former Laredo Air Force Base (Laredo International Airport) "...is an eligible project for federal funding under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) that addresses restoration efforts at Former Use Defense Sites (FUDS)." This statement may lead the reader to believe that the Department of Defense (DOD) is planning to remediate this site. While it is

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true that this is a FUDS, the DOD is currently only making a determination as to what responsibility, if any, that DOD has at this site.

Regarding the June 18, 1991 letter to the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers, I would like to point out that the statement, "It is our understanding that the U.S. Corps of Engineers has accepted the responsibility to remediate the contamination at the airport facility" is incorrect. The Corps is responsible for determining if any DOD generated contamination exists at the site. If so, then, within current policy constraints and subject to availability of funds, the Corps could participate in appropriate remediation of the site.

On June 24, 1991, Ms. Houston attempted to contact Ms. Anne Miller, of your staff, to clarify this situation. She instead spoke with Mr. Ronnie Eason, as Ms. Miller was out of the office for the week. Ms. Houston will contact Ms. Miller during the week of 30 June, 1991. Ms. Houston can also be contacted at 816-426-2845.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Paul D. Barber
Chief, Engineering Division

Enclosures

Copies Furnished:

Jose L. Flores, Laredo International Airport
(518 Flightline, Bldg. #132, Laredo, TX 78041)
Jeff Lewellin, TWC District 11 Field Office
(813 E. Pike Blvd., Weslaco, TX 78596-4935)
Randy Niebuhr, Army Corps of Engineers
(ATTN: CESWF-ED-GH P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102)