



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT  
215 NORTH 17TH STREET  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-4978



February 14, 1996

Environmental Remediation Branch



Mr. Mike Schmoller  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Southern District  
3911 Fish Hatchery Road  
Fitchburg, Wisconsin 53711

Dear Mr. Schmoller:

Following is a chronological account of the physical changes which have occurred at the former Truax Airfield fire training area. This history is being provided as supporting documentation to augment the September 1995 Draft-Final Remedial Investigation Report on the fire training area.

In March 1993, when the Omaha District awarded the contract to EA Engineering to conduct a Remedial Investigation at Truax Airfield, Madison, Wisconsin, the fire training area was a large, relatively flat vegetated field. When field activities were conducted in May of 1993, a large pile of soil which had been stockpiled immediately east of the fire training area was noted by the field team. Michael Kirchner, the Dane County airport engineer, sent a letter on August 24, 1994 regarding the airports plans to place a rental car facility near the site which would require the spreading of 15,000 cubic yards of "clean" soil stockpiled on the site. In a subsequent telephone conversation, Mr. Kirchner indicated that the soils would be placed at the area of the former rental car return lot which is located north of the fire training area. Ms. White requested that all soils be kept away from the site, especially the upgradient monitoring well MW93-FT-01.

In September of 1994, EA Engineering remobilized to complete some additional sampling at the site. At that time, vegetation indicated extensive traffic had been in the vicinity since the last field visit. Field photographs taken in September show pieces of asphalt and other debris contained in the fill. EA Engineering mobilized to the site in March of 1995 to collect ground water and soil samples to compliment the risk assessment. The field team leader notified the USACE Technical Manager that the site was compromised because the stockpiled soil had been spread across part of the study area (Figure 4-1, RI Report). At that time, under the direction of the technical team, surface samples were collected of the material which had been spread on the site. Sample numbers SS95FT02, SS95FT03, and SS95FT05 were surface samples collected in the newly spread material. Results from these samples shown on Figure 4-5 of the RI Report show constituents above the NR720 Guideline action levels.

If you have further questions on this site, please contact the Technical Manager, Linda J. White, P.E. at 402-221-7672.

Sincerely,

*for Robert F. Smart*  
Gordon D. Hussey, P.E.  
Chief, Environmental Remediation Branch  
Engineering Division