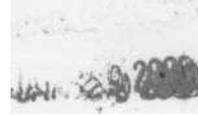




DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 203501000

Mr. Hugo Paul Fleischman
Oil Program Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460



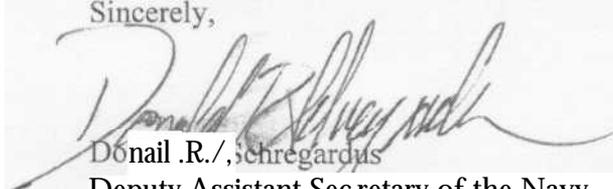
Re: Oil Pollution Prevention and Response; Non-Transportation-Related Onshore and Offshore Facilities; Proposed Rule; Docket Number OPA-2002-0001

Dear Mr. Fleischman:

The Department of Defense (DoD) supports EPA's proposal to extend, by one year each, the dates by which a facility must amend its Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan and implement the amended plan. It will be difficult, however, for DoD facilities to meet even these extended deadlines, given the existing planning and programming process for building a budget in accordance with the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP). Under this process, facilities plan and budget for required projects a minimum of two years in advance. We hope that EPA will take this into consideration in future rulemakings.

Notwithstanding the potential compliance problems created by the protracted DoD budget process, the proposed extension will give our facilities additional time to identify funds that may be re-directed to SPCC Plan amendment and implementation. Because this provides some relief over the original schedule (Final Rule; 67 FR 47042; 17 July 2002), DoD looks forward to EPA extending the deadline dates as described in the referenced docket number.

DoD appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed extension. My point of contact is Mr. Louis Maiuri at (703) 602-2602 or email maiuri.louis@hq.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Schregardus
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Environment)