



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

DCN 8485

2 August 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

This is in response to the July 27, 2005 request from Mr. Frank Cirillo of your staff to provide environmental impact information regarding Newport. His question and our response follow below.

*The Environmental Impact section states that at Newport there are threatened and endangered species present, which have delayed or diverted testing. Also stated is that all Newport discharges to impaired waterways, and ground water and surface water contaminations are reported.*

*Provide the following information:*

- The number and names of the endangered species at Newport*
- The areas these species occupy at Newport*
- The number of delays and diverted testing that has occurred in the last five years at Newport*

The threatened and endangered species (TES) reported in certified data by Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Newport, which has a separate fenceline and environmental program from Naval Station Newport, are the North Atlantic Right Whale (*Balaena glacialis*), Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys Coriacea*), Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and Kemp's Ridley turtle (*Lpidochelys kempii*). These species are located in the Narragansett Bay Shallow Water Test Facility. Other species which, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) also require attention, are the Long Finned Pilot Whale, Harbor Seal, Gray Seal, Harp Seal, and Harbor Porpoise. In all, there are 11 species, which impact the shallow water testing facility. There has only been one diversion within the past 5 years. The 5 other diversions noted in the NUWC certified data are older than 5 years. Naval Station Newport, a separate fenceline from NUWC, reported that federally listed TES were not present within their fenceline and they were not impacted by laws and regulations pertaining to the MMPA.

- The number of reported contamination discharges to impaired waterways, and ground water and surface water that has occurred at Newport over the last five years and*

*-The environmental impacts of these discharges*

There have been no reported contamination discharges to impaired waterways, groundwater or surface water over the last 5 years, and therefore no environmental impacts. The discharges reported in the certified data are historical discharges older than 5 years.

I trust this information satisfactorily addresses your concerns. If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



*for*

Anne Rathmell Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy  
for Base Realignment and Closure