



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
3817 Luker Road  
Cortland, New York 13045

February 15, 1994

Mr. Edward A. Levine  
Scientific Support Coordinator  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
NOAA, HazMat Response & Assessment Div.  
Scientific Support Br., Bldg. 11, Box 2  
Governors Island, NY 10004

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
BOSTON

Attention: Steve Meador

Dear Mr. Levine:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the January 24, 1994, revision of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for using Chemical Countermeasures in the Regional Response Team 2 (RRT 2) Area of Responsibility. We find the change which calls for the development of monitoring protocols for each of the different zones sufficient to cover our concerns regarding the need for impact monitoring in both Zone 1 and Zone 2. Also, the changes made to the MOU provide the mechanism for excluding from trial use specific areas in Zone 2 which have special resource or habitat value. However, the minutes published from the RRT 2 Response Technologies Committee Meeting of January 20, 1994, indicate impact monitoring would not be required in Zone 1. We do not believe this was the intent of the recommended revisions to the MOU nor was it the understanding of Mr. Charles Merckel who was the Service representative at that meeting. The Service understands that the detailed biological and toxicological monitoring that will be necessary in Zone 2 to assess the impacts of dispersant application may not be necessary in Zone 1. We expect the monitoring protocols called for in the MOU will elucidate when sampling will be required as well as those protocols necessary for each of the zones. The Service plans to work with the Response Technologies Committee to help develop a set of protocols that will provide appropriate impact monitoring in a timely fashion.

Upon clarification of the minutes from the January 20th meeting and showing the addition of impact monitoring for Zone 1 on Figure 1 of the MOU, the Service feels that its intent of providing long term safeguards for Trust Resources when using chemical countermeasures for oil spills will be satisfied. Upon completion of these actions we will recommend that the Department of the Interior sign the revised MOU.

We appreciate your assistance in making the changes requested to the MOU and look forward to its speedy approval. If you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me or Charles Merckel, Environmental Contaminants Specialist, of my Long Island Field Office at (516) 581-2941.

Sincerely,

*David A. Stilwell*  
David A. Stilwell  
Acting Field Supervisor

cc: DOI, Boston, MA (W. Patterson)  
DOI, Phila., PA (D. Henne)  
RO, ES, Hadley, MA (D. Savignano)