



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST
BOX 102, NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32212-0102

5090
Ser N46EL/1314
18 Dec 03

Mr. Frank Csulak
NOAA Damage Assessment Center
74 Magruder Road
Highlands, NJ 07732-0428

Dear Mr. Csulak:

Subj: M/V EVER REACH OIL SPILL NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE
ASSESSMENT (NRDA)

Commander, Navy Region Southeast serves as the Federal trustee for the resources under the Department of Defense trusteeship associated with the oil spill from M/V EVER REACH into Charleston Harbor on or about September 30, 2002. After a careful review of the data collected pertaining to Navy property in the area of the spill the Navy has concluded that further participation is not warranted at this time. Although the incident caused disruption to resources, further Navy action to assess natural resource damages based on the incident appear unnecessary considering the action being undertaken by the other co-trustees to compensate for those public losses. Accordingly, the Navy does not seek to participate in the formal NRDA process being undertaken by the other co-trustee agencies, nor is it necessary for the Navy to join in the Trustee Memorandum of Understanding.

The Navy reserves the right to re-evaluate its position in this matter if warranted by new information. Additionally, Navy reserves the right to recover any outstanding costs associated with this incident incurred to date, including our evaluation of the incident's NRDA and real property damage implications.

My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Ken Conley, who may be reached at (904) 542-8070, or by e-mail at Conleyk@cnrse.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. S. Cotton", written over a horizontal line.

L. S. COTTON
Captain, U.S. Navy
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
CNI (ENV)
NAVFAC EFD South Charleston SC (Capt McMahan)

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