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MARINE DEBRIS IN WATERS, DISPOSAL OF

NOV 4 1987

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Office of Solid Waste Activities for Persistent Marine  
Debris

FROM: Marcia Williams, Director  
Office of Solid Waste

TO: Cynthia Dougherty, Deputy Director  
Office of Marine Estuarine Protection (WH-5556F)

The Office of Solid Waste has no activities or programs that relate directly or indirectly to persistent marine debris. However, we would like to stay abreast of any activities that may be pursued with respect to such material because of the impact or interrelationship with our ongoing program for effective management of solid waste. Please add Michael Flynn (WH-565) as your contact point for this office; he may be reached at 382-4489.

Under the definitions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)--and the regulations developed in response to it--the term "disposal" includes deposition of solid waste into or on any land or water. Thus, debris deposited on or into rivers or continental waters of the United States is subject to control under RCRA. To date we have taken regulatory action only on those wastes that we have defined as hazardous; some guidance-type regulations have been issued for non-hazardous wastes. We are developing additional control approaches for non-hazardous waste and welcome any information or options you may offer. As part of that developing program for non-hazardous waste we did conduct a study of the municipal waste stream. a copy of the report is attached.

Please let Mike know if you need anything else. We look forward to participation in your program.

Attachment

cc: Jeffrey Denit, OSW

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