

## **Jackson, Richard G POA02**

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**From:** Geist, Lisa K POA02  
**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2001 11:09 AM  
**To:** Jackson, Richard G POA02  
**Subject:** fish reply draft

Jesse -

I hope the following responses answer your questions.

*Have there been more testing of fish caught in the Suqi River?*

Yes. Migratory fish were collected in August, 2001. Appendix C of the draft Risk Assessment Workplan (October 2001) contains a trip report on this fish data collection effort. The report describes the size fish which were collected, the locations, and methods used. The objective of collecting fish tissue samples was to provide data that could be used to develop the human health and ecological risk assessments. Individual fish samples were analyzed for PCBs, PAHs, and metals.

*When will the data be available for review?*

Preliminary chemical data results are summarized in the Site Characterization Technical Memorandum (November 2001). This document was mailed to Ms. Pam Miller, ACAT, on December 11<sup>th</sup>. These results should be used with caution, however, since an independent data review has not yet occurred. We also expect to receive additional data from different samples that were sent to a Corps of Engineers laboratory in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Migratory and resident Dolly Varden fish were collected from the Suqitughneq River only and are being analyzed for PCB congeners. The draft Phase III Remedial Investigation Report will contain all data collected, risk assessments, and evaluations of the findings. We expect this document will be available sometime in March 2002.

*Were the recommendations made by the ATSDR followed?*

Yes. Edible-sized fish were collected and analyzed individually. Fish were collected from the Suqitughneq River, as well as the Tapisaghak River. The field crew attempted to catch fish from the Seepenpak Lagoon, but were unsuccessful. The fish samples were prepared several different ways based on local consumption patterns. Individual fish were subdivided for analysis into samples of fillets with the skin on, fish heads, and fish eggs, or a fillet and remains of body (like a whole fish sample) as outlined in the Biological Sampling Plan (Table 2-2). During the field activities, we also authorized analysis of an additional 12 fish tissue samples (various parts). A survey of people's eating habits and locations where subsistence foods are collected was conducted by Montgomery Watson prior to implementing the fish and plant sampling this past summer. The results of this survey are included as Appendix B of the draft Risk Assessment Workplan (October 2001).

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