RAMBOLL

ENVIRONMENT
& HEALTH

Ms. Wanda Washington
FOCUS
PO Box 28
Tallevast, FL 34270

September 2, 2021

Re: Review of the 2021 Annual Wetlands Monitoring Report, Lockheed Martin Tallevast Site, Manatee County Florida

Dear Ms. Washington,

I have reviewed the 2021 Annual Wetlands Monitoring Report, recently prepared on behalf of LMC for the Tallevast Site (AECOM, August 30, 2021). This Report documents the results and interpretations of the recent monitoring of wetland conditions around the Tallevast Site and the potential impacts of the ground water pumping for remediation of the contamination historically released at the LMC facility on Tallevast Road. As a result of my review, I would offer the following observations and comments.

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- The monitoring documented by AECOM appears to be following the approved plans for assessment of wetland impacts. This report covers the past year but also provides longer term data on trends in wetland conditions and nearby ground water conditions. Only two wetlands are monitored today including: Target Wetland 6 (TW6) located on the south side of Tallevast Road, east of the LMC facility, and Reference Wetland 3 (RW3), located farther southeast of the LMC facility along the periphery of the area affected my pumping of the Ground Water Recovery and Treatment System (GRTS).

- Water levels in and around TW6 have remained below long-term trend lines in the past few monitoring events, a condition AECOM attributes in part to drought conditions, but also the cessation of pumping return water to the infiltration gallery on the south side of this wetland area beginning in June 2019. The decision to cease returning water to this area was apparently in an effort to increase drawdown and plume capture by the GRTS. While the impact of this decline in water supply has thus far been minimal on native vegetation and the wetland boundary, it is an issue that deserves continual monitoring and assessment. In the long term, resumption of the use of the infiltration gallery to support the supply of water in this area may be needed, particularly during the Winter and Spring dry seasons.

- There is a glancing reference in the Report to the large development project on the south side of Tallevast Road (the Amazon project), but little in the way of comment or assessment of the potential impacts it may eventually have on hydrologic or wetland conditions in the area. The impact this project may have is something that should be thoughtfully assessed, both in terms of its' influence on the LMC remediation program (particularly any future extension of pumping systems into the new SE plume area currently under assessment in the DPT program), as well as LMC's efforts to support the health of wetlands in the project area through the return of treated water from the GRTS. The Amazon development project will almost certainly increase the amount of direct surface runoff from the developed property, and the local infiltration to the water table through capture/percolation of runoff from storm water infiltration ponds on the south side of the property. It will also likely decrease the amount of evapotranspiration from the water table beneath the property due to the removal of pasture grass and replacement with buildings and hard concrete surfaces. Both of these factors could ultimately work to increase the supply of water to the local water table, potentially affecting wetland hydroperiods in the area south of Tallevast Road and east of the LMC property, the level of saturation of soils on nearby properties, and the flow of ground water within the nearby USA and LSA aquifer systems to the south and west. These are issues that would be pertinent to LMC's wetland monitoring programs, and well as its consideration of any adjustments of its' GRTS systems on properties immediately to the west in response to findings from the ongoing DPT investigation.

If you have any questions regarding these observations and comments, I would be happy to discuss them with you further.

Very truly yours,

Robert L Powell, PhD, PE
Principal