

**1372**

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION -  
CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER REMOVAL  
ACTION AT PLANTS 2/3, 6, 8 AND 9, FEED  
MATERIALS PRODUCTION CENTER, FERNALD,  
OHIO**

**05/14/91**

**DOE-HQ/DOE-FSO**

**1**

**MEMO**

United States Government

# memorandum

*file  
cc: Wally  
Reber*

1372

DATE: MAY 14 1991

REPLY TO: EM-424 (B. Wright, 3-8158)  
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Categorical Exclusion Determination - Contaminated Groundwater Removal  
Action at Plants 2/3, 6, 8, and 9, Feed Materials Production Center,  
Fernald, Ohio

TO: *AA*  
Gerald W. Westerbeck  
Site Manager  
Feed Materials Production Center

Attached for your information is a copy of the approved categorical  
exclusion for the action referenced above.

Please contact me, or your staff may contact Mr. Brad Wright  
(FTS 233-8158) of my staff, should further information be required.

*Leo P. Duffy*  
Leo P. Duffy  
Director  
Office of Environmental Restoration  
and Waste Management

Attachment

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Date Rec'd MAY 20 1991  
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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION  
For Contaminated Groundwater Removal Action  
Feed Materials Production Center, Fernald, Ohio

Proposed Action

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to conduct a contaminated groundwater removal action.

Location

The proposed action will occur in the vicinity of Plants 2/3, 6, 8, and 9 at the Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC) in Fernald, Ohio.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action involves the use of existing monitoring wells as extraction wells and installation of approximately 8 new extraction wells, pumps, piping systems, two additional collection tanks, and an additional component to an existing treatment system to address "perched" groundwater contaminated with uranium and volatile organic compounds. The additional components to the treatment system include a small carbon adsorption unit and a sand filter. The potentially contaminated water will be pumped from wells, sampled for hazardous substance list constituents, and stored in holding tanks. The water will then be transported through pipes or by tanker truck to a central collection tank in Plant 8. From this 6,000 gallon collection tank, the water will be treated to remove volatile organic compounds, sampled, and then passed to the existing Plant 8 treatment system. The existing system will remove uranium, nitrates, and metals and discharge in compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit parameters. The total volume of water for this proposed action is estimated to be 400 gallons/day.

The proposed action is considered a removal action and will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Note that pumping and treatment (acid neutralization and uranium removal but not organics) began at Plant 6 as a time-critical removal action in November 1989. This action ceased in April 1990 due to organics in the water and is discussed in a Memo-to-File approved on October 30, 1989. The proposed action is specifically required by the CERCLA Consent Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, has a total estimated cost of \$4 million, and is expected to operate for 5 years when it will be replaced by the planned Advanced Waste Water Treatment Plant. While the proposed action will exceed the 12-month and \$2 million limits as specified in the September 7, 1990, Amendments to the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Guidelines, it will not limit evaluation of alternatives for final remedial action.

The proposed action will not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements and will not adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas.

### Categorical Exclusion (CX) to be Applied

The Amendments to Section D of DOE's NEPA Guidelines, published in the Federal Register on September 7, 1990, add classes of actions generally applicable to all DOE that normally do not require Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements.

The Amendments specifically list the following as types of actions that are included:

1. Removal actions under CERCLA (including those taken as final response actions and those taken before remedial action) and actions similar in scope under RCRA (including those taken as partial closure actions and those taken before corrective action). These activities include the following: treatment (including incineration), recovery, storage, or disposal of wastes at existing facilities permitted for the type of waste resulting from the removal action, where needed to reduce the likelihood of human, animal, or food chain exposure.
2. Improvements to environmental control systems (e.g., changes to scrubbers in air quality control systems or ion-exchange devices and other filtration processes in water treatment systems) that reduce the amounts or concentrations of regulated substances in air emissions or water effluents, where: (a) the improvements would be conducted within an existing building or structure; (b) any substance captured or produced thereby during subsequent operations of the environmental control systems would be recycled, released, or otherwise disposed of within existing permitted facilities; (c) for any such substance identified within the definition of hazardous substances under section 101(4) of CERCLA that is collected or produced in increased quantity or was not previously collected or produced, there are applicable statutory or regulatory requirements or permit conditions for its disposal, release, or recycling; and (d) it is determined that such improvement would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements, including requirements of DOE Orders; would not require siting and construction or major expansion of waste disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators and facilities for treating wastewater, surface water, or groundwater); and would not adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas.

The CX is appropriate since the proposed action, as described above, is to conduct a removal action under CERCLA, will not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements, will not require siting and construction or major expansion of waste disposal, recovery or treatment facilities, and will not adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas.



Compliance Action:

I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the CX referenced above. Therefore, the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Approval: *Leo P. Duffy*  
Leo P. Duffy, Director  
Office of Environmental Restoration  
and Waste Management, EM-1

Date: 1/11/91

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EH-25 has reviewed this determination and has no objection.

Signature: *Carol Borgstrom*  
Carol Borgstrom, Director  
Office of NEPA Oversight, EH-25

Date: 4/29/91

\* Groundwater Removal Action Termined

