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**O.U. 5 "FINAL" ISA REPORT**

**03/05/91**

**OEPA/DOE-FMPC**

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**LETTER**

**OU5**



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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George V. Voinovich  
Governor

March 5, 1991

RE: O.U.5. "FINAL"  
ISA REPORT

Mr. Jack Craig  
U.S. DOE FMPC  
P.O. Box 398705  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239

Dear Mr. Craig:

On November 28, 1990, Ohio EPA conditionally approved the Operable Unit 5 ISA Report. The conditions outlined in that letter were that DOE provide acceptable responses to Ohio EPA comments. DOE responded favorably to many of the comments and made changes to the document. However, other favorable comment responses were not followed by changes in the final ISA document. It is not acceptable to wait for valid comments to be incorporated into a future document.

Other comment responses relate to the risk issue. It is Ohio EPA's opinion that DOE is still not complying fully with the NCP in its approach. Furthermore, DOE is not even being consistent with other O.U. ISA Reports in insisting that the 35 pCi/g "levels of concern" remain in the report. Ohio EPA has proposed another meeting between U.S. EPA, DOE and Ohio EPA to further discuss risk issues. We hope that this meeting will occur in the near future.

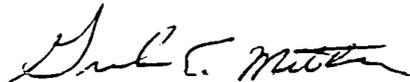
For the reasons listed above, Ohio EPA feels that DOE has not yet provided acceptable responses to the conditions outlined in our November 28, 1990 letter, and therefore, approval cannot yet be given. Issues that still need to be addressed are attached. Because of the uncertainty that currently exists in the remedial schedule, DOE may want to take this opportunity to resolve these issues. I would suggest that DOE and Ohio EPA meet to discuss these issues before DOE again revises the O.U. 5 ISA.

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Mr. Jack Craig  
March 5, 1991  
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If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,



Graham E. Mitchell  
DOE Coordinator

GEM/bjb

cc: Tom Winston, Ohio EPA  
Kathy Davidson, Ohio EPA  
Catherine McCord, U.S. EPA  
Jack Van Kley, OAG  
Bob Owen, ODH  
Lisa August, Geotrans  
Ed Schuessler, PRC

ATTACHMENT

OHIO EPA COMMENTS ON THE FINAL INITIAL SCREENING OF ALTERNATIVES  
REPORT FOR OU-5 AND ASSOCIATED DOE RESPONSES  
TO PREVIOUS OHIO EPA COMMENTS

GENERAL COMMENT

DOE responded favorably to several of OEPA's comments, yet failed to make the appropriate changes in this document on at least a dozen comments. The purpose of revising a document is to incorporate the comments of the reviewers. Some of Ohio EPA's comments were made two revisions ago and yet are still not incorporated into the final ISA report. It is unacceptable to OEPA to wait for these comments to be incorporated into the FS as this results in the cumbersome task on OEPA's part of having to track these numerous comments to insure that they are in fact addressed in future documents. Appropriate revisions must be made to the Initial Screening of Alternatives report in order to avoid finalizing what Ohio EPA considers to be an incomplete and inaccurate document.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON DOE'S RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS OEPA COMMENTS ON THE AUGUST 1990 DRAFT ISA REPORT

1. Comment 6, Page 3, first full paragraph: DOE's statement that "Where ARARs or TBCs are not available, preliminary remediation goals will be developed based on a  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  risk level" is inconsistent with the NCP. Further, this statement is contradictory with the third paragraph on this page where DOE recognizes that "where ARARs do not exist for a constituent, risk-based cleanup goals will be developed." TBCs do not determine when the  $10^{-6}$  risk level is to be used. The NCP states: "The  $10^{-6}$  risk level shall be used as the point of departure for determining remediation goals for alternatives when ARARs are not available or are not sufficiently protective because of the presence of multiple contaminants at a site or multiple pathways of exposure." (emphasis added) TBCs have nothing to do with determining when the use of a  $10^{-6}$  cancer risk is appropriate.
2. Comment 7, Page 3: DOE asserts that their use of the phrase "level of concern" for the 35 pCi/g concentration of uranium in soil does not necessarily imply that soil below this concentration presents no health risk. OEPA disagrees, as the use of the term does in fact convey the impression that

concentrations below this "level of concern" present minimal risks and will therefore not be addressed in the cleanup of the FMPC site. As previously stated on other operable unit ISA reports, DOE should start with a level equal to the  $10^{-6}$  lifetime cancer risk level as the preliminary remediation goal for uranium in soils, sediments and groundwater.

3. Comment 12, Page 4: See General Comment.
4. Comment 13, Page 4: See General Comment.
5. Comment 14, Page 5: The response to the comment states that changes will be made in the scoring of effectiveness, but no such changes are made in the document or proposed for the FS. The ISA document should be revised to incorporate the scoring changes.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON DOE'S RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS OEPA COMMENTS ON THE OCTOBER 1990 REVISED ISA REPORT

1. Comment 12, Page 9: See General Comment. OEPA fails to understand why DOE insists on referring to documents (such as the December 1990, Task 13 Report) that either have not yet been written or have not been submitted to the regulatory agencies. This type of response is totally unacceptable and inappropriate.
2. Comment 15, Page 10: See General Comment.
3. Comment 17, Page 11: See General Comment. Also, waiting to make the appropriate change until the FS report is written will only result in inconsistencies between the ISA report and the FS report.
4. Comment 20, Page 12: See General Comment. Again, waiting to make the appropriate change until the FS report is written will only result in inconsistencies between the ISA report and the FS report.
5. Comment 22, Page 13: The rationale for the table titles provided in this response should be incorporated into the document text or as a footnote to the tables since the classification of monitoring wells into north, west, western and central is hardly obvious. Surely, a better and clearer method could be used for denoting north, west, western, and central monitoring wells.
6. Comment 31, Page 15: See General Comment.
7. Comment 32, Page 15: See General Comment.

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8. Comment 33, Page 15: See General Comment.
  9. Table 1, Page 17: The footnote references "Myrick, 1983" and "ODPH, 1988" should be included in the reference section of the ISA report.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE FINAL ISA REPORT (JANUARY 1991)

1. Section 2.6.1, page 2-11, last paragraph: The references "WMC0 1987" and "SWOAPCA 1986" were omitted from the reference section of the ISA report. These should be listed in the report.
2. Section 2.6.2, page 2-12, first paragraph: The reference citation "NOAA 1985" should be included in the reference section of the ISA report.
3. Page 3-9, first sentence: DOE attempts to justify the use of 35 pCi/g as an acceptable cleanup level by noting that this was the level used for cleanup of uranium-contaminated soils from the area around Manhole 180. This is inappropriate and illustrates OEPA's concern with DOE's continual use of the misleading term "level of concern" as suggestive of an acceptable remediation level for the site.
4. Page B-4, State of Ohio ARARs, Water Well Installation: Several typographical errors contained in OEPA's last comment response letter continue to cause some confusion on the part of DOE with respect to the state's regulation on the abandonment of test holes and wells. The correct citation for this type of activity is OAC 3745-9-10, not 3745-9-0 as stated in the text.
5. Page B-10, Table B-1: The duplicate listing of OAC 3745-17-07 under item "a" was not corrected. DOE's response to OEPA's original comment on this listing made no sense.
6. Page B-10, Table B-1: DOE states that "...3745-01-4(D) sets the criterion applicable to all waters..." This is not the case. OAC 3745-1-04 in its entirety (not just Paragraph D) sets those criteria that are applicable to all waters. This inaccurate citation should be corrected.