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**EMERGENCY REMOVAL ACTION
MEMORANDUM: UNH PROCESSING**

09-30-91

**DOE/WEMCO
DOE-2272-91
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LETTER**



Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705
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SEP 30 1991

DOE-2273-91

Mr. W. H. Britton, President
Westinghouse Environmental Management
Company of Ohio
P. O. Box 398704
Cincinnati, OH 45239-8704

Dear Mr. Britton:

EMERGENCY REMOVAL ACTION MEMORANDUM: UNH PROCESSING

Approximately 250k gallons of Uranyl Nitrate Solution, formerly an intermediate product in the recovery of uranium, is stored in 17 tanks at the FEMP. The material was classified as a waste by U.S. DOE on June 20, 1991. Since that time, the material has been classified as RCRA characteristic material due to chromium and barium content. Transfer of the material from the tanks to the Refinery (Plant 2/3) and subsequent processing for recovery of uranium has been planned as part of the Safe Shutdown Removal Action pursuant to the 1991 CERCLA Consent Agreement.

On September 17, 1991, several small leaks from the piping system serving the Uranyl Nitrate storage tank system on the southwest side of Plant 1 were discovered. These leaks occurred within the secondary containment area and the Pump House Sump area. The secondary containment area drains to the sump system which is pumped to a holding tank at the Refinery Sump. When full, the holding tank is pumped to Plant 8 where the uranium and other metals are removed as part of NPDES-permitted wastewater processing.

When examined later in the day by WEMCO and DOE personnel, none of the leaks were observed to be continuing. A small amount of liquid was observed under a prior leak and small amounts of dried/stained material were observed at other locations.

Due to an imminent threat to the environment from the potential for the leaks to continue (or worsen), DOE recommends that an emergency removal action under CERCLA be initiated to remove and process the content of the uranyl nitrate tanks.

Sincerely,

R. E. Tiller
Manager

FO:Janke

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cc:

S. W. Coyle, WEMCO
H. F. Daugherty, WEMCO
J. P. Hopper, WEMCO
P. C. Weddle, WEMCO
AR Coordinator, WEMCO