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UNH EMERGENCY REMOVAL ACTION

10-07-1991

DOE-FSO/WEMCO

DOE-028-92

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LETTER



Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705
(513) 738-6357

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OCT 07 1991

DOE-028-92

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

Dear Mr. Britton:

UNH EMERGENCY REMOVAL ACTION

The UNH Emergency Removal Action at the FEMP requires consideration of important safety and environmental issues. The safe and expedient completion of this project with properly documented approval by all relevant agencies is considered to be a high priority by the DOE Fernald Office (FO).

While the FO recognizes the dedicated efforts of the FEMP personnel involved with this action, it has also become apparent that there needs to be more interaction and communication between WEMCO and the FO. This communication must also be extended to include the regulatory agencies and citizen interest groups.

Therefore, upon completion of all necessary administrative and operational preparations, the FO is requiring that WEMCO certify its readiness to commence activities associated with this removal action. Initiation of testing and/or operational activities will occur only after an operational readiness review and DOE (FO) concurrence.

Operational experience has shown that precipitation/slurry-filtration processes are more efficiently operated on a continuous basis. Start-ups/shut downs are more labor intensive and harder on equipment than process operations. Also, since most of the piping, valves, and pumps involved with this system have been out of use for a number of years, a continuous operation could result in a safer, more efficient (less down time) process. Heating and cooling (expansion and contraction), as well as opening and closing on a daily basis, may adversely affect old flange gaskets, pump seals, and valve seals. Some of the valves and flanges affected by this action are in areas that cannot be isolated for maintenance. At a nominal process rate of 30,000 gal/day (after the process is lined out) on a continuous basis, this operation could be completed in approximately 2-3 weeks.

Therefore, the FO is requesting that WEMCO provide the necessary resource loading to maintain an "around the clock" continuous operation for the

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operational duration of this removal action. This level of support will include but not be limited to: operations, maintenance (crafts as needed), laboratory, health physics, administrative, and compliance.

If your staff has any questions, please ask them to contact Rod Warner at extension 8916.

Sincerely,


R. E. Tiller
Manager

FO:Warner

cc:

H. Daugherty, WEMCO
H. J. Dechter, WEMCO
B. Gardner, WEMCO
R. J. Hiestand, WEMCO
R. S. Shirley, WEMCO

WEMCO
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