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**URANYL NITRATE HEXAHYDRATE (UNH)
REMOVAL ACTION**

04-247-1992

**DOE/OEPA
DOE-1449-92
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LETTER**



Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705
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APR 24 1992

DOE-1449-92

Mr. Thomas A. Winston, Chief
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Southwest District Office
40 South Main St.
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2086

Dear Mr. Winston:

URANYL NITRATE HEXAHYDRATE (UNH) REMOVAL ACTION

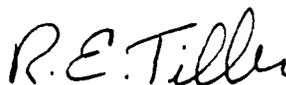
This letter is in response to a request for a status report on the UNH removal action at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). The Department of Energy, Fernald Field Office (DOE-FN) is in the final stages of two Operational Readiness Reviews (ORR) (one by Westinghouse Environmental Management Company of Ohio [WEMCO] and the other by DOE), that will verify the readiness of personnel, equipment, and procedures for this action.

The original plan for the UNH removal action consisted of essentially two phases: the first, a testing phase that included equipment checkout and maintenance, as well as leak testing of the piping systems, with the second being the actual processing of the UNH inventories. Phase one was started on December 6, 1991, with the leak testing of the piping systems. The leak testing was completed on February 13, 1992. Equipment checkout is still in progress and is expected to be complete by May 1, 1992. During phase one, laboratory scale testing was also performed to resolve uncertainties in the actual processing procedure. As a consequence of the laboratory results another phase was inserted into the schedule. We will now run one batch of UNH as a test to verify successful field operation of the process. This run will be evaluated and if results indicate the overall process is satisfactory, DOE will approve full start up of the operation. We are also performing some document revisions, especially with the Plant Test Authorization (PTA). This is being revised to provide additional detail.

On January 6, 1992, the operable Oliver filter collapsed, leaving only the east Eimco filter to process sump water. The original plan was to switch all sump water processing to the Oliver filter and process the UNH on the east Eimco filter. The Oliver filter is being replaced, with completion expected to be mid-June, 1992. In order to continue with the UNH project it was necessary to repair and place on line the west Eimco filter. The Eimco filters are now being tested to ensure that both processes can be conducted simultaneously without crossover and that both filters can be switched over to sump water processing in the case of abnormally high rainfalls. Enclosed is the latest schedule as of April 22, 1992, which shows the start of the test batch on May 27, 1992.

If you or your staff have any questions or wish to view the UNH project personally, please contact Rod Warner at FTS 774-8915 or (513) 738-8916.

Sincerely,



R. E. Tiller
Manager

FN:Warner

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/enc.:

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