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**CLARIFICATION AND STATUS ON THE
BACKGROUND RECALCULATION FOR
GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER**

**DOE-FN/EPA
DOE-1127-93
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LETTER**



Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
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DOE-1127-93

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V - 5HRE-8J
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Mr. Graham E. Mitchell, Project Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
40 South Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2086

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Mitchell:

CLARIFICATION AND STATUS ON THE BACKGROUND RECALCULATION FOR GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER

Reference: Technical Information Exchange (TIE) between U.S. EPA, OEPA, DOE-FN, and FERMCO on January 27, 1993

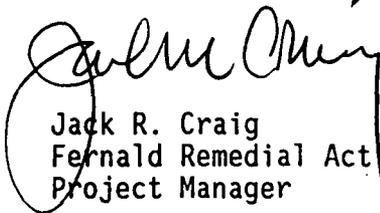
The purpose of this letter is to follow up on the discussions generated at the January 27, 1993, TIE. Consistent with the discussions at the TIE, Department of Energy, Fernald Field Office (DOE-FN) has asked Fernald Environmental Restoration Management Corporation (FERMCO) to expedite the statistical evaluation of the background groundwater and surface water data in order to provide acceptable background concentration for these media. As a point of clarification, we requested FERMCO to utilize as many Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) wells as possible to support the background evaluation. However, as expressed in the TIE, we are aware that potential homeowner wells could be used to compliment the RI/FS wells. FERMCO will evaluate the homeowner wells (i.e. well integrity, screen depth, data, etc.) prior to the selection process to ensure the quality of the data is consistent with requirements for background values. Also, as stated in the TIE, we are continuing to evaluate surface water background locations. However, based on preliminary findings, we expect that the current locations will be adequate for the background evaluation.

We felt it was necessary to provide both Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) this point of clarification letter on the approach that was being taken for the utilization of both existing RI/FS and homeowner wells in the background evaluation. A draft final position paper will be prepared and supplied to OEPA and U.S. EPA for comments in March 1993. This position paper will include the background wells and surface water locations to be used sitewide and impacts, if any, of the final locations on the other operable units. The position paper will

include the rationale by which the background locations were chosen, and statistical methods that were used to calculate the new value. Also, if additional work (i.e., sampling, drilling) is necessary it will be identified in this paper.

If you or your staff have any questions or require further information, please call Pete J. Yerace at (513) 738-6178.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Craig
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FN:Yerace

cc:

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