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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION  
SITE CHARACTERIZATION AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING NEPA DOC.  
NO. 319**

**12/17/91**

**DOE-HQ/DOE-FN  
NEPA DOC 319**

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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION  
Site Characterization and Environmental Monitoring  
Fernald Environmental Management Project, Fernald, Ohio**

Proposed Action

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to conduct site characterization and environmental monitoring activities at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP).

Location

The proposed action will occur at various locations on and adjacent to the FEMP site. Sampling locations include the zones of influence addressed by the Operable Unit concept at FEMP. The five Operable Units include: (1) waste pits 1-6, burn pit, and clearwell; (2) other waste units; (3) production area and suspect areas; (4) silos 1, 2, 3, and 4; and (5) all environmental media. The FEMP site is located 20 miles northwest of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

Background

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) processes require the taking of numerous samples from various types of environmental media each year. In addition, other statutes and regulations require characterization and monitoring activities. The sampling and characterization activities discussed in this document include all such site characterization and environmental monitoring activities at FEMP, and all site data will be used to support decisions concerning remediation alternatives and waste handling techniques under both CERCLA and RCRA. This categorical exclusion (CX) is being submitted for the duration of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process and will be updated and resubmitted if the information discussed below changes significantly.

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action will involve the taking of approximately 40,000 samples annually, including approximately 1,500 air, 1,000 water, 500 soil and numerous waste, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and stack samples. The air samples will be taken from air monitors and from radon flux monitors at stations strategically located around FEMP; water sampling will be conducted by taking grab samples from existing monitoring wells (this CX is not intended to cover the drilling of additional monitoring wells), and soil sampling will involve taking spade samples. Waste samples will be taken from drums, pits, bulk tanks, etc. NPDES samples will be taken from several process discharges. In addition, numerous samples of fruits and vegetables will be taken annually from approximately 40 locations around the FEMP site. All samples will be packaged according to current FEMP procedures, shipped to the appropriate laboratories, and analyzed. All shipments will be in accordance with applicable Department of Transportation requirements.

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The RI/FS Work Plan and Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) outline procedures for site characterization and environmental monitoring under RCRA and CERCLA at FEMP and will be adhered to for all the activities in the proposed action. Not in any case will the collection of samples involve activity in floodplains or wetlands on or around the FEMP site.

**Categorical Exclusion to be Applied**

The Amendments to Section D of DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Guidelines, published in the Federal Register on September 7, 1990, add classes of actions generally applicable to all DOE that normally do not require Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements.

The Amendments specifically list the following as types of actions that are included:

Site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction, and operation of characterization and monitoring devices, under CERCLA and RCRA, if the activities would not introduce or cause the inadvertent or uncontrolled movement of hazardous substances as defined in section 101(14) of CERCLA, pollutants or contaminants as defined by section 101(33) of CERCLA, or non-native organisms, and would not adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas. Activities covered include but are not limited to:

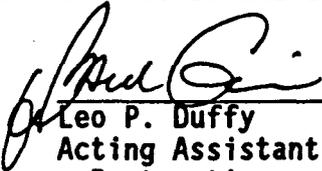
- installation of ambient air monitoring equipment;
- sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, and contaminants;
- sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; and
- sampling of flora and fauna.

The CX is appropriate since the proposed action, as described above, will not introduce or cause the movement of hazardous substances, as defined in section 101(14) of CERCLA, pollutants, contaminants, or non-native organisms and will not adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas.

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Compliance Action

I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the CX referenced above. Therefore, the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Approval:   
Leo P. Duffy  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental  
Restoration and Waste Management, EM-1

Date: 12/17/91

EH-25 has reviewed this determination and has no objection.

Signature:   
~~Carol Bergstrom, Director~~  
Office of NEPA Oversight, EH-25

NEPA 6730

Date: 12/23/91

United States Government

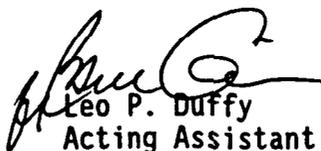
Department of Energy

# memorandum

DATE: DEC 18 1991  
REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: EM-424 (B. Wright, 3-8158)  
SUBJECT: Categorical Exclusion Determination - Site Characterization and  
Environmental Monitoring, Fernald Environmental Management Project,  
Fernald, Ohio  
TO: Carol Borgstrom, EH-25

I have approved the subject categorical exclusion under Section D of the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act Guidelines and am forwarding it to you for review.

I request that you notify me within 2 weeks, in accordance with the Interim Procedural Guidelines for implementation of SEN-15-90, whether you have any objection to this determination.



Leo P. Duffy  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental  
Restoration and Waste Management

Attachment

cc:  
L. Lawson, EM-431  
M. Kleinrock, EM-20

(EH-25)

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