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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
RCRA CLOSURE OF EQUIPMENT STORAGE
AREA
NEPA DOC. NO. 381**

07/23/92

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

RCRA Closure of Equipment Storage Area
NEPA Document No. 381

Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP), Fernald, Ohio

Proposed Action

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to perform a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) closure of the Equipment Storage Area adjacent to the Waste Pit Area at the FEMP.

Location

The Equipment Storage Area (ESA) consists of a grassy area located in the greenbelt area west of Waste Pit 5. Waste Pit 5 lies within the FEMP Waste Pit Area west of the 139-acre Plant Area. The plant area is near the center of the 1050-acre FEMP Site that is located 18 miles northwest of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

Background

The Equipment Storage Area, designated a Hazardous Waste Management Unit (HWMU) under the RCRA, must be closed. The area was used over the last two years by the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) subcontractor to store drilling equipment and supplies for use during subsurface investigatory studies at the site. During a routine inspection in December 1990, it was noted that lead acid batteries were stored on wooden pallets in the extreme south end of the area. Lack of records regarding the proper management of the batteries at this location caused the area to be designated a HWMU. The batteries have been removed from the area and are being stored in designated on-site RCRA storage areas. An inspection of the area was completed in late Spring, 1992 and none of the remaining equipment or material that has been removed or that remains can be characterized as hazardous waste.

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed closure activities include soil sampling to determine the presence of hazardous waste constituents. Soil samples will be collected and analyzed to determine if lead or corrosive liquids have been released. If soil contamination or possible impacts on groundwater quality are suspected, or it is determined that clean closure cannot be achieved in accordance with the criteria specified in the closure plan, a revised closure plan will be submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The revised closure plan will describe how the RCRA closure activities will be coordinated with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability act (CERCLA) schedule and ongoing remedial activities at the site.

RCRA Closure of Equipment Storage Area

If contamination of media is detected during closure of the ESA, a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) will be conducted under the CERCLA program to evaluate whether a Removal Action is required to mitigate any immediate threat to human health or the environment.

Categorical Exclusion to be Applied

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

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

"Removal actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (including those taken as final response action and those taken before remedial action) and actions similar in scope under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and other authorities (including those taken as partial closures actions and those taken before corrective action)..."

The proposed action is to conduct a closure action under RCRA. It will not violate any applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements; it will not require siting and construction or major expansion of waste disposal, recovery or treatment facilities; and it will not impact any environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, floodplains, or the sole-source aquifer underlying the site).

Compliance Action

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

Approval: R. E. Tiller
R. E. Tiller, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Office

Date: 7/23/90

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

Signature: _____
Carol Borgstrom, Director
Office on NEPA Oversight, EH-25

Date: _____

United States Government

Department of Energy

Fernald Office

memorandum

JUL 23 1992

DATE:

DOE-2185-92

REPLY TO

ATTN OF:

FN:Skintik

SUBJECT:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION (CX 381) - RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (RCRA) CLOSURE OF THE EQUIPMENT STORAGE AREA - FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT (FEMP), FERNALD, OHIO

TO:

Carol Borgstrom, EH-25, FORS

The subject categorical exclusion (attachment) under Section D of the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act Guidelines has been approved and is being forwarded for your review.

The Department of Energy, Fernald Field Office (DOE-FN) requests that you notify us within two weeks, in accordance with the Interim Procedural Guidelines for implementation of SEN-15-90, whether you have any objection to this determination.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ed Skintik at FTS/Commercial (513) 738-6660.

R. E. Tiller
Manager

Attachment: As Stated

cc w/att.:

- R. S. Scott, EM-20, FORS
- K. A. Hayes, EM-424, TREV
- R. Langum, EM-431, TREV (2)
- C. J. Brown, WEMCO

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