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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION - LAUNDRY SUMP UPGRADE
NEPA DOC. NO. 452**

05/06/94

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION
Laundry Sump Upgrade
FEMP NEPA Document No. 452
Fernald Environmental Management Project
Fernald, Ohio

Proposed Action

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to redirect the discharge from the laundry sump located in the Service Building. Originally designed to go through the Sewage Water Treatment Plant (SWTP), the discharge will be redirected and processed through the Advanced Waste Water Treatment Facility (AWWTF).

Location

The proposed action will take place just north of the Service Building which is located in the southern portion of the former Production Area at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). The FEMP property occupies 1,050 acres and is located approximately 18 miles northwest of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

Background

Currently, laundry waste water is processed through the SWTP and then discharged to the Great Miami River through manhole 175. At project conception, laundry waste water was considered a regulated stream and the AWWTF was considered to be the best available technology (BAT) for uranium removal for such environmental medias. The proposed action will enable laundry waste water to be processed through the AWWTF, thus reducing both organic and radioactive contaminants prior to discharge.

Description of the Proposed Action

This project includes activities necessary to redirect the effluent from the laundry sump, originally designed to be processed through the SWTP, to the AWWTF. The scope of work will include the following:

- excavation of approximately 700 cubic feet of soil (soil will be managed under Removal Action No. 17)
- installation of one 8 foot diameter manhole to be used as a pumping station
- capping the existing underground line extending from the sump to the SWTP

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- installation of two permanent submersible 3 horse power sump pumps equipped with an exterior housing and control unit
- installation of piping supports needed to support outdoor piping extending from the pumping unit to the north side of the Services Building and piping extending from the northeast to the northwest corner of the building
- installation of heat tracing

Soil excavation and pipe installation activities will be performed in the presence of a radiological technician. Radiological surveys will be performed throughout all phases of the project and appropriate personal protective equipment will be donned when required. Environmental protection measures, such as runoff control and dust suppression, will be implemented.

Categorical Exclusion to be Applied

The authority for finding this project to be subject to NEPA Categorical Exclusion is contained in Subpart D of the revised 10 C.F.R. 1021, entitled "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Guidelines." The Final Rule and Notice, effective May 26, 1992, includes a revised and expanded list of Categorical Exclusions that are classes of actions that normally do not require the preparation of either an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment.

The Final Rule and Notice specifically lists 1021, Appendix B Subpart D, Section 1021.410, B2.5, the following as types of actions that are Categorical Exclusions applicable to Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Activities:

B2.5 Safety and environmental improvements of a facility, including replacement and upgrade of facility components, that do not result in a significant change in the expected useful life, design capacity, or function of the facility and during which operations may be suspended and then resumed. Improvements may include, but are not limited to: Replacement/upgrade of control valves, in-core monitoring devices, facility air filtration systems, or substation transformers or capacitors; addition of structural bracing to meet earthquake standards and/or sustain high wind loading; and replacement of aboveground or belowground tanks related piping if there is no evidence of leakage, based on testing that meets performance requirements in 40 CFR part 280, subpart D (40 CFR part 280.40). This includes activities taken under RCRA subtitle I; 40 CFR part 265, subpart J; 40 CFR part 280, subparts B, C and D; and other applicable state, Federal and local requirements for underground storage tanks. These actions do not include rebuilding or modifying substantial portions of a facility such as replacing a reactor vessel.

This Categorical Exclusion is appropriate since the proposed action will be the addition of a new laundry sump for waste water treatment activities, which will reduce both organic and radioactive contaminants prior to discharge to the Great

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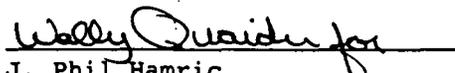
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Miami River. The proposed action will not violate applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements; it will not require extensive siting or major construction nor major expansion of waste disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; and it will not have significant adverse impact on any environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, floodplains, or the sole-source aquifer).

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:



J. Phil Hamric

U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Field Office

Date:

5-6-94