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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION - WHITE METAL BOX  
STAGING AREA NEPA DOC. NO. 453**

05/06/94

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## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

White Metal Box Staging Area  
NEPA Document No. 453  
Fernald Environmental Management Project  
Fernald, Ohio

Proposed Action

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to construct a staging area at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) for the unloading, temporary storage, and distribution of new uncontaminated white metal boxes to be used as shipping containers.

Location

The proposed action will take place in an area on the east side of the FEMP's former Production Area, directly east of Building 79 and northeast of the Receiving and Incoming Materials Inspection Area (RIMIA) Building. This area is located outside of the Plant Controlled Area and directly west of the north access road. The 1050 acre FEMP is located 18 miles northwest of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

Background

White metal boxes are utilized at the FEMP for the packaging of contaminated soil and other material for transportation offsite primarily for disposal. The FEMP currently lacks a secure, central location at the site where new uncontaminated boxes can be delivered and dropped by common carriers for later distribution across the site. The proposed staging area would provide a location adjacent to the RIMIA and in an uncontrolled area where deliveries of these boxes could occur.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action would involve the stripping of top soil from the area of the proposed staging area (approximately 400 ft. x 125 ft.) using a bulldozer or road grader. Construction activities would result in approximately 40,000 cubic feet of soil that would be handled according to the Removal Action No. 17 Work Plan for the Improved Storage of Soil and Debris. The area will be rolled with standard rolling equipment to detect any soft spots in the soil. If any soft spots are found, they will be excavated and filled with controlled or clean backfill and compacted by a roller. Upon the completion of the compacting and final grading, the area will be covered with four inches of 3-4 inch stone. This stone will be compacted and the covered with a four inch layer of 1 1/2 inch aggregate.

The area will be graded to follow the existing slope of the land and maintain its westerly drainage to an existing drainage ditch. Drainage ditches adjacent to the proposed staging area contain jurisdictional wetlands as identified by the FEMP Jurisdictional Wetlands Delineation Report approved by the Army Corps of Engineers in August 1993. However, these wetland areas will not be impacted during excavation activities related to the proposed action. Therefore, Clean Water Act Permit requirements and compliance requirements of 10 CFR 1022, "Floodplain/Wetland Environmental Review Requirements" will not be applicable.

The area where the proposed White Metal Box Staging Area would be constructed has been surveyed for the potential presence of cultural resources. Based on contamination levels in the area as well as the previously disturbed nature of the area, it has been concluded that the area contains no sites that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Categorical Exclusion to be Applied

The authority for finding this project to be subject to NEPA Categorical Exclusion is contained in Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021, entitled "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Guidelines." The Final Rule and Notice, effective May 26, 1992, includes a list of categorical exclusions that are classes of actions the normally do not require the preparation of either an Environment Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment. The Final Rule and Notice specifically lists in Part 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, Sec. 1021.410, B1.15, the following as types of actions that are Categorical Exclusions applicable to Specific Agency Actions:

B1.15 Siting, construction, and operation of small-scale support buildings and support structures (including prefabricated buildings and trailers) and/or small-scale modifications of existing buildings or structures, within or contiguous to an already developed area (where site utilities and roads are available). Covered support buildings and structures (and/or modifications) include those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes but excluding facilities for waste storage activities, except as provided in other parts of this appendix.

This Categorical Exclusion is appropriate since the proposed action as described is the construction of a common carrier staging area intended to provide storage area at the FEMP for white metal boxes for use in transportation activities. The proposed action will not violate applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements; it will not require siting and construction nor 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).

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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:

Wally Quaid for  
J. Phil Hamric, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Field Office

Date:

5-6-94