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PILOT PLANT DRAINAGE DITCH ACTIVITIES UPDATE

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LETTER

Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P. O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705
(513) 648-3155

MAY 15 1995

DOE-0894-95

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. Tom Schneider, Project Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
401 East 5th Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

PILOT PLANT DRAINAGE DITCH ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on activities surrounding the Pilot Plant Drainage Ditch (PPDD). A Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) was recently prepared for this project in accordance with Subpart B of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The RSE includes a review of available surface water data from the PPDD, an identification of the probable primary source of contamination in the ditch, and an evaluation of the magnitude of the potential threat. A copy of the RSE is enclosed. Based upon a review of the RSE and an evaluation of the factors to be considered under the NCP (§300.415), the Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office (DOE-FN) has determined that a removal action is not warranted. However, a Best Management Practices action in support of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) remediation will be implemented to mitigate contaminated water from reaching the PPDD.

Contamination in the PPDD was recognized during the time National Lead of Ohio operated the site. Because sample results exceeded the levels allowed in state streams, the Pilot Plant Warehouse Sump (PPWS) was installed to collect the surface water runoff from the Pilot Plant Warehouse area. However, the sump failed numerous times and as a result, water overflowed into the sump overflow pipe which discharges directly into the PPDD. The sump overflow pipe was plugged in October of 1991. In September 1994, a dye was introduced into the Pilot Plant Sump and results indicated that the overflow pipe is effectively plugged. Runoff water from the sump and/or from the periphery of the sump may still be infiltrating down along the pipe and eventually discharging into the PPDD.

Therefore, the PPDD project will install a sump at the outfall area of the overflow pipe in order to collect the contaminated seepage entering it. The water will then be pumped to the Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWWT) Facility for treatment.

As a prelude to construction activities, a radiation survey was performed (February 1995) on the soils and sediments near the headwaters of the PPDD. Approximately 138 separate locations were surveyed and all readings were less than 100 counts per minute above background.

Construction activities for this project are scheduled to begin later this summer. If you or your staff have any questions please contact John Kappa at (513) 648-3149.

Sincerely,

for 
Jack R. Craig
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FN:Kappa

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/enc:

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