

6964

G-000-101.78

RE: FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION STATUS REPORT

05/12/95

OEPA DOE-FN
1
COMMENTS

I-2398

STREET ADDRESS:

1800 WaterMark Drive
Columbus, OH 43215-1099

TELE: (614) 644-3020 FAX: (614) 644-2329

MAY 11 2 34 PM '95

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049

May 12, 1995

Mr. Jack Craig
Director
U.S. DOE FEMP
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45329-8705

**Re: Fernald Environmental Remediation
Status Report**

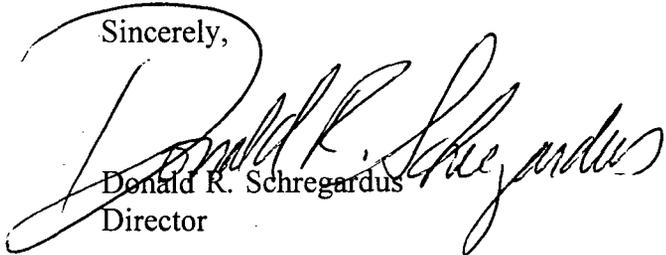
Dear Mr. Craig:

I am writing to relay Ohio EPA agreement with the information provided in the Fernald Environmental Remediation Progress Status Report. In particular, Ohio EPA strongly supports implementation of remediation in the 10 year time frame, discussed in the report, for a number of reasons. The 10 year approach will bring about concrete risk reduction and restoration of resources in the most fiscally responsible manner. As noted in the report, accelerated cleanup will save the taxpayer approximately \$3 billion. It also ensures continued compliance with current regulatory agreements and shows that DOE is committed to rewarding sites where stakeholders, regulators and site managers work together to establish reasonable and achievable future land use, cleanup goals and cost effective strategies to achieve the goals.

Stakeholder involvement has been a key to the success at Fernald to date. Efforts by DOE, USEPA, and Ohio EPA to involve stakeholders, such as FRESH and the Fernald Citizens Task Force, early and often in the remedial process have allowed difficult decisions to be made with a rare degree of consensus. The Fernald site is a leader for the DOE complex in stakeholder participation. All parties involved have shown real commitment to getting the cleanup done. Ohio EPA believes it is in everyone's best interest to reward this level of commitment through the provision of adequate funding to ensure timely remediation of the Fernald site.

As the study phase of the Fernald project ends, we are poised on a precipice. We may attain great success or fall to mediocrity. The path forward now depends largely upon appropriate funding and continued productivity improvements. Ohio EPA believes hard work lies ahead for all, but neither technical difficulty nor regulatory constraint will be the factor limiting success at Fernald. Ohio EPA encourages DOE to move forward with the 10 year remediation approach referenced in the Fernald Environmental Remediation Progress Status Report and looks forward to working hard with DOE and sharing great success at Fernald.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Schregardus
Director

DRS/bo

1