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**TRANSMITTAL OF FINAL OPERABLE UNIT 5 RECORD OF DECISION
FOR SIGNATURE**

12/21/95

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USEPA DOE-FN
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LETTER



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

DEC 21 1995

DOE-0349-96

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V - SRF-5J
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Saric:

TRANSMITTAL OF FINAL OPERABLE UNIT 5 RECORD OF DECISION FOR SIGNATURE

The U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) is pleased to forward a copy of the final Record of Decision (ROD) for Remedial Actions at Operable Unit 5 (OU5) for signature by the Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Approval was received from your office on December 8, 1995. Conditional approval was received from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) on December 14, 1995. Mr. Schneider asked that a response to one of their comments be modified and this has been done. Enclosed is a brief table that lists all changes made to the document between draft final and the enclosed final version. All reader aids have also been removed.

As you are aware, the approval of the OU5 ROD is a significant step forward for the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). The decisions contained in the document commit the Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office (DOE-FN) to the cleanup of approximately 1.8 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and the full restoration of the Great Miami Aquifer. The cleanup levels and residual risk goals that are established by the OU5 ROD represent the culmination of ten years of effort to arrive at a balanced, cost effective, and safe remedy for the FEMP's contaminated environmental media.

As emphasized by the Fernald Citizens Task Force, the restoration of the Great Miami Aquifer must remain as one of the site's top remedial priorities. The aquifer is the lifeblood of the region and is the key yardstick by which the public will measure our cleanup success. Similarly, the cleanup for the affected soil through this remedy decision will be a major driver in achieving stakeholders' visions for final site land use.

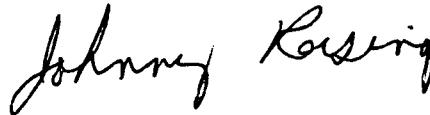
The strategies and approaches used by the OU5 team to establish cleanup levels that are health-protective, implementable, and reliable were key ingredients in gaining stakeholder and regulatory agency support for this remedy. With the signing of the OU5 ROD, the

FEMP can set in motion the comprehensive remedial design and construction programs necessary to aggressively implement the successful remedy decisions reached cooperatively by the Fernald decision team.

When Mr. Adamkus has added his signature to Mr. Hamric's on the Declaration page, please return the document to the attention of Robert Janke at the DOE-FN. Upon receipt, the document will be reproduced for full distribution.

The DOE-FN appreciates EPA's timely reviews of all the past OU5 documents as we have worked our way through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. I trust you share our sense of satisfaction at the completion of this ROD.

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FN:RJ Janke

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/enc:

B. Barwick, USEPA-V, SRF-5J
T. Schneider, OEPA-Dayton (2 copies)
S. McClellan, PRC

cc w/o enc:

K. H. Chaney, EM-423/GTN
L. Griffin, EM-423/GTN
B. Skokan, EM-423/GTN
G. Jablonowski, USEPA-V, 5HRE-8
Manager, TSPP/DERR, OEPA-Columbus
F. Bell, ATSDR
D. S. Ward, GeoTrans
R. Vandergrift, ODOH
J. Carr, FERMCO/52-5
R. D. George, FERMCO/52-2
T. Hagen, FERMCO/65-2
C. Little, FERMCO
M. Yates, FERMCO
AR Coordinator, FERMCO