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MODIFICATIONS TO HOMEOWNER WELL SAMPLING PROGRAM

01/09/96

USEPA

DOE-FN

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COMMENTS



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

JAN 09 1996

Mr. Johnny W. Reising
United States Department of Energy
Feed Materials Production Center
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

SRF-5J

RE: Modifications to
Homeowner Well
Sampling Program

Dear Mr. Reising:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has completed its review of the United States Department of Energy's (U.S. DOE) letter concerning the proposed modification of the homeowner well sampling program. The current program includes the sampling of groundwater from thirty-three (33) wells located at properties in the vicinity of the Fernald site.

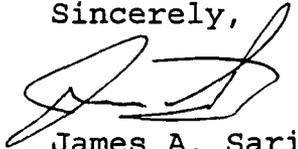
A public water supply will be operational in 1996, which will serve twenty-seven (27) of the property owners involved in the sampling program. Based on this fact, U.S. DOE recommended modifying the well sampling program to the monitoring of two (2) wells annually.

Although U.S. EPA does not object to modifying the well sampling program to possibly reduce sample frequency or eliminate some wells from the program, U.S. EPA does not concur with U.S. DOE's proposed modification. Despite the development of a public water supply homeowners are not banned from using the wells for other activities. Also, U.S. DOE has not provided adequate information to justify such a reduction in the sampling program. For example, no information is provided on the concentration of uranium in groundwater taken from the wells.

Finally, at the December 12, 1995, public meeting it became clear that the local citizens still desire to have the sampling program maintained. Therefore, before any modifications are made the citizens in the Fernald area should be informed.

Please contact me at (312) 886-0992 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



James A. Saric
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
SFD Remedial Response Branch #2

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
Jack Baublitz, U.S. DOE-HDQ
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Charles Little, FERMCO
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