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U-005-305.26

COMMENTS OU3 RI/FS/PP RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

01/19/96

OEPA DOE-FN
4
COMMENTS



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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George V. Voinovich
Governor

FILE:
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January 19, 1996

RE: DOE FEMP
MSL 531-0297
HAMILTON COUNTY
COMMENTS - OU3 RI/FS/PP RESPONSE
TO COMMENTS

Mr. Johnny Reising
U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

Dear Mr. Reising:

Ohio EPA has reviewed DOE's December 14, 1995 submittal "Operable Unit 3 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Comment Response Package." Ohio EPA has significant concerns with the document in its current form. Attached are Ohio EPA's comments detailing these concerns. These concerns will need to be successfully resolved prior to Ohio EPA acceptance of the OU3 RI/FS or PP. Ohio EPA is available to meet with DOE to achieve a successful resolution of these comments.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Tom Ontko at (513) 285-6073 or me.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Schneider
Fernald Project Manager
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight

cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA
Terry Hagen, FERMCO
Ruth Vandegrift, ODH
Sharon McClellan, PRC
Manager, TPSS/DERR,CO
Dave Ward, GeoTrans

OU3RIRSP.CMT

**OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY COMMENTS
ON DOE'S RESPONSE TO OHIO EPA COMMENTS ON THE
OU3 RI/FS/PP**

1.) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO

Section #: Pg #: Line #: Code:

Original Comment #: 2

Comment: Ohio EPA is still concerned with the lack of commitment to recycling within the RI/FS and PP. Ohio EPA requests that DOE commit to reevaluating the issue of recycling materials within each implementation plan. Additionally, Ohio EPA requests the opportunity to comment on Fernald's recycling policy prior to it being finalized. The development of such a policy should be closely coordinated with the FCTF Waste Management Committee.

Ohio EPA believes the Fernald recycling policy, in keeping with the balanced approach, should take a pro-active position on recycling the maximum amount of materials. Such a position within the policy would show a good faith effort on the part of DOE to limit wastes going into the OSDF. The policy must include maximizing the reuse of materials on site rather than disposing of them as waste. Additionally, DOE should develop a waste minimization portion of the policy to limit the generation of new wastes. It is also appropriate for DOE to include financial incentives to sub-contractors to motivate them to limit waste production and increase the amount of recyclable material.

Response:

Action:

2.) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO

Section #: General Comment Pg #: Line #: Code: M

Original Comment #: 3

Comment: Ohio EPA is not aware of any language within the OU5 ROD or FCTF Recommendations that require "clean" materials to be in potential direct contact with members of the public. In fact, these documents set a level of allowable contamination to be left on and off-property and which may be contacted by members of the public. DOE should delete reference to these documents and commit within the response to evaluating material reuse on site.

With regard to DOE's suggestions of uncertainty concerning the risks of reuse of materials, Ohio EPA believes the assessment of the risks associate with such alternatives is the function of an FS. DOE should commit within the response to beginning the evaluation of risks associated with on-site reuse of materials in bike paths, rip rap, concrete structures, etc. Ohio EPA expects that DOE will provide a commitment to a deliverable(s) for developing reuse alternatives and risk evaluations for such reuse within the RI/FS/PP and response to comments.

Response:

Action:

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in the field.
Response:
Action:

6.) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO
Section #: Pg #: Line #: Code:
Original Comment #: 28

Comment: The Ohio EPA still has major concerns with the mass based WAC for Tc-99. These concerns stem from the limitations of the data used to derive the WAC and the inherent difficulty of verifying compliance with the mass based WAC. Roughly half of the Tc-99 data has been qualified as estimated. No data were collected from inaccessible metals, which make up the second largest waste stream. Residual holdup is assumed to contain only uranium contamination leaving out any possibility of holdup Tc-99. Contributions from OU1 debris or soils were not included in the WAC calculation. Other assumptions within the development of the WAC lead Ohio EPA to believe the mass based WAC is less than conservative.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any method available to verify achievement of the mass-based WAC during remediation. Verification of concentration based WAC is relatively simple and consistent with normal disposal facility operation. Ohio EPA is not confident that the current approach of mass-based WAC and limited scabbling will be protective of the GMA.

Response:
Action:

7.) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO
Section #: Pg #: Line #: Code:
Original Comment #: 57

Comment: Ohio EPA does not concur with DOE's suggestion of the "inherent nonprocess function of below-grade piping". Ohio EPA believes there is no basis for such a statement and that available data suggest below-grade piping will be internally contaminated. Ohio EPA would refer DOE to reviewing the Pilot Plant Sump RA. At this location significant contamination existed within the below-grade piping leading to the sump. Additionally, it is likely that highly contaminated piping and waste reside within the remaining subgrade facilities such as the floor drains of the Pilot Plant. The failure to include such contamination within the source term calculations is another example of the lack of conservatism built into the WAC development for OU3. DOE must re-evaluate the source term calculations with revised consideration of the below grade piping.

Response:
Action: