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**NOTIFICATION OF MALFUNCTION OF THE NO. 1
ELECTROSTATISTIC PRECIPITATOR (ESP) FIELD OF NO. 3
BOILER - FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT
(FEMP), PERMIT NO. 1431110128, B003**

03/26/96

**C:EC:96-0035
FERMCO HAMILTON COUNTY
2
NOTICE**



Restoration Management Corporation

P. O. Box 538704 Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8704 (513) 648-3000

March 26, 1996

Fernald Environmental Management Project
Letter No. C:EC:96-0035

Mr. Peter J. Sturdevant, Compliance Specialist
Air Quality Management
Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
1632 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45210

Dear Mr. Sturdevant:

NOTIFICATION OF MALFUNCTION OF THE NO. 1 ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATOR (ESP) FIELD OF NO. 3 BOILER - FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT (FEMP), PERMIT NO. 1431110128, B003

At 9:50 AM on March 12, 1996 the No. 1 field on No. 3 boiler's ESP kicked out electrically. Notification was made to you at that time. The field continued to malfunction until the boiler was taken out of service at 11:00 PM on March 15, 1996. The following information is provided to comply with the requirements of OAC 3745-15-06(B):

- * Notification of malfunction of the No. 1 ESP field of No. 3 Boiler at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP), permit no. 1431110128, B003
- * The ESP was in a malfunction condition from 9:50 AM on March 12, 1996 to 11:00 PM on March 15th for a total of 85 hours and 10 minutes.
- * During the malfunction the opacity of the stack ranged from below 20 % to about 75 % with the average opacity estimated at between 25 and 35 %. The ESP was estimated to be operating at 75 % efficiency which would have caused an estimated 20,000 lbs of particulate to be emitted.
- * At the time of the malfunction the No. 1 boiler was inoperable due to tube failure. The new facility which includes the 100 MMbtu and three 15 MMbtu boilers was not on line and therefore Boiler No. 3 was the only source of steam available to the site. Continued operation of the boiler was necessary to prevent loss of property and to comply with other requirements.



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- * The site's electrical staff was unable to identify the cause so the ESP's vendor was contacted and a technician was sent to help identify the problem. It was determined that the probable cause was with the insulator boxes in the ESP.

The site used a planned steam outage to take the boiler out of service and affected repairs on March 15th. One reason that the effort to correct the problem took longer than 72 hours was due to our inability to provide replacement boiler during the malfunction. This problem will be corrected when the new boiler facility is brought on line and the No. 1 boiler is repaired (March 24, 1996).

Efforts were made by the staff to affect repairs in a timely manner and to reduce the effect of the malfunction by such actions as reducing the steam load to the extent possible and bringing in outside expertise to assist in resolving the problem.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Ervin Fisher of my staff at (513) 648-5293.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence D. Hagen", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Terence D. Hagen
Director
Environmental Compliance

TDH:EF:mhv
Enclosure

- c: S. M. Beckman, FERMCO/MS65-2
E. Fisher, FERMCO/MS65-2
W. J. Naber, FERMCO/MS60
B. S. Perkins FERMCO/MS67
C. C. Riede, FERMCO/MS60
E. P. Skintik, DOE-FN/MS45
P. B. Spotts, FERMCO/MS65-2
AR Coordinator
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