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R-009-208.55

**REPONSE TO COMMENTS - SOUTH PLUME GROUNDWATER RECOVERY  
SYSTEM EVALUATION REPORT**

**06/19/96**

**DOE-1031-96  
DOE-FN        EPAS  
4  
RESPONSE**



**Department of Energy**

**Ohio Field Office  
Fernald Area Office**

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JUN 19 1996

DOE-1031-96

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

**Mr. Tom Schneider, Project Manager  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
401 East 5th Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911**

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS — SOUTH PLUME GROUNDWATER RECOVERY SYSTEM  
EVALUATION REPORT**

Reference: Letter from Jim Saric, U.S. EPA, to Johnny W. Reising, DOE-FN, "DMEPP Report, July 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995," dated May 14, 1996.

The Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office (DOE-FN) has received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) comments on the South Plume Groundwater Recovery System Evaluation Report, covering the period from July 1, 1995, through December 31, 1995. Please find an enclosed Response to Comment document for the referenced report.

If you have any questions, please call Robert Janke at (513) 648-3124.

Sincerely,

Johnny W. Reising  
Fernald Remedial Action  
Project Manager

FN:R.J. Janke

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/enc:

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**RESPONSES TO USEPA COMMENTS  
ON SOUTH PLUME REMOVAL ACTION  
DESIGN MONITORING EVALUATION PROGRAM PLAN SYSTEM  
EVALUATION REPORT FOR JULY 1, 1995-DECEMBER 31, 1995**

Commenting Organization: U.S. EPA                      Commentor: Saric  
Section#:                      3.0                      Pg.#: 3-4                      Line#: 7 to 10  
Original Specific Comment# 1

**Comment:** The text discusses decreases in total uranium concentrations in Well 21063. The text also should mention that this well had a significant increase in total uranium during the previous report period (see Appendix B of the report), especially because this well helps define the leading edge of the northeast plume.

**Response:** At this time, the increase in uranium concentrations in Well 21063 during the last reporting period is not considered significant based on the Mann-Kendall test for trend. As shown in Table 3-1 of the report, the Mann-Kendall analysis for Well 21063 shows no significant trend for the entire data set which has been accumulated for this well. The increase in total uranium concentration to 15 ppb which was noted in the previous DMEPP System Evaluation Report is accounted for in this report through the concentration plot provided in Appendix B for Well 21063. Well 21063 was singled out in the text for mention because, as described in the report, the total uranium concentrations decreased from 15 ppb during the previous reporting period to 2.9 and 3.0 ppb for this reporting period. Although the decrease in concentrations was mentioned in the text, the extent of the northeast plume was not significantly changed from the previous reporting period.

**Action:** Future system evaluation reports will continue to report on the uranium concentrations in monitoring well 21063 as it is key to defining the northeast lobe of the plume.

Commenting Organization: U.S. EPA                      Commentor: Saric  
Section#:                      3.0                      Pg.#: 3-6                      Table #: 3-6  
Original Specific Comment# 2

**Comment:** Table 3-6 provides a summary of significant results of Mann-Kendall trend test results for select wells. No probability value is provided for well 2553. That value should be provided to allow adequate review of the test results for this well.

**Response:** Agree, the probability value for the Mann-Kendall test for Well 2553 was inadvertently omitted from Table 3-6 which is a summary of results presented in Tables 3-1 through 3-5. The Mann-Kendall probability value for Well 2553 was 0.005 and is correctly given in Table 3-1.

**Action:** Tables summarizing significant Mann-Kendall trend test results in future DMEPP System Evaluation Reports will include probability for all wells included in the summary table.

Commenting Organization: U.S. EPA                      Commentor: Saric  
Section#:                      4.0                      Pg.#: NA                      Figures #: 4-4 and 4-6  
Original Specific Comment# 3

Comment: Figures 4-4 and 4-6 show groundwater elevations for Type 2 and Type 3 wells, respectively. However, groundwater elevations are not shown for the northeast contaminant plume. To adequately determine the effective capture zone of the extraction wells, groundwater elevations for the northeast contaminant plume area should be shown on the figures.

Response: DOE agrees. 14 Wells in the northeast plume area and north of the current well coverage were added to the groundwater elevation program for the second quarter, 1996 sampling round. Groundwater elevation data has been collected at wells 2106, 3106, 2166, 2398, 3398, 2434, 2015, 3015, 2070, 3070, 21063, 2551, 3551, and 3069 and will be included in the next DMEPP System Evaluation Report to be submitted in October, 1996.

Action: DOE has added 14 wells to the DMEPP groundwater elevation program and the results will be included in the next DMEPP System Evaluation Report in October, 1996.

Commenting Organization: U.S. EPA                      Commentor: Saric  
Section#:                      4.0                      Pg.#: 4-3                      Line#: 4 and 5  
Original Specific Comment# 5

Comment: The text states that "all Type 2 and 3 wells along the edge of the southern capture zone (including Well 3900) are scheduled for monitoring with the borescope." The text should specify by well number the wells that will be monitored to determine whether additional wells should be monitored.

Response: DOE agrees. The wells along the edge of the southern capture zone which have been monitored with the borescope in 1996 are 2552, 3552, 2900, 3900, 2899, 3899, 2898, and 3898. The results of the borescope monitoring from these wells will be presented in the October, 1996 DMEPP System Evaluation Report.

Action: Wells 2552, 3552, 2900, 3900, 2899, 3899, 2898, and 3898 have been monitored with the borescope in 1996 and results will be presented in the October 1996 DMEPP System Evaluation Report.