



**Department of Energy**

**Ohio Field Office  
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MAY 04 2001

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Manager  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V, SRF-5J  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

DOE-0555-01

Mr. Tom Schneider, Project Manager  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
401 East Fifth Street  
Dayton, Ohio 454022911

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

**EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES DOCUMENT – CHANGING THE  
GROUNDWATER FINAL REMEDIATION LEVEL FOR URANIUM AND MONTHLY AVERAGE  
URANIUM DISCHARGE STANDARD – UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY,  
FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

- References:
- 1) Letter, J. W. Reising to J. Saric T. Schneider, "Proposed Revisions to the Groundwater Final Remediation Levels Established in the Fernald Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision", dated February 23, 2001
  - 2) Letter, J. Saric to J. Reising, "Proposed Revisions to Groundwater FRL's" dated March 8, 2001
  - 3) A Guide to Preparing Superfund Proposed Plans, Records of Decision, and Other Remedy Selection Decision Documents, EPA 540-R-98-031, dated July 1999

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

Enclosed for your review is a draft Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) document outlining the changes to the Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision for the groundwater final Remediation Level for uranium, and the monthly average uranium discharge standard to the Great Miami River. This ESD has been prepared based on the recently promulgated final Maximum Contaminant Level for uranium under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

MAY 04 2001

Mr. James A. Saric  
Mr. Tom Schneider

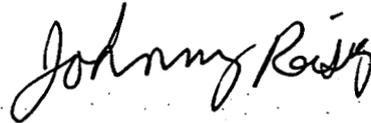
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As we discussed in the April 3, 2001 conference call, this ESD addresses only uranium. Adoption of the arsenic standard identified in Reference 2 will be deferred until the Bush Administration's review of the promulgated standard has been completed and changes to the arsenic standard, if any, have been formalized.

After review and incorporation of any comments, the Department of Energy requests you grant approval of this draft ESD so that a draft final may be prepared and made available for public review. After public review per 40 CFR 300.435(c)(2)(I), a final ESD will be prepared and submitted to your office for signature. After signature, the ESD will become a part of the Administrative Record per 40 CFR 300.825(a)(2).

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (513) 648-3139 or Robert Janke at (513) 648-3124.

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising  
Fernald Remedial Action  
Project Manager

FEMP:R. J. Janke

Enclosure: As stated

MAY 04 2001

Mr. James A. Saric  
Mr. Tom Schneider

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cc w/enclosure:

- K. Chaney, EM-31/CLOV
- R. J. Janke, OH/FEMP
- G. Jablonowski, USEPA-V, SRF-5J
- T. Schneider, OEPA-Dayton (three copies of enclosure)
- F. Bell, ATSDR
- F. Hodge, Tetra Tech
- M. Schupe, HSI GeoTrans
- R. Vandegrift, ODH
- AR Coordinator, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS78

cc w/o enclosure:

- N. Hallein, EM-31/CLOV
- A. Tanner, OH/FEMP
- D. Brettschneider, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-5
- D. Carr, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS2
- T. Hagen, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS65-2
- W. Hertel, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-5
- S. Hinnefeld, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS31
- M. Jewett, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-2
- T. Walsh, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS46
- ECDC, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-7