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**RESPONSES TO U.S. EPA AND OEPA COMMENTS ON THE
DRAFT FINAL EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT
DIFFERENCES
FOR OPERABLE UNIT 5 (JULY 2001)**

**FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT
FERNALD, OHIO**

JULY 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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the proposed revision should be included. These changes will help address obvious public concerns.

Response: Agree. As discussed during the June 18 2001 teleconference with US EPA, Ohio EPA, DOE-FEMP and Fluor Fernald Inc., the Explanation of Significant Differences opening paragraph of Section 3.1 will be deleted and replaced with the following text:

3.1 Summary of Differences and Basis for Change

The final remediation levels for the Great Miami Aquifer adopted in the Operable Unit 5 ROD are designed to achieve Safe Drinking Water Act MCLs or, in the absence of MCLs, the 1×10^{-5} Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risk (ILCR) or 0.2 Hazard Quotient (HQ) values for individual constituents through the drinking water pathway (Operable Unit 5 ROD, page 9-33). At the time of ROD signature (December 15, 1995), EPA had not yet promulgated a final MCL for uranium in drinking water. The 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ proposed uranium MCL (Federal Register Volume 58, Number 138, pages 33050 and following, July 18, 1991) was therefore utilized as the representative uranium MCL in the ROD pending the outcome of EPA's actions in setting the final MCL. The final MCL for uranium in drinking water was recently established at 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, Federal Register, Volume 65, Number 236, pages 76707 and following, December 7, 2000) and the proposed MCL has been superceded. Therefore, the final remediation level for uranium in the Great Miami Aquifer is being changed from the proposed standard (20 $\mu\text{g/L}$) to the final standard (30 $\mu\text{g/L}$) to be consistent with EPA's December 7, 2000 rulemaking.

Both the proposed MCL and the final MCL compare favorably to the 1×10^{-5} ILCR value for uranium in the Great Miami Aquifer (27 $\mu\text{g/L}$) identified in the Operable Unit 5 Feasibility Study, page 4-19 (DOE, 1995). Adoption of the new final standard will not change the conclusions of the risk assessments used to support the remedy decision making process at the FEMP, and remains consistent with the fundamental groundwater remedial action objective of attaining Safe Drinking Water Act MCLs throughout the affected portions of the aquifer.

Action: The Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) will be revised as noted in the response.