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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at Fernald announces the draft final Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) Document for Operable Unit 5 (OU5) is available for public review and comment. The 30-day comment period will begin July 11, 2001 and end August 10, 2001. The ESD is changing both the final remediation level for uranium in the Great Miami Aquifer as well as the discharge standard for uranium to the Great Miami River from 20 ug/L (micro grams per liter) to 30 ug/L based on the promulgation of 30 ug/L as the maximum contaminant level under the Safe Drinking Water Act. U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA have reviewed the draft ESD and have concurred with the changes described.

The OU5 ESD is available at the Public Environmental Information Center, 513-648-7480, 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway. Questions or written comments should be submitted to Gary Stegner, DOE Public Affairs, Fernald Field Office, P.O. Box 538705, Cincinnati, OH 45253; 513-648-3153.

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