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**RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS FROM FEBRUARY COMMUNITY
MEETING**

05/25/1990

DOE-898-90
DOE-FMPC
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LETTER

CITIZEN



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May 25, 1990
DOE-898-90

Ms. Linda Musmeci Kimball



Dear Ms. Kimball:

Thank you for your continued interest regarding the FMPC and its role in this area of southwestern Ohio. The following information is provided in response to the questions you asked at the February Community Meeting. We have paraphrased your actual questions, to provide a context for our answers.

"What is the current schedule and budget for off-site shipment of backlogged low-level radioactive waste?"

The approximately 82,000 drum equivalents (DEs) of backlogged low-level radioactive waste at FMPC is in a number of forms requiring varying degrees of processing before shipment for final disposal. Processing may consist of drying of wet waste, oxidation of uranium-containing wastes, shredding, baling, or compacting. Approximately 71 percent (58,000 drum equivalents) of the current backlog wastes will require some sort of processing. Plans, schedules, and budgets reflect the various types of processing, treatment, and packaging required to ship the backlogged waste.

The schedule and budget for processing and shipping the backlogged low-level waste follow:

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Budget (in \$millions)</u>
Process 19,333 DEs	FY 1991	4.4
Process 19,333 DEs	FY 1992	4.7
Process 19,333 DEs	FY 1993	4.7
Ship/dispose 5,500 DEs	FY 1990	1.3
Ship/dispose 19,383 DEs	FY 1991	7.0
Ship/dispose 27,300 DEs	FY 1992	8.2
Ship/dispose 27,300 DEs	FY 1993	8.2

"What are your current priorities, schedules, and budgets regarding the environmental remediation?" I am looking for some solid numbers specifically on:

- 1) Off-site shipments of non-RCRA waste
- 2) Characterization of RCRA and non-RCRA waste

CERCLA Environmental Remediation:

Environmental remediation activities include the RI/FS process, near-term removal actions (the South Plume, contaminated water underneath FMPC buildings, waste pit area runoff control, and K-65 silos), and final remedial actions. Each study area of the RI/FS, known as an "operable unit," is proceeding on a separate schedule. Each unit has its own draft Record of Decision (ROD) date, with the final draft ROD to be completed by March 1992. The specific schedules for each RI/FS operable unit, as identified in the proposed consent agreement between DOE and U.S. EPA are:

RI/FS SCHEDULE

Operable Unit	1	2	3	4	5
Initial Screening of Alter.	23JUL90	29OCT90	24SEP90	04JUN90	27AUG90
RI Report/Risk Assessment	18FEB91	11FEB91	08APR91	27AUG90	08APR91
FS Report	25MAR91	25MAR91	15May91	25NOV90	15MAY91
Proposed Plan	16MAY91	15MAY91	31JUL91	16JAN91	02AUG91
Draft Record of Decision	18DEC91	18DEC91	10MAR92	16AUG91	12MAR92

We are also required to comply with schedules prescribed in the March 1990 National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). These schedules require DOE to start actual remediation for each operable unit within 15 months of the ROD for each unit. During these 15 months, the final design and implementation plans will be completed.

FMPC Removal Actions:

Removal actions are interim cleanup actions initiated to protect public health and the environment. The actions follow regulatory guidelines (the National Contingency Plan) and the proposed consent agreement. The removal actions are initiated before implementation of final remedial actions and are to be consistent with those proposed actions.

The EE/CA document for the South Plume removal action was submitted to U.S. EPA on April 13, 1990. The public comment period is scheduled to close on June 17, 1990.

The EE/CA document for the Waste Pit Area Storm Water Runoff Control Project will be submitted to U.S. EPA and provided for public comment on May 30, 1990.

The EE/CA document for the K-65 silos removal action will be submitted to U.S. EPA and provided for public comment on August 1, 1990.

A removal action to address uranium contaminated water under FMPC buildings (Plants 6, 9, and 3) is on hold pending submittal of revised work plans to U.S. EPA.

The preliminary cost estimate to complete environmental remediation activities is approximately \$2.2 billion (excluding decontamination and decommissioning of the plant facilities). Environmental remediation activities are anticipated to go beyond the year 2000. Definitive schedules will be determined once the remedial action is selected and published in the ROD. The FY-90 budget for environmental remediation activities is \$42 million. During the actual remediation phase, the budget is projected to rise to approximately \$150-200 million per year.

RCRA Waste:

The FY-90 RCRA compliance annual budget is approximately \$8 million. We expect this to drop to a level of approximately \$3 million per year as the major compliance activities underway are completed. During FY-90, 26,800 drums are scheduled to be evaluated.

Non-RCRA Waste:

The majority of the waste generated at the FMPC is non-RCRA waste (low-level radioactive waste), such as: uranium-contaminated scrap metal, wood products, out-dated process machinery, and construction rubble. The annual budget for shipping non-RCRA waste is approximately \$2 million, with succeeding years increasing to approximately \$6 million. We are scheduled to ship approximately 9,700 DEs of non-RCRA waste during FY 1990, with 24,000 DEs projected per year for fiscal years 1991 through 1996. The disposition of waste generated from environmental remediation activities will be determined in the RI/FS process.

"Do storage buildings for the RCRA drums comply with all environmental requirements? How long do you plan on keeping these drums in these buildings?"

Buildings were selected for storage of RCRA wastes based upon their satisfying the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations 265 and Ohio Administrative Code 3745-65 (Interim Status Standards for Hazardous Waste Storage Facilities). In some cases, buildings have been modified to meet the requirements; such modifications include construction of containment berms.

Because the wastes are generally mixed waste (radioactive and hazardous), disposal options are not currently available for most of the stored materials. Consequently, we are (1) identifying commercial treatment/disposal options for wastes which can be

decontaminated to acceptable levels, (2) storing combustible mixed wastes for eventual burning in the DOE Hazardous/Toxic Waste Incinerator in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and (3) considering a new FMPC facility to treat other mixed wastes for which no other options are available. Wastes will only be stored on site as long as no other treatment or disposal option is available. Wastes requiring design and construction of treatment facilities will be stored for several years.

"When do you plan to release the 1988 Environmental Monitoring Report?"

The 1988 Environmental Monitoring Report was released on March 7, 1990. A copy of the report is enclosed.

"When will the Tiger Team Action Plan be finished or made public? It was due October 20, 1989, according to Secretary Watkins' cover letter on the Tiger Team Report. According to the DOE's preliminary report on Tiger Team findings, the DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health has reviewed it. Leo Duffy, Director for Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, is supposed to draft the action plans. Where will the funding for the Action Plan come? And has it been appropriated?"

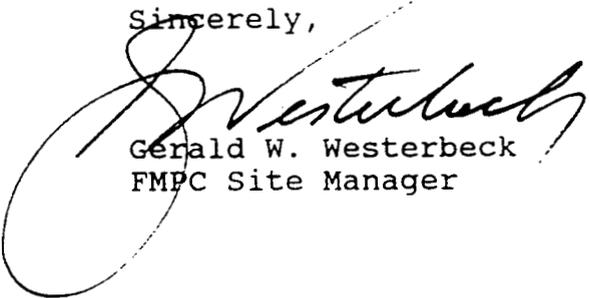
DOE Headquarters hopes to have the Tiger Team Action Plan ready for release in June. The October 20, 1989 date you mentioned was one of these internal review milestones.

Concerning, "Where will the funding for the action plan come?"

Since our planning for corrective actions to be taken in FY90 and 91 had already taken place, funding addressing many of these items was requested months ago as part of the federal budget process. Any additional corrective actions will be funded by the normal budget process on an annual basis. There is no separate budget for the Tiger Team Action Plan.

I hope this information answers the questions you posed at the meeting. If you want additional information, please contact Andy Avel, of my staff, at 738-6161.

Sincerely,



Gerald W. Westerbeck
FMPC Site Manager

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o encl.:

G. E. Mitchell, OEPA-Dayton
C. A. McCord, USEPA-5