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RESULTS OF WELLS SAMPLING

01/09/96

DOE-0378-96
DOE-FN CITIZENS
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LETTER

Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P. O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705
(513) 648-3155

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JAN 0 1996
DOE-0378-96

Mrs. Joan Pottenger
[redacted]

Dear Mrs. Pottenger:

The Fernald Environmental Restoration Management Corporation (FERMCO), in cooperation with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health, has been collecting water samples from your well and others in the area as part of our continuing environmental monitoring program. Samples have been collected from your water softener system, the reverse osmosis system in your kitchen, and the outside faucet. These samples are analyzed for uranium concentration in order to assess any possible effects of Fernald Site operations on groundwater quality.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the results of our sampling. The laboratory results from the month of November 1995 are expressed below in parts of uranium per billion parts of water (ppb), and picocuries of uranium per liter of water (pCi/L). Picocuries per liter are the units used to express groundwater data in the Site Environmental Report.

Sampling Date	Uranium Concentration (ppb)	(pCi/L)
(Kitchen Tap) November 6, 1995	2.4	1.6
(Reverse osmosis system) November 6, 1995	<0.1	<0.1
(Outside Tap) November 6, 1995	4.0	2.7

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A groundwater study conducted by an independent consultant for the Fernald Site determined that background concentrations of naturally-occurring uranium in the groundwater for this area range from less than 0.1 ppb to 2.7 ppb (0.07 to 2.0 pCi/L). Also, a U. S. Geological Survey study (J.D. Hem, 1970, Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1473) reported a range of uranium concentration of less than 0.1 ppb to 10 ppb (0.07 to 6.8 pCi/L) in most natural water within the United States.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed an interim drinking water standard for total uranium of 20 ppb (13.5 pCi/L). The uranium concentrations in your samples are within this proposed limit. However, the uranium concentration in the sample from your outside tap is slightly higher than expected for this area, but within the range of previously reported results. Environmental Monitoring will continue to collect water samples on a monthly basis, at your convenience.

If you have any questions regarding the results reported to you in this letter or on any aspect of our environmental program. please contact me by phone (648-3137) at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Quaider
Deputy Associate Director
Office of Safety & Assessment