From: Robert Vogel [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2004 4:07 PM
To: gary.stegner@ohio.doe.gov
Subject: Comment re ESD for OU4

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The need for offsite interim storage of Operable Unit 4 material is unfortunate since a great deal of effort has been expended to establish that following treatment K-65 material will meet an acceptable leach rate for lead. The effort to examine and enhance treatment of the material was lengthy and from the amount of data alone indicated DOE's commitment to meet TCLP goals for the treated material. After having been involved in this effort well more than a decade, I am very familiar with the data both before and following treatment. As a result I have previously raised the issue on several occasions of the difference between TCLP data from the most recent treatability testing as opposed to previous testing. The difference being primarily that the treated material appears to have come from the 1989 sampling event, resulting in much lower pretreatment TCLP data and extremely low TCLP data following treatment. Neither of these conditions occurred in previous testing. The point here is that of all the very good data which was developed to support meeting the regulatory requirements for K-65 material (irregardless of 11e. (2) status) the most recent data is weakest in terms of credibility. And credibility of data may be the deciding issue for where the material ultimately resides following interim storage.

I also realize that the issue of final disposition is not purely technical and that political forces will drive many decisions. But the fact remains that at the core of all of these decisions is the ability to believe in the data. This is essential for the disposition of K-65 material and for other wastes which ultimately must be stored somewhere.

The solution is actually much easier than it was even two or three years ago. This is the result of a great deal of K-65 material being removed from the silo. A few samples of this material of unquestionable origin could be tested using the most recent formulation. TCLP data from these tests would have a great deal of credibility in establishing the benefits of the treatment process and acceptability for permanent offsite disposition.

Robert Vogel