



Department of Energy

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MAR 24 2000

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V, SRF-5J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

DOE-0512-00

Mr. Tom Schneider, Project Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
401 East 5th Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

MODIFICATION OF ALARM CONFIGURATION FOR WASTE PITS REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT STACK MONITORING SYSTEM

During the February 29, 2000 teleconference with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), various information was provided by the Department of Energy, Fluor Fernald, and IT relative to proposed modifications to the radiation alarm configuration for the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP) stack monitoring system. The purpose of this letter is to summarize the information discussed, and document the path forward based on those discussions.

As discussed in the teleconference, the Ludlum radiation detector currently installed on the stack monitoring system has a local alarm in the Continuous Emissions Monitor (CEM) Building. The Ludlum radiation monitor also sends a signal to the Control Room where another radiation alarm has been established. At times, a radiation spike (due to the decay of radon daughters on the sample filter) is detected that exceeds the alarm set point at the Ludlum monitor and in the Control Room. The spike typically lasts for a couple of seconds. The problem is that every time one of these radiation spikes exceeds the Ludlum alarm set point, an operator has to physically go to the Ludlum monitor in the CEM Building and reset the alarm. To eliminate the nuisance of an operator having to physically reset the alarm on the Ludlum monitor every time a short-lived radiation spike is detected, IT proposed to keep the alarm for the radiation detector in the Control Room and disable the local alarm at the Ludlum monitor.

MAR 24 2000

Mr. James A. Saric
Mr. Tom Schneider

-2-

As further discussed in the February 29, 2000 teleconference, IT also plans to re-configure the alarm set point in the Control Room from the current instantaneous reading to one minute rolling average. This will reduce the amount of alarms initiated in the Control Room due to short-lived radiation spikes detected by the Ludlum monitor, thereby, reducing alarm response fatigue. As it currently stands, the alarm set point is 400 counts per minute (cpm), which is approximately 100 cpm above expected normal operating conditions.

In that no issues/concerns were raised during the teleconference relative to the above modifications, IT is in the process of implementing them, and will proceed unless notified otherwise.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dave Lojek at (513) 648-3127.

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FEMP:Lojek

cc:

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2