



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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 CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF _____

MAR 11 1999

Mr. Johnny W. Reising
 United States Department of Energy
 Feed Materials Production Center
 P.O. Box 398705
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

Copy

SRF-5J

RE: OSDF Leachate
 Collection System

Dear Mr. Reising:

On February 1, 1999, the United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) submitted a letter to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) serving as notice to U.S. EPA that U.S. DOE was implementing the Leachate Management Contingency Plan for the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF).

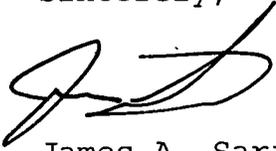
Subsequently, five leaks have been discovered in the leachate line and many questions have developed as a result of the efforts to address the leaks. On February 25, 1999, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) submitted a letter to U.S. DOE providing a list of concerns regarding the OSDF Leachate collection system. U.S. EPA shares the same concerns as OEPA. Additionally, U.S. EPA has two other concerns. The Agency would like to review the methodology and sampling/screening data of the leachate sampled in the leak areas. Further, to what extent did reducing the wall thickness of the HDPE piping contribute to the piping malfunction?

Although U.S. EPA and OEPA concur with U.S. DOE's latest increased efforts to address the leaks in the leachate line, the nature of the leaks and the condition of the pipe in some areas, has raised serious questions regarding the integrity of the leachate collection system. The OSDF and associated leachate collection line was designed for long-term durability and reliability.

Thus, it is the position of U.S. EPA that waste placement in the OSDF can not resume until the leachate collection line is repaired, tested and performing according to the design; U.S. DOE has addressed the Agencies concerns regarding the cause of the leaks; and committed to an acceptable leachate line monitoring program to ensure such failures do not occur in the future.

Please contact me at (312) 886-0992, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



James A. Saric
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
SFD Remedial Response Branch #2

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
Bill Murphie, U.S. DOE-HDQ
John Bradburne, FERMCO
Terry Hagen, FERMCO
Tom Walsh, FERMCO