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**IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERABLE UNIT 5 RECORD OF DECISION -
TREATMENT OF DISCHARGES AT THE FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

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LETTER



Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P. O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705
(513) 648-3155

FEB 16 1996
DOE-0529-96

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V - SRF-5J
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

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

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERABLE UNIT 5 RECORD OF DECISION - TREATMENT OF DISCHARGES AT THE FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

With the execution of the Operable Unit 5 (OU5) Record of Decision (ROD) on January 31, 1996, there are a number of requirements which become immediately effective in relation to the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) operation of existing wastewater treatment systems. This letter serves to define the Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office (DOE-FN) intentions for implementing the following: 1) operational philosophy relative to the FEMP stormwater system and tracking of stormwater bypassing; 2) interfacing with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) during periods requiring the bypass of stormwater directly to the Great Miami River (GMR); and 3) tracking and reporting of uranium discharges. The final operational approach for the FEMP Wastewater Treatment System (WWTS), including the site strategy for attaining the 20 parts per billion (ppb) monthly average limitation effective January 1, 1998, will be more fully defined through the preparation, review and approval of an Operation and Maintenance Manual during remedial design for OU5.

Stormwater Management:

Section 9.1.5 of the Record of Decision (ROD) allows the FEMP to bypass stormwater from the Stormwater Retention Basins (SWRB) directly to the GMR for up to 10 days to accommodate periods of significant precipitation. The FEMP recognizes that this 10 day period is the allowable amount of time for which we are exempt from including bypassed

stormwater in the calculations necessary to assess compliance with the 20 ppb uranium performance-based standard (effective January 1, 1998). It is the FEMP's intention to continue to operate the stormwater system so as to prevent, to the maximum extent possible, the overflow of the SWRB to Paddy's Run. As discussed during the OU5 Feasibility Study and ROD negotiations, the potential does exist that greater than 10 days of bypassing stormwater directly to the GMR may be necessary due to the magnitude and duration of rainfall events. Given the choice between bypassing stormwater and exceeding the 10 day allowance or overflowing the basins, the FEMP considers the bypassing of stormwater to be the sound environmental decision. The FEMP will consider the 10 day period to be equivalent to 240 hours (as opposed to ten occurrences) and will maintain a running total per calendar year beginning January 1, 1996.

U.S. EPA and OEPA Notification:

Section 9.1.5 of the ROD contains a requirement to notify both the U.S. EPA and the OEPA within seven days of the implementation of a stormwater bypass. Through a condition of the FEMP National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, the FEMP presently makes verbal notification to OEPA Southwest District Office, Division of Surface Water, within 24 hours of initiating the bypass. The FEMP will continue this verbal notification. Written notification will be provided to the addressees of this letter, with copies to OEPA Division of Surface Water, within seven days of initiating a bypass. This notification will include the following information: the date and time the bypass commenced; the date and time the bypass ceased; and the total amount of stormwater bypassed to the river. The U.S. EPA and OEPA will be notified of bypass events that occur after January 31, 1996, the day the ROD was signed by the U.S. EPA.

Uranium Tracking:

Section 9.1.5 of the ROD requires the FEMP to limit the total mass of uranium discharged to the GMR to 600 pounds per year. The FEMP will begin tracking uranium discharges for the purposes of demonstrating compliance with this limitation, beginning January 1, 1996. Uranium discharges are currently reported to the addressees of this letter in the "Consent Agreement/Federal Facility Compliance Agreement/Federal Facility Agreement and Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Monthly Progress Report." The FEMP will continue to report uranium discharges as a part of this report.

As previously discussed, the detailed method for tracking compliance with the 20 ppb performance-based standard will be finalized during remedial design and included in the OU5 Operation and Maintenance manual.

If you have any questions regarding our implementation of these requirements please contact either John Kappa at (513) 648-3149 or Robert Janke at (513) 648-3124.

Sincerely,



Johnny Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FN:Kappa

cc:

L. Griffin, EM-423, GTN
R. Nace, EM-423, GTN
G. Jablonowski, USEPA-V, SRF-5J
Manager, TSPP/DERR, OEPA-Columbus
F. Bell, ATSDR
D. S. Ward, GeoTrans
R. Vandergrift, ODOH
S. McClellan, PRC
S. M. Beckman, FERMCO, 65-2
S. L. Blankenship, FERMCO, 71-3
J. Carr, FERMCO, 52-5
D. E. Faris, FERMCO, 51-1
R. D. George, FERMCO, 52-2
T. Hagen, FERMCO, 65-2
E. H. Henry, FERMCO, 52-5
W. A. Hertel, FERMCO, 52-5
M. A. Jewett, FERMCO, 52-5
F. L. Johnston, FERMCO, 65-2
J. W. Leslie, FERMCO, 32
C. Little, FERMCO
M. Yates, FERMCO
AR Coordinator, FERMCO

bcc:

R. J. Janke, DOE-FN
K. A. Nickel, DOE-FN
S. M. Peterman, DOE-FN