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**SCHEDULE EXTENSION REQUEST FOR THE AQUIFER RESTORATION
BASELINE STRATEGY REPORT AND THE TASK 4/5 INJECTION
DEMONSTRATION AND SOUTH PLUME OPTIMIZATION REMEDIAL DESIGN
PRE-FINAL PACKAGE**

01/16/97

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DOE-FEMP EPAS
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LETTER**



Department of Energy

**Ohio Field Office
Fernald Area Office**

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JAN 15 1997

DOE-0428-97

**Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V - 5HSF-5J
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590**

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

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

SCHEDULE EXTENSION REQUEST FOR THE AQUIFER RESTORATION BASELINE STRATEGY REPORT AND THE TASK 4/5 INJECTION DEMONSTRATION AND SOUTH PLUME OPTIMIZATION REMEDIAL DESIGN PRE-FINAL PACKAGE

As per our recent discussions on December 19, 1996, and January 13, 1997, the purpose of this letter is to request extensions for (1) the submittal of the revised Aquifer Restoration Baseline Strategy Report and (2) the Task 4/5 Injection Demonstration and South Plume Optimization Remedial Design Pre-Final Package.

The initial Geoprobe results, conducted as part of the Restoration Area Verification Sampling Program, were the subject of the above referenced meetings. These initial results revealed higher than modeled uranium concentrations in the Great Miami Aquifer along the southern portion of the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) and immediately off-property. Therefore, on December 19, 1996 FEMP representatives proposed additional Geoprobe locations which should be characterized in order to confidently proceed with the Task 4/5 design modules and complete the Baseline Strategy Report. The revised Baseline Strategy Report was scheduled, based on receipt of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) comments, to be submitted January 16, 1997; while, the Operable Unit 5 (OU5) Remedial Design Work Plan (RDWP) indicated that the Task 4/5 Injection Demonstration and South Plume Optimization Remedial Design Pre-Final Package would be submitted on January 15, 1997. From our discussions, both the Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. EPA recognized the importance of fully understanding and incorporating the latest groundwater uranium concentration data near the planned re-injection wells and the off-property optimization extraction wells into their respective

designs prior to their finalization. The planned Geoprobe sampling and analyses are scheduled to be complete by February 28, 1997. To provide sufficient time to analyze and evaluate the final Geoprobe results and perform the necessary groundwater modeling runs (the FEMP's recommended list of modeling scenarios will be the subject of a teleconference discussion with the U.S. EPA Tuesday, January 21, 1997) it was agreed on January 13, 1997, that the revised Baseline Strategy Report would be submitted on April 7, 1997.

However, as also discussed at the January 13, 1997, meeting, preliminary hydraulic evaluations have indicated that only minor modifications are required to Module I of the Task 4/5 Injection Demonstration and South Plume Optimization design, namely to set the injection well screen for re-injection wells numbered 10 and 11 at a lower depth in the Great Miami Aquifer than previously planned. Therefore, due to these minor modifications DOE is requesting a 20-day extension (pursuant to Section XII G.6 of the Amended Consent Agreement) for the submittal of the Task 4/5 Injection Demonstration and South Plume Optimization Pre-Final Package, which would correspond to a revised submittal date of February 4, 1997. Similar to the design finalization process for the South Field Extraction System, the Task 4/5 Injection Demonstration and South Plume Optimization Pre-Final Package (Module I) will contain a Response-to-Comment (RTC) package outlining how each of the U.S. EPA and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) comments on the October 1, 1996, Task 4/5 Preliminary Design Package was addressed in the Pre-Final Design Package. To help facilitate U. S. EPA and OEPA review of the Task 4/5 Pre-Final Design Package, a meeting to present the highlights of the design has been scheduled for February 11, 1997.

Also as discussed at the January 13, 1997, meeting, a follow up meeting has been tentatively planned on March 18, 1997, at which FEMP representatives will be prepared to present the results of the soon-to-be-agreed-upon modeling scenarios. These latest modeling scenarios, predicated on the findings of the Geoprobe data, should enable DOE and U.S. EPA to determine the best path forward with respect to the need, priority, and scope of an additional South Plume Optimization module (to encompass additional well(s) on Mr. Knollman's property) and/or a supplemental South Field Extraction System well (preliminarily identified as Well 64).

Finally, as we march through February 1997 striving to complete the Geoprobe sampling and analyses, the FEMP will continue to keep the U.S. EPA and OEPA updated with the latest Geoprobe results as they become available as well as feedback on modeling runs and discussions, if any, with Mr. Knollman concerning potential additional optimization wells.

If you or your staff should have any questions, please contact Robert Janke at (513) 648-3124.

Sincerely,



Johnny Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FEMP:R.J. Janke

cc:

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