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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONCURRENCE RE: EXTENSION REQUEST FOR  
OPERABLE UNIT 5**

**03/14/97**

**DOE-0688-97**

**DOE-FEMP USEPA**

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**LETTER**



## Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office  
Fernald Area Office

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MAR 14 1997

DOE-0688-97

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

Dear Mr. Saric:

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONCURRENCE RE: EXTENSION REQUEST FOR OPERABLE UNIT 5

- Reference: (1) Letter, from Reising to Saric, "Request for Extension - Operable Unit 5," dated February 28, 1997, DOE-0597-97.
- (2) Letter, from Saric to Reising, "RE: U.S. DOE Request for Extension of OU5 Soil Certification Milestones," dated March 7, 1997.

On February 28, 1997, the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) submitted a request (Reference 1) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U. S. EPA) for approval to extend four Operable Unit 5 (OU5) milestones: (1) Area 1, Phase 1 Certification Report; (2) Insitu Radiological Characterization Comparability Study Report; (3) Site-Wide Excavation Report; and, (4) Area 2, Phase I Integrated Remedial Design Package. The U.S. EPA responded to the DOE request for extension of the OU5 milestones on March 7, 1997, (Reference 2). The U.S. EPA concurred with the extension of the submission date for the Area 1, Phase 1 Certification Report until July 1, 1997, but indicated that with respect to the other three reports, it was not possible for the U.S. EPA to determine whether the delay was "reasonably attributable" to the good cause reasons that were provided by DOE. As a result, the U. S. EPA requested that DOE submit the three remaining reports to the U.S. EPA by July 14, 1997, recognizing that DOE may, on the basis of additional good cause, request that U.S. EPA amend the submission date again.

The DOE agrees with U.S. EPA's extension of the submission dates for the Area 1, Phase 1 Certification Report until July 1, 1997, and for the other three reports until July 14, 1997, recognizing that DOE may, on the basis of additional good cause, request that U.S. EPA amend the submission date again.

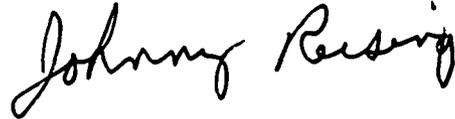
On March 5, 1997, a meeting was held in Chicago with representatives of DOE, U.S. EPA, and Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF) relative to the status and path forward for the soil cleanup program. At this meeting an alignment process and tentative schedule for the three identified milestones were discussed. Consistent with the discussions at this meeting, it is the intent of DOE to press forward on the development and submittal of these reports and design deliverables to EPA by July 14, 1997.

At the meeting, specific discussions were held relative to the submittal of each of the three remaining soil program deliverables as well as the initial Area 1, Phase I Certification Report. As discussed at the meeting, DOE is aggressively pursuing the completion of data collection activities in Area 1, Phase I to expedite the completion of a final certification report in a time frame supportive of a summer initiation of liner construction activities for the On-site Disposal Facility (OSDF). The DOE will review the certification data for Area 1 Phase I with the U.S. EPA and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) as it becomes available. The purpose of this cooperative review process is to expedite the management decision process on the need for possible re-excavation activities for areas not fully attaining final remediation levels.

During the March 5, 1997, meeting a process was outlined through which DOE, U.S. EPA and OEPA would come into alignment over a series of technical issues confronting the path forward for the soil cleanup program. These technical issues have been identified by DOE, U.S. EPA, and OEPA during the formal comment response process for Area 1, Phase I activities and in meeting on related subjects. The process outlined in the meeting advocates coming to consensus on these rather complex technical issues for incorporation into the final submittal of the Site-wide Excavation Report. Similarly, coming to consensus on these issues was identified as desirable prior to submittal of the Area 2, Phase I Integrated Remedial Design Package to ensure consistency in program approach and implementation strategy. Preliminary schedules developed for this process and the ultimate preparation and transmittal of the documents tentatively identify that each of these two deliverables (along with the Insitu Radiological Characterization Comparability Study Report, which is a complementary and necessary support document to the Site-Wide Excavation Report) can be submitted on or prior to the July 14, 1997, date. While not planned or anticipated at this time, please recognize that the consensus need for the extension of the submittal date for these two deliverables could emerge from this technical alignment process. The DOE considers it imperative that alignment on these technical issues be reached prior to document submittal as these issues establish the foundation for the future soil cleanup program at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) and serve as the frame work for the strategies being crafted in these project deliverables.

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

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising  
Fernald Remedial Action  
Project Manager

FEMP:R.J. Janke

cc:

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