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Department of Energy

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DOE-0883-98

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

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

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

**ON-SITE DISPOSAL FACILITY OPERATIONS**

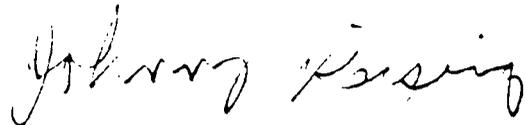
Per recent discussions concerning the resumption of waste placement in the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF), the Department of Energy (DOE) has developed a seasonal shutdown policy as described below:

Up to December 31 of a given year, operations at the OSDF, including cell construction and waste placement activities, will continue provided such activities are completed in accordance with all approved design requirements and specifications. In recognition of the enhanced potential for adverse impacts on OSDF liner construction operations due to weather, work related to liner construction will be suspended with appropriate liner protection requirements completed no later than December 31. Work on liner construction will be reinitiated when weather allows required specifications to be met or on March 1, whichever is later. During the period from January 1 through February 28, work could proceed on waste/debris placement operations with the concurrence of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The criteria for establishing consensus that OSDF operations can continue during this period will be based solely on the ability to achieve requirements and specifications that could otherwise be impacted by adverse weather. It is DOE's intent to continue waste placement during this period as weather allows. Accordingly, it is DOE's expectation that a mutually acceptable process will be established that allows for "real time" consensus on the acceptability of continuing placement activities.

DOE also recognizes the potential for weather related impacts on OSDF operations prior to December 31 in a given year. Accordingly, during clay liner construction activities, if there are four consecutive days where the average temperature is below 32°F (as measured on a time-weighted basis from the site meteorological tower), the continuation of activities will be evaluated. DOE may propose and implement, with the concurrence of U.S. EPA and OEPA, any corrective actions that may be required to allow continuation of construction activities without adversely impacting the integrity of the liner. In the absence of proposed corrective action, or concurrence of the regulators on proposed corrective action, construction will be suspended, with appropriate liner protection requirements completed expeditiously. The above criterion is based on professional engineering/construction judgement and experience in the Ohio River Valley area. Consultation with the OSDF Construction Quality Control contractor indicates the given criterion is very conservative in favor of liner protection.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this submittal, please contact Jay Jalovec at (513) 648-3122.

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising  
Fernald Remedial Action  
Project Manager

FEMP:Jalovec

cc:

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