Department of Energy
Ohio Field Office
Fernald Area Office
P. O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705
(513) 648-3155

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DOE-1052-98

AUG 04 1998

Mr. Gene Jablonowski, 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 5th Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

Dear Mr. Jablonowski and Mr. Schneider:

NOTIFICATION OF SCHEDULE EXTENSION TO COMPLETE SCABBLING DEMONSTRATION IN THE PLANT 8 MUFFLE FURNACE AREA

Reference: "Focused Implementation Plan for Surface Concrete Removal Demonstration in the Plant 8 Muffle Furnace Area," Revision 0, dated May 1998.

The Centrifugal Shot Blasting (scabbling) technology demonstration described in the above-referenced Implementation Plan accelerates the remediation required under the Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision for Final Remedial Action (OU3 Final ROD) by removing up to 1,526 square feet of Technetium-99 (Tc-99) contaminated surface concrete at least four years ahead of the schedule for dismantlement of the Plant 8 Complex. The approved Implementation Plan established a target date for completing the scabbling activity by August 1, 1998; however, unanticipated delays in equipment performance testing require an extension of the target completion date to August 24, 1998. The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to provide the regulatory agencies with written notification that the Department of Energy (DOE) is extending the technology demonstration. The additional time needed to finish the demonstration will enable DOE to properly conduct and evaluate the demonstration while also achieving the benefit of accelerated removal of most of the Tc-99 contaminated concrete.

Approximately one month of delays occurred during preliminary testing of the Centrifugal Shot Blaster when it was revealed that the originally-designed positive pressure High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtration system failed to pass filter efficiency standards. This test failure resulted in re-engineering the HEPA filter system to use a negative pressure flow design, retrofitting, and retesting, which eventually proved successful. Additionally, current performance and production rates have been less than the estimated rates of the original project schedule. As stated in the Implementation Plan, a project completion report will be submitted within 60 days of project completion and additional performance details will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact John Trygier at (513) 648-3154.

Sincerely,

Johnny Reising

FEMP:Murphy

Johnny W. Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

cc:

N. Hallein, EM-42/CLOV
A. Tanner, DOE-FEMP
J. Trygier, DOE-FEMP
J. Saric, USEPA-V, SRF-5J
R. Beaumier, TPSS/DERR, OEPA-Columbus
F. Bell, ATSDR
M. Schupe, HSI GeoTrans
R. Vandegrift, ODH
F. Barker, Tetra Tech
P. R. Courtney, FDF/52-3
L. C. Goidell, FDF/65-2
T. Hagen, FDF/65-2
J. Harmon, FDF/90
R. Heck, FDF/2
S. Hinnefeld, FDF/2
D. Paine, FDF/52-4
M. J. Prochaska, FDF/66
T. J. Walsh, FDF/65-2
AR Coordinator, FDF/78
EDC , FDF/52-7