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 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF _____
 SRF-5J

NOV 24 1998

Mr. Johnny W. Reising
 United States Department of Energy
 Feed Materials Production Center
 P.O. Box 398705
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

1853

RE: D&D/Soil Excavation
 Resequencing and
 Extension Request

Dear Mr. Reising:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has completed its review of the United States Department of Energy's (U.S. DOE) November 20, 1998, letter requesting revision to the regulatory milestones for the planned sequence of Decontamination and Dismantling (D&D) activities and soil Integrated Remedial Design Plans (IRDP) in the Production Area. U.S. EPA concurs with the extension request.

An integral factor in scheduling D&D activities and related soil excavations is the time frame for which the Plant 1 Pad is available to store both legacy waste and nuclear materials. Off-site waste shipment activities continue to be suspended as a result of a previous incident. Also, although progress has been made in the disposition of normal and enriched nuclear materials, disposition of the depleted uranium metal has been more difficult.

U.S. EPA, U.S. DOE and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) have been aware of the problems and delays regarding the disposition of both legacy waste and nuclear material. It was also agreed by all Agencies that construction of a new storage facility would be costly, wasteful, and should be avoided.

As a result of a continuing need to use the Plant 1 Pad, U.S. DOE has proposed to resequence D&D activities in the Production area and the related soil excavations, while not impacting the overall completion dates for D&D, soil excavation, or site closure.

The Operable Unit (OU) 3 Implementation Plan schedule will be changed to the following milestones: Plant 3, October 1, 2000; Plant 1-Phase II, July 1, 2002; Plant 5, February 1, 1999; and Plant 6, May 1, 1999.

Resequencing the D&D activities as indicated above also requires changing the soil excavation approach. Area 3 will be divided in Area 3A and 3B, with 3B being the Plant 1 Pad. Area 4 will also be

divided into two portions. This change in excavation approach will change the IRDP milestones as follows: Area 3A/4A, March 31, 2000; and Area 3B/4B, April 1, 2002.

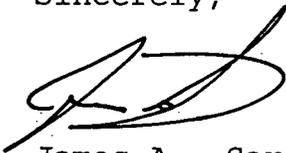
All Agencies recognize the urgency to remove both the legacy waste and nuclear materials from the site. Thus, U.S. DOE has committed to a December 31, 2001, milestone for the removal of all legacy waste from the site. Also, considering the more complicated issues relating to disposal of nuclear materials, U.S. DOE has committed to a April 1, 1999, milestone for providing U.S. EPA and OEPA a date by which all nuclear materials will be removed from the site.

Given the unique circumstances surrounding the legacy waste and nuclear material disposal, the fact that the resequencing of D&D activities and soil excavation will not delay the cleanup process, and U.S. DOE's commitment to establish dates on which all legacy waste and nuclear materials will be shipped off-site, U.S. EPA has seriously weighed all the factors in U.S. DOE's proposed extension request.

Therefore, U.S. EPA concurs with U.S. DOE's extension request and the revised Implementation Plan, IRDP, and legacy waste and nuclear material shipment schedules. These dates are enforceable milestones under the 1991 Amended Consent Agreement.

Please contact me at (312) 886-0992 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



James A. Saric
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
SFD Remedial Response Branch #2

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
Bill Murphie, U.S. DOE-HDQ
John Bradburne, FERMCO
Terry Hagen, FERMCO
Tom Walsh, FERMCO