



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

2085

MAR 30 12:55 PM '99

M-00846

RECEIVED

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

SRF-

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

RE: Legacy Waste
Milestone Revisions

Dear Mr. Reising:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the United States Department of Energy's (U.S. DOE) March 25, 1999, letter requesting an extension of the milestone by which U.S. DOE would propose that all nuclear materials be removed from the site. The requested extension period is from April 1, 1999 to June 1, 1999. Based on earlier discussions and information provided in the letter, U.S. EPA concurs with U.S. DOE's extension request.

U.S. EPA is in agreement that the disposition of nuclear materials or associated wastes was not historically in the baseline budget for completion of environmental restoration at the Fernald site. However, now that these activities are included in the budget U.S. DOE must request funding for such activities from Congress in the annual budget. Failure to request funding may result in future requests for schedule extensions being denied based on good cause, as the 1991 Amended Consent Agreement specifically requires U.S. DOE to request funding for all activities.

U.S. EPA understands the potential impacts of added work scope to the environmental restoration schedules at the site, and is willing to work with U.S. DOE if future schedule extensions and/or replanning is necessary. However, based on existing information at this time, U.S. EPA expects all projects to move forward as currently scheduled, including the Decommissioning and decontamination of Plant 5, toward meeting the 2006 project completion date.

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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