



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

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MAR 31 1998

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

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: SRF-5J

Subject: Final Explanation of Significant Differences for Operable Unit 4
Silo 3 Remedial Action

Dear Mr. Reising:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document (ESD) as part of its oversight activities for the United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) Fernald Environmental Management Project. The ESD, dated January 1998, was provided to U.S. EPA on February 17, 1998. Consistent with the July 22, 1997 Dispute Settlement Agreement, this ESD was prepared to document the change in remedy for treatment and disposal of Silo 3 material.

A Record of Decision for Operable Unit 4 (OU4) was signed on December 7, 1994 identifying on-site vitrification and off-site disposal at the U.S. DOE Nevada Test Site (NTS) as the selected remedy for remediation of the silo materials. Difficulties with vitrification lead to the decision that treatment of Silo 3 material should be implemented separately from treatment of Silo 1 and 2 material, and further that an alternate remedy should be considered for treatment and disposal of Silo 3 material. In summary, the alternate remedy for remediation of Silo 3 material is defined as: 1) treatment using either chemical stabilization/solidification or a polymer-based encapsulation process to stabilize characteristic metals to meet RCRA TCLP limits and attain disposal facility waste acceptance criteria; and 2) off-site disposal at either the NTS or an appropriately-permitted commercial disposal facility.

U.S. EPA concurs with this change in remedy and signed the ESD on March 27, 1998. In accordance with the July 22, 1997 Dispute Settlement Agreement, a revised Remedial Design Work Plan for Silo 3 Remedial Action is to be submitted to U.S. EPA within 60 days of signature of this ESD. Please contact me at (312) 886-4591 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gene Jablonowski
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
SFD Remedial Response Branch #2

Enclosure

cc w/o attachments:
Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
Bill Murphie, U.S. DOE-HDQ

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LOG 2-01137
Apr 2 3 03 PM '98
FILE: 6446.5

John Bradburne, FERMCO
Terry Hagen, FERMCO
Tom Walsh, FERMCO

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bcc w/o attachments:

Frances Barker, Tetra Tech
Scott Pastor, Tetra Tech
Jim Saric, SRF-5J
Brian Barwick, ORC
Sue Pastor, OPA