



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

2471

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

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AUG 25 1999

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

RE: OUI Temporary  
Discharge Variance

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) August 20, 1999, letter requesting a temporary variance to discharge waste pit remedial action project water from the Clearwell to the biodenitrification surge lagoon.

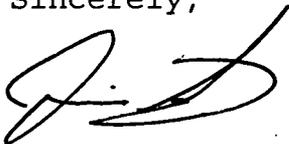
U.S. EPA concurs with U.S. DOE's proposal to temporarily discharge the waste pit water from the Clearwell to the biodenitrification surge lagoon for a period of eight weeks.

U.S. EPA believes this temporary variance will assist in the implementation of phase 2 of the waste pit excavation utilizing waste pit materials that do not require thermal drying. Also, this temporary variance will not result in the overall site surface water discharge exceeding the 20 PPB uranium limit.

This variance is temporary and will not be approved to continue beyond the eight week period. Also, although phase 2 is an essential step in the waste pit excavation project, U.S. EPA wants U.S. DOE to continue all efforts to assure that Phase 3 of the project, start-up of full-scale operations, begins on the scheduled milestone date of October 18, 1999.

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