



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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LOG A-0045

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FILE: _____

George V. Voinovich
Governor

October 7, 1999

Mr. Johnny Reising
U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

Re: COMMENTS DRAFT NON-TYPICAL WASTE PLAN FOR WPRAP

Dear Mr. Reising:

This letter provides as an attachment Ohio Environmental Protection Agency comments on the draft Non-Typical Waste Management Plan for the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Ontko or me.

Sincerely,

For Thomas A. Schneider
Fernald Project Manager
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight

- cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA
- Terry Hagen, FDF
- Mark Shupe, HSI GeoTrans
- Francie Hodge, Tetra Tech EM Inc.
- Ruth Vandergrift, ODH

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Comments on the Draft Non-Typical Waste Management Plan for the WPRAP

- 1) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: DHWM
Section #: Pg #: Line #: Code: general
Comment: Ohio EPA views safety concerns, in particular those addressing worker protection, as high priority items, particularly during the initial phases of WPRAP non-typical waste management activity, i.e., the identification, extraction and staging of non-typical waste materials. Please provide for informational purposes copies of Safety and Health Plans and/or protocols for these activities.

- 2) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO
Section #: Pg #: Line #: Code: general
Comment: Please report to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on a weekly basis an accounting of non-typical wastes excavated and their disposition. Also provide an inventory of wastes staged in the interim staging locations. With regard to accounting for drum disposition, the reporting should include both drums that were determined to be typical and were subsequently blended with the rest of the pit wastes and drums transferred to FDF Waste Management. Additional modifications to reporting requirements may be appropriate based upon knowledge gained through implementation.

- 3) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: DHWM
Section #: Pg #: Line #: Code: general
Comment: References in the plan for placing non-typical waste and/or WPRAP processed non-compliant material into interim storage at an "approved location on the Plant 1 Pad" are assumed to mean specific Plant 1 Pad areas designated as appropriate in the existing RCRA permit application.

- 4) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO
Section #: 2.0 Pg #: 5 Line #: Code: c
Comment: The following apply to the list of potential non-typical wastes:
 - 1) Add uranium derbies to the list of non-typical wastes.
 - 2) Does item 4 ("Unopened, intact drums/containers") include over-packed containers in a rusted-out drum? Language in the first complete paragraph on page 27 could be interpreted to mean that the containers within a rusted out drum would be treated as typical.

- 5) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: DHWM
Section #: 3.4 Pg #: 17 Line #: Code:
Comment: Information indicates that transfer of materials from staging areas to the non-typical waste transfer area will occur when sufficient quantities of material have

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been staged. Depending upon the type of non-typical waste encountered, it may be prudent to move materials to a more secure area (i.e., the transfer area) sooner. In addition to DOE's material quantity considerations, Ohio EPA prefers that reasonable time limits be established for the temporary placement of non-typical waste material at the staging areas and the transfer area. As an alternative to time constraints, DOE may propose additional engineering controls for temporary waste management issues.

- 6) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO
Section #: 3.4 Pg #: 17 Line #: Code: c
Comment: We have several comments regarding the limits placed on the inventories in the staging area;
- 1) This should be identified as an interim staging area to avoid confusion.
 - 2) The limit to be placed on uranium-235 is listed as 350 grams. It is not clear how the quantity of this isotope could be measured since materials are staged here prior to any sampling or analysis.
 - 3) The limit to be placed on thorium is 2,000 pounds. Describe the shielding, labeling and set back restrictions that DOE places on this quantity of thorium.
 - 4) 28,000 pounds seems like a very large quantity of U-238. Justify the large quantity. Short of performing an elemental analysis of the individual uranium drums, it is not clear how it could be determined that the 28,000 pound limit of U-238 was not being exceeded.
- 7) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO
Section #: 4.4 Pg #: 27 Line #: first complete paragraph Code: c
Comment: This paragraph states that drums which are damaged and breached or do not have sufficient structural integrity to be lifted and placed into an over-pack will be considered to be typical wastes and would be processed with the rest of the waste pit contents. Using this description, a drum of thorium oxide that was partly rusted through would not be segregated and treated as non-typical. This Section should be re-written to more clearly define the considerations for deciding when a slightly damaged drum will be treated as non-typical. Our concern is that drum contents may cause failures in the TCLP samples.
- 8) Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: DHWM
Section #: 4.4.1 through 4.4.4 Pg #: 28 & 29 Line #: Code:
Comment: These sections present a discussion of non-typical waste management procedure in the event of discovery and excavation of unopened, intact drums. Proposed procedure includes evaluating the contents of such containers as typical or non-typical waste for the purpose of subsequent WPRAP management, based upon

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field screening criteria or some combination of screening criteria, container markings, characterization, etc. Insufficient detail is provided with regard to determining if drummed wastes exhibit the properties of a RCRA characteristics waste, e.g. TCLP, corrosivity, etc. Under no circumstances should drummed wastes exhibiting RCRA characteristics be considered typical wastes. All such drums should be transferred to FDF Waste Management.