



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southwest District Office

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George V. Voinovich
Governor

October 15, 1999

- 2560

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

Re: COMMENTS JUNE 1999 OPERATING REPORT FOR THE RE-INJECTION DEMO

Dear Mr. Reising:

The June 1999 Operating Report for the Re-Injection Demonstration indicates that the quality of the treated water being injected is beginning to slowly deteriorate. Concentrations of both uranium bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DOP) are higher in June than in any previous month. We agree with the text which states the DOP is a common lab contaminant. Since DOP was also found in the blank we expect that the July samples will be found to be clean.

The uranium concentration of 10.3 micrograms per liter (ug/L) is more problematic. This level of uranium was higher than any that was previously measured in injected, treated ground water and should have served as a cautionary warning that bigger problems were on the horizon. By August samples of the re-injected water exceeded the groundwater FRL. We agree with the increased systems sampling and monitoring as out-lined in the path-forward on re-injection which was transmitted with the weekly fax. This strategy along with the work being done on resin regeneration are appropriate strategies. However the re-injection project can not be allowed to discharge water above the FRL for any

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constituent.

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