



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southwest District Office

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George V. Voinovich  
Governor

December 6, 1999

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

**Re: APPROVAL - OU1 ACCELERATED EXCAVATION OF WASTE PIT 5**

Dear Mr. Reising:

Ohio EPA has reviewed DOE's November 30, 1999 submittal "Request for Approval of Accelerated Excavation of Waste Pit 5" and the December 6, 1999 submittal "Supplemental Waste Pit 5 Information." Ohio EPA concurs with DOE's proposal for initiating excavation of Pit 5 assuming the following criteria are met:

First, an additional trial burn will be required. Ohio EPA is requiring this additional trial burn due to the homogenous nature of Pit 5 not being a good representation of the rest of the pits. The additional trial burn should be completed upon the initiation of drying for substantial quantities of Pit 3 or other pit material.

Secondly, daily RCRA inspections must be resumed through any time period during which Pit 5 is used for storm water storage. Pit 5 should only be used for storm water storage under emergency conditions. Additionally, the excavation activities may so damage the Pit 5 liner as to make it unacceptable for storm water storage. This determination shall be made by Ohio EPA based upon field inspections of the pit.

Thirdly, all areas of Pit 5 not covered with water and not being actively excavated shall be immediately covered with an appropriate (e.g. Con Cover®) crusting/binding agent in accordance with written manufacturers recommendations to control fugitive emissions. Application should be from two directions to prevent shadowing of the agent. Any area not being actively excavated for a period of 48 hours must be covered with the crusting/binding agent.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (937) 285-6466.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA  
Terry Hagen, FDF  
Mark Shupe, HSI GeoTrans  
Phil Harris, DHWM