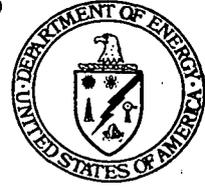




Department of Energy

3268



**Ohio Field Office
Fernald Area Office**
P. O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705
(513) 648-3155

29 SEP 2000

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V-SRF-5J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

DOE-1049-00

Mr. Tom Schneider, Project Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
401 East 5th Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

Mr. Bill Kurey
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Suite H
6950 American Parkway
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Dear Mr. Saric, Mr. Schneider, and Mr. Kurey:

**TRANSMITTAL OF RESPONSES TO THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR REPLACEMENT PLANTING IN THE
AREA 1, PHASE I WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT**

Reference: Letter, T. Schneider to J. Reising, "A1PI Replacement Planting," dated
September 7, 2000

Enclosed for review are responses to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
comments on the Proposed Strategy for Replacement Planting in the Area 1, Phase I
(A1PI) Wetland Mitigation Project.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Pete Yerace at
(513) 648-3161.

Sincerely,

Johnny W. Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FEMP:Yerace

Enclosure

29 SEP 2000

-2-

Mr. James A. Saric
Mr. Tom Schneider
Mr. Bill Kurey

cc w/enclosure:

R. J. Janke, OH/FEMP
W. Pasko, OH/FEMP
D. Pfister, OH/FEMP
J. Reising, OH/FEMP
P. Yerace, OH/FEMP
P. Dunn, FCAB
D. Sarno, FCAB

AR Coordinator, Fluor Fernald, Inc./78

cc w/o enclosure:

A. Tanner, OH/FEMP
J. Chiou, Fluor Fernald, Inc./52-0
T. Hagen, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
M. Jewett, Fluor Fernald, Inc./52-2
C. Straub, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
H. Swiger, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
E. Woods, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
ECDC, Fluor Fernald, Inc./52-7

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**RESPONSES TO OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY COMMENTS
ON THE PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR REPLACEMENT PLANTING IN THE
AREA 1, PHASE I WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT
(20700)**

FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA
Section #: Pg. #: Line #: Commentator: OFFO
Code: C
Original Comment #: 1
Comment: Planting in WS1 should probably be moved to another basin due to low water retention and high deer impact within Basin 8.

Response: DOE proposes to pursue the development of wetland acreage in Basin 8. The water level within Basin 8 was 0.5 feet from the surface in March 2000 which should be adequate for establishing wet prairie. We would like to pursue the planting of replacement wetland shrubs and consider planting wet prairie plugs in the spring in an attempt to achieve 80 percent herbaceous cover. Growth conditions appear to be adequate for the wetland shrub patch. DOE will consider more aggressive herbivory control for WS1 such as more frequent spraying of deer repellent may facilitate adequate shrub maturation.

Action: Plan for the installation of wetland shrubs per the replacement planting strategy this fall/spring (depending on availability) and consider the installation of plugs in the spring.

Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA
Section #: Pg. #: Line #: Commentator: OFFO
Code: C
Original Comment #: 2
Comment: Planting of all patches should be aimed at minimizing impacts to established vegetation including native grasses. Planting outside the designated patches is preferable to disturbing established vegetation.

Response: Agree. Tree and shrub placement will consider both physical positioning to achieve functional replacement and physical placement of plantings to avoid areas of prairie grass establishment.

Action: Replacement planting will be carried out in manner that avoids impact to established prairie grass to the degree possible, including the adjustment/expansion of patch boundaries.

Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA
Section #: Pg. #: Line #: Commentator: OFFO
Code: C
Original Comment #: 3
Comment: This proposal does not address the issues concerning % cover in the basins or upland areas. A combination of fall seeding, spring plugging and adaptive management should be used to address these needs.

Response: Agree. Wet prairie plugs may be the most logical choice for herbaceous cover. We will plan to purchase and plant plug material in Spring 2001. We would like to schedule a field visit with OEPA this Fall 2000 to decide upon which basins to install plant plugs. In addition, woody stock which is unavailable for purchase to plant in Fall 2000 will be attempted for purchase and installation in Spring 2001.

Action: DOE will plan to purchase and plant plug material in Spring 2001. A field visit will be scheduled with OEPA and the other Natural Resource Trustees this Fall (2000) to determine density and location of plug installation.