



Department of Energy

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Ohio Field Office
Fernald Area Office

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08 JAN 2001

Mr. Buddy Fazio
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services - Suite H
6950 Parkway
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

DOE-0218-01

Dear Mr. Fazio:

REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE FEDERALLY- ENDANGERED INDIANA BAT AT THE FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The purpose of this letter is to inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of a project at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) that will be undertaken in the vicinity of the habitat for the federally-endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis Sodalis*). The FEMP is a 1,050-acre U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facility located approximately 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati, Ohio. The FEMP is undergoing site-wide environmental remediation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

During the CERCLA Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process, DOE consulted with FWS and committed to avoid impacts to the maximum extent practicable to the Indiana bat and its associated habitat. If impacts are unavoidable, actions would be taken to minimize any impact to the Indiana bat habitat. Impacts were not anticipated because the majority of remedial activities would be occurring east and south of this area. At the time of the RI/FS, no individuals had been found at the site, but suitable habitat was delineated in the northwest portion of the site (see enclosed figure). The suitable habitat is located adjacent to Paddys Run, a second-order stream that is the major natural water feature at the FEMP. In 1999, a single adult female Indiana bat was caught and released along Paddys Run at the location shown in the enclosed figure.

The remediation project involves the removal of approximately 1,000 cubic yards of debris (i.e., concrete slabs) from a location at the southern edge of the area designated as suitable habitat for the Indiana bat (see enclosed figure). Some additional debris will be removed from the Paddys Run streambed itself. Heavy equipment will be used to remove the debris. This debris will be transported to a temporary stockpile for eventual disposal in the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF).

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DOE has committed as part of this project to minimize any impact to the Indiana bat and its associated habitat. Pursuant to this, the following measures will be taken. First, construction activities will be conducted in Winter 2001. Indiana bats use the FEMP and surrounding areas for summer roosting habitats. By late November, most Indiana bats have returned to their winter cave for hibernation, so construction activities in January will not impact individuals. Second, the removal of large, loose bark trees will be avoided in order to minimize habitat impacts. The project area is roughly split into two sections. The southern section, where the majority of debris removal will take place, is an early-successional wood lot consisting primarily of three to five inches dbh boxelder (*Acer negundo*) and hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). Trees will be cleared as needed within this 0.63-acre area to access and remove debris. The northern half of the project area is a more mature oak-maple forest consisting of red oak (*Quercus rubra*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), and black maple (*Acer nigrum*). Debris does not need to be removed from this area, but an access point for equipment and vehicles must be established in order to access the southern half of the project. Site ecologists have flagged the majority of trees within this area and have instructed construction personnel to avoid removing the trees if at all possible. Site ecologists will monitor construction activities in the field to ensure that impacts are minimized.

DOE feels that the above measures will minimize any impact to the Indiana bat. Please notify Mr. Pete Yerace of my staff at (513) 648-3161 if there are additional measures that may be taken to avoid or minimize impacts in the vicinity of the project area. Also, please contact Mr. Yerace if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FEMP:Yerace

Enclosure

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Mr. Buddy Fazio

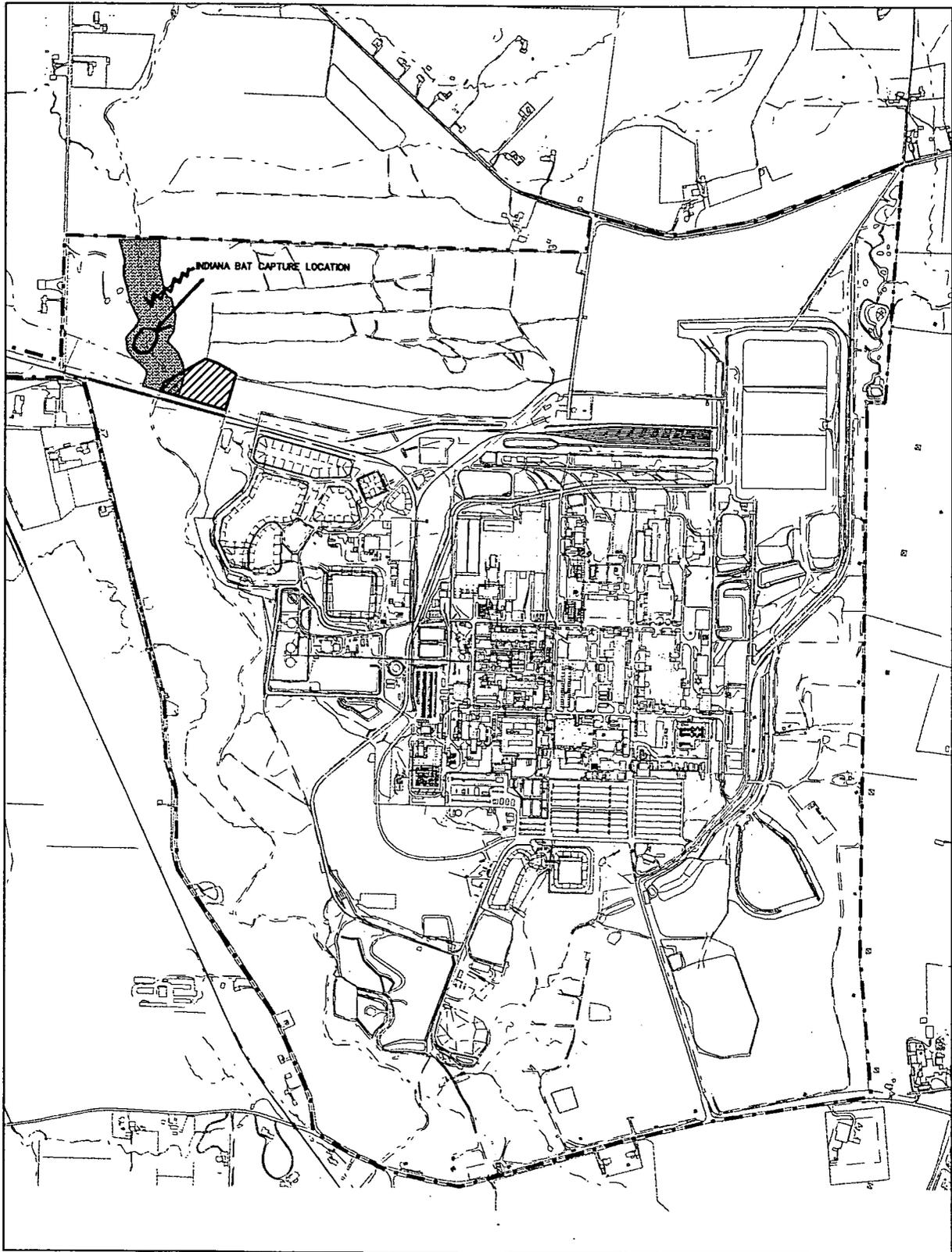
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cc w/enclosure:

R. J. Janke, OH/FEMP
K. Nickel, OH/FEMP
W. Pasko, OH/FEMP
D. Pfister, OH/FEMP
P. Yerace, OH/FEMP
J. Saric, USEPA, V-SRF-5J
T. Schneider, OEPA-Dayton
C. Caldwell, ODNR
B. Kurey, USF&W
D. Carr, Fluor Fernald, Inc./2
J. Chiou, Fluor Fernald, Inc./52-0
T. Hagen, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
J. Harmon, Fluor Fernald, Inc./90
S. Hinnefeld, Fluor Fernald, Inc./31
J. Homer, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
M. Jewett, Fluor Fernald, Inc./52-2
T. Patton, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
T. Walsh, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
E. Woods, Fluor Fernald, Inc./65-2
AR Coordinator, Fluor Fernald, Inc./78

cc w/o enclosure:

A. Tanner, OH/FEMP
ECDC, Fluor Fernald, Inc./52-7



LEGEND:

- . - . - . FEMP BOUNDARY
-  PROJECT LIMITS
-  SUITABLE HABITAT FOR THE INDIANA BAT

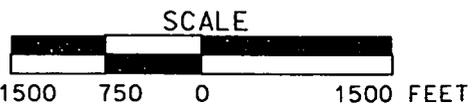


FIGURE 1-1. INDIANA BAT HABITAT AT THE FEMP

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