



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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George V. Voinovich  
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March 16, 2001

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

**RE: APPROVAL RE-INJECTION DEMONSTRATION TEST REPORT**

Dear Mr. Reising:

This letter provides Ohio Environmental Protection Agency approval of the Responses to Comments on the Re-Injection Demonstration Test Report and also approves the Report. Since the Report was written in May 2000, it has proven to be more difficult to successfully rehabilitate plugged wells than was originally concluded. Recently, even aggressive treatments using strong acids have failed to reduce the rise in water level within the well during re-injection. New strategies to reduce the pressure rise by adding reagents to the re-injected water are now being conceptualized.

These developments do not change our conclusion that re-injection can significantly reduce the time and the costs to remediate the Great Miami Aquifer. We support the efforts to develop new strategies to rehabilitate the wells and to prevent the wells from becoming plugged. All options should be pursued to keep the re-injection program operational including additional studies of aquifer chemistry and the biochemistry of iron bacteria. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Ontko or me.

Sincerely,

*Tom Ontko*

*For*

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

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

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