



Department of Energy

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



3876

SEP 25 2001

Mr. Gene Jablonowski, Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V, SRF-5J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

DOE-0857-01

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

Dear Mr. Jablonowski and Mr. Schneider:

EXTENSION REQUEST FOR BUILDINGS 64 AND 65 DECONTAMINATION AND DISMANTLEMENT

Reference: United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region V, and
United States Department of Energy Consent Agreement as Amended under
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
Sections 120 and 106 (a), Docket #V-W-90-C-057; September 20, 1991

The current regulatory milestone for the completion of the Decontamination and Dismantlement (D&D) of Buildings 64 and 65 is September 30, 2001. As you know and as recently discussed with you on August 23 and 24, 2001, Buildings 64 and 65 have been, and continue to be, used for the storage and repackaging of thorium waste. The progress in repackaging activities has been challenging as a result of the July 24, 1999, fire, which occurred during the venting operations. After the investigation of the thorium fire, a number of actions were implemented to ensure safe handling and successful operation of the thorium-repackaging project. The efforts to ensure the safe handling of the thorium material have resulted in a slower than planned operation and delays to the planned availability of the buildings for D&D. Although operations have been slower than planned, significant progress has been made since the restart of operations last year. The project has repackaged and shipped over 37,000 cubic feet of material and approximately 27,000 cubic feet remain; it should be noted that the remaining material is composed of the more difficult material to handle and repackage.

SEP 25 2001

3876

Mr. Gene Jablonowski
Mr. Tom Schneider

-2-

DOE-0857-01

The Department of Energy (DOE) believes that the continued use of Buildings 64 and 65 for the repackaging efforts of the more difficult hydrogen generating material is the most appropriate facility to be utilized at this time. Specifically, Building 65 has the necessary controls to manage the hazards and prevent spread of contamination in the event of a release from one of the remaining containers. Based on the continued need for Buildings 64 and 65, progress of repackaging thorium and that this will not impact other site remediation activities, DOE respectfully requests an extension to the existing regulatory milestone from September 30, 2001, to December 30, 2002, for the completion of the D&D of Buildings 64 and 65. DOE believes that good cause, as defined in Section XVII C.2 of the Amended Consent Agreement (see reference), exists for an extension of the milestone to December 30, 2002.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact John Trygier at (513) 648-3154.

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FEMP:Trygier

SEP 25 2001

3876

Mr. Gene Jablonowski
Mr. Tom Schneider

-3-

DOE-0857-01

cc:

K. Chaney, EM-31/CLOV
J. McCloskey, EM-31/CLOV
A. Tanner, OH/FEMP
J. Trygier, OH/FEMP
T. Schneider, OEPA-Dayton
J. Saric, USEPA-V, SRF-5J
F. Bell, ATSDR
M. Schupe, HSI GeoTrans
R. Vandegrift, ODH
F. Hodge, Tetra Tech
D. Carr, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS2
T. Hagen, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS65-2
M. Stevens, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS44-0
~~AR Coordinator~~, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS78
ECDC, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-7

3