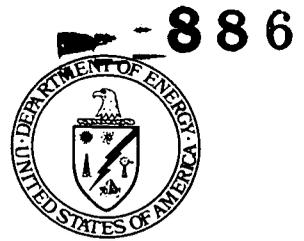




## Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office  
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JUL 15 1997

DOE-1194-97

Mr. John Bradburne, President  
Fluor Daniel Fernald, Inc.  
P.O. Box 538704  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8704

Dear Mr. Bradburne:

### REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATION ON RHEOLOGY/HYDROLOGY TESTING

Reference: Letter from Donald Paine to Nina Akgunduz,  
"Recommendation/Justification to Proceed With Baseline Activities-  
Rheology/Hydrology Testing and Silos 1 and 2 Back-up (cementation)  
Testing," dated June 27, 1997.

The Department of Energy, Fernald Environmental Management Project (DOE-FEMP) has reviewed the above referenced letter. The FEMP concurs with your recommendation to proceed with the Rheology/Hydrology Testing with the archived K-65 sample material in anticipation of the waste retrieval design. This is also consistent with several recommendations the project received by various review groups such as the Independent Technical Review Team (IRT) and the Data Analysis and Pathforward Team.

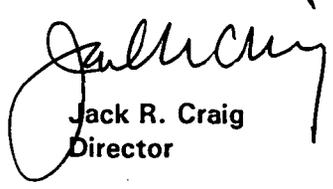
As the waste retrieval precedes the waste treatment in the treatment process flow, it is very important to have the material be retrieved in a safe and efficient manner and to have the feed material available for the full-scale treatment facility. With recent changes in the Silos Project pathforward, there appears to be a window of opportunity for Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF) to carefully design and gather a sufficient amount of information to help the design, construction, and operation of the waste retrieval activities to be successful for the overall Silos Project Remediation.

The FEMP does not concur with your recommendation to proceed with the Silos 1 and 2 Back-Up Cementation Testing. While it is recognized there is a great need to expand the knowledge base on cementation for the Silos 1 and 2 which will increase the confidence level in regards to the waste form (formula) design, the very nature of the Option 2 chosen for the Record of Decision Amendment would mitigate this area of concern. Option 2 places the onus of technical expertise and experience on the vendors with their own technology base to provide the best possible solution to remediate the silo wastes. It is fully expected that the vendors will provide Proof of Principle test results which include

information on engineering, process, and cost estimates for the silos waste remediation. The use of multiple vendors with multiple treatment processes (Option 2) will then allow the results to be incorporated into the Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan (FS/PP). A recommendation to perform cementation testing on Silos 1 and 2 by FDF would diminish the value and purpose of the Option 2 approach.

If you have any questions, please contact Nina Akgunduz at (513) 648-3110.

Sincerely,

  
Jack R. Craig  
Director

FEMP:Akgunduz

cc:

- N. Hallein, EM-42/CLOV
- R. J. Janke, DOE-FEMP
- D. Kozlowski, DOE-FEMP
- S. Peterman, DOE-FEMP
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- D. Nixon, FDF/52-4
- AR Coordinator/78