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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: SRF-5J

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Mr. Johnny W. Reising
United States Department of Energy
Fernald Area Office
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

Subject: Approval of Revised Silo 3 Milestone Dates

- References:
1. Letter, J. Reising to G. Jablonowski and T. Schneider, "Response to the United States Environmental Protection Agency Disapproval of Remedial Design Package for Silo 3," dated August 15, 2002
 2. Letter, G. Jablonowski to J. Reising, "Disapproval of Remedial Design Package for Silo 3," dated July 16, 2002
 3. Letter, J. Reising to G. Jablonowski and T. Schneider, "Revised Silo 3 Remedial Design Deliverables Schedule," dated July 13, 2001

Dear Mr. Reising:

In Reference 1, the United States Department of Energy, Fernald Environmental Management Project (DOE) provided the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a revised Silo 3 milestone strategy. A revised Silo 3 milestone strategy was requested by EPA in the disapproval of the Remedial Design (RD) Package for Silo 3 (Reference 2).

In Reference 1, DOE proposed the following milestone dates:

- | | |
|--|--|
| August 30, 2002 | Submittal of draft Revised Proposed Plan (PP) for Silo 3 |
| 60 days after EPA approval of the Revised Proposed Plan for Silo 3 | Submittal of draft Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment for Silo 3 |
| 30 days after EPA approval of the ROD Amendment for Silo 3 | Submittal of draft RD Package for Silo 3 |

In Reference 3, DOE previously proposed and EPA subsequently approved the following milestone for the Remedial Action (RA) Work Plan, where the RA Work Plan would establish a regulatory milestone for initiation of operations:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| October 6, 2003 | Submittal of draft Silo 3 Remedial Action Work Plan to EPA for review. |
|-----------------|--|

EPA believes that the dates above are appropriate and therefore approves the Silo 3 milestone dates provided in Reference 1. EPA also generally supports the technical approach for the remediation of Silo 3 as outlined in Reference 1. DOE's recommendations to expedite final approval of the RD Package after completion of the ROD Amendment process should be discussed amongst the Ohio

Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), DOE and EPA; therefore, this approval letter does not provide EPA concurrence with these DOE recommendations.

DOE, OEPA and EPA will be pursuing a PP/ROD Amendment process in the near future with upcoming stakeholder involvement opportunities such as the Silo 3 technical roundtable, interaction with groups such as the Fernald Citizen Advisory Board, and the formal public notice and comment period for the PP/ROD Amendment. As we have successfully in the past, EPA is confident that DOE and the regulators, with input and support from stakeholders, will work together on a Silo 3 remedy that is safe, cost-effective, and timely to support a 2006 site closure.

Please contact me at (312) 886-4591 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gene Jablonowski
Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
Superfund Division

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
Sally Robinson, U.S. DOE-HDQ
Jamie Jameson, Fluor Fernald
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bcc: Mary Wojciechowski, Tetra Tech
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