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FLUOR

March 19, 2003

Fernald Environmental Management Project
Letter No. C:ARWWP:2003-0007

Mr. Thomas A. Winston, District Chief
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Southwest District Office
401 East Fifth Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

Dear Mr. Winston:

**NONCOMPLIANCE REPORT – FEBRUARY 2003 - NPDES PERMIT NUMBER 11000004*FD
FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT (FEMP)**

Enclosed is the February 2003 Noncompliance Report. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Frank Johnston at (513) 648-5294.

Sincerely,



David J. Brettschneider, Project Manager
Aquifer Restoration/Wastewater Project

DJB:FLJ
Enclosure

Mr. Thomas A. Winston, District Chief
Letter No. C:ARWWP:2003-0007
Page 2

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File Record Subject NPDES Permit
Project Number 52700

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**NONCOMPLIANCE REPORT
NPDES PERMIT NO. 1100004*FD
FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

The following table describes the February 2003 noncompliances with the discharge limits specified in the FEMP NPDES Permit. This table lists the affected outfall, dates of the noncompliance, parameter, permit limits, and measured effluent concentrations.

DATE	LOCATION	PARAMETER	EFFLUENT LIMIT	ACTUAL MEASUREMENT
February 6, 2003	601	Total Suspended Solids (Daily Max.)	40 mg/L	146 mg/L
February 11, 2003	601	Total Suspended Solids (Daily Max.)	40 mg/L	142 mg/L
February 14, 2003	601	Total Suspended Solids (Daily Max.)	40 mg/L	76 mg/L
February 17, 2003	601	Total Suspended Solids (Daily Max.)	40 mg/L	52 mg/L
February	601	Total Suspended Solids (Monthly Avg.)	20 mg/L	64.5 mg/L

Based on investigations by the plant's operators it would appear that the extended duration of the high Total Suspended Solids (TSS) measurements were due to low biological activity within the west aeration basin. This low biological activity was perhaps due to a combination of factors. First, it appears that wastewater in the east aeration basin, which is used as a surge tank to equalize hydraulic loading, became septic. A second possible cause, based on anecdotal evidence and process knowledge, is the metabolism within the west aeration basin became inhibited due to an increased chloride loading from the extensive amount of salt applied to facility roads and walkways during January and February. As has been explained before, there is considerable infiltration and inflow into the sewage treatment plant due to the age of the sewer system.

Low biological activity was observed on February 7 despite the addition of bacterial cultures the previous day. A double portion of bacterial cultures was added on February 8 and the performance of the plant slowly improved during the course of the month. Additionally, adjustments in the operation and aeration of the east tank were made to ensure septic conditions are avoided in the future.

The situation did not have an adverse impact on TSS discharges at Outfall 001. Fluor Fernald will continue to monitor the performance of the sewage treatment plant and make adjustments as necessary to maintain an acceptable level of performance.