



**Department of Energy**  
**Ohio Field Office**  
**Fernald Environmental Management Project**  
**P. O. Box 538705**  
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MAR 12 2003

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

DOE-0258-03

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

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

**NOTIFICATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEACHATE MANAGEMENT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE ON-SITE DISPOSAL FACILITY**

The purpose of this letter is to inform the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) that on February 26, 2003, the Project Manager of the Aquifer Restoration and Wastewater Project authorized the implementation of the "Leachate Management Contingency Plan for the On-Site Disposal Facility (January 2001)."

In responding to an alarm condition at the On-Site Disposal Facility Leachate Management System Permanent Lift Station (PLS) at 1645 hours on February 23, 2003, an Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility operator observed flow emanating from the top of Manhole #1 on the Leachate Conveyance System. The Leachate Conveyance System is the force main portion of the Leachate Management System used to pump collected leachate from the PLS to the Biosurge Lagoon for eventual treatment through the Advanced Waste Water Treatment (AWWT) Phase II system. The PLS pumps were deactivated immediately after this flow was observed. Shortly after deactivation of the PLS pumps, all valves between On-Site Disposal Facility cells and Leachate Conveyance System were also closed.

The contingency plan was implemented on February 26, 2003. As the problem occurred within the conveyance system portion of the system, Temporary Operating Mode D (Section 4.4 of the contingency plan) was implemented. Temporary impacted runoff

Mr. James A. Saric  
Mr. Tom Schneider

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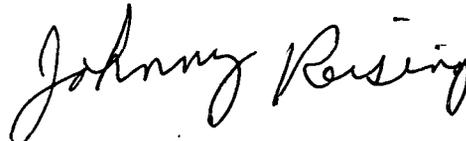
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management (Section 4.5 of the contingency plan) was not implemented. Instead, the Department of Energy, Fernald Closure Project (DOE-FCP) and Fluor Fernald Inc. petitioned the OEPA and USEPA to deviate from the contingency plan by pumping both impacted runoff and collected leachate to the Storm Water Retention Basin, thereby, eliminating several different pumping operations at the individual On-Site Disposal Facility Cells. Analytical data from each of the five cells were collected and submitted via e-mail to support this deviation. This request (via e-mail) to deviate from the contingency plan and OEPA's and USEPA's approval of this deviation (via e-mail) all occurred on March 6, 2003. The actual operation as approved was initiated on March 7, 2003. A representative from OEPA observed the operation the afternoon of March 7, 2003.

As of this writing, it is believed that the problem has been located. A completely separated joint was located approximately two feet upstream of Leachate Cleanout Manhole 1A. Fluor Fernald Inc. will proceed with confirming that this is the problem area and effect the necessary repairs. Fluor Fernald, Inc. estimates that the repairs can be completed by March 31, 2003. DOE-FCP will continue to provide you updates as information becomes available. A second letter, as required by the contingency plan, will be forthcoming when the leachate conveyance system has been placed back into service and Fluor Fernald Inc. has terminated implementing the contingency plan. An explanation of the problem and corrective actions taken will be provided at that time.

If you have any questions regarding the issues described or the path forward on the modification of the Operations and Maintenance Master Plan (OMMP), please contact Robert Janke at (513) 648-3124

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising  
Fernald Remedial Action  
Project Manager

FCP:R.J. Janke

Mr. James A. Saric  
Mr. Tom Schneider

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cc:

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