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Bob Taft, Governor  
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March 28, 2003

Mr. Johnny Reising  
U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office  
P.O. Box 538705  
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

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**RE: APPROVAL FOR WASTE PLACEMENT DURING 2003 CONSTRUCTION YEAR**

Dear Mr. Reising:

This letter is written in response to the following:

- Your letter "Notification of the Implementation of the Leachate Management Contingency Plan for the On-Site Disposal Facility" DOE-0258-03
- Your letter "Request to Deviate from the On-Site Disposal Facility Leachate Management Contingency Plan" DOE-0249-03
- Your letter "Notification of the Termination of the Implementation of the Leachate Management Contingency Plan for the On-Site Disposal Facility" DOE-0287-03
- DCN No. 20110-001 "Leachate Conveyance System Piping Modification"

Our observations and reports made by the SDFP management confirm that the actions of the DOE were consistent with the Leachate Management Contingency Plan. We concurred with the DOE decision to allow the spilled leachate to remain in the sediment basin and from which it would eventually be carried by storm water flows to Paddys Run. Recovery of the spilled leachate would have been impractical and after dilution with storm flows it would very probably meet the 30 ppb discharge criteria for uranium.

We also concurred with your request to deviate from the Leachate Management Contingency Plan by routing leachate and runoff from all the Cells from Valve House #6 (VH-6) directly to catch basin in the Production Area which discharges to the SWRB. We were concerned about the impracticality of driving tanker trucks during adverse winter conditions. Additionally, there was significant snow accumulation in the OSDF which had the potential to cause serious water handling issues if a rapid thaw occurred.

This letter also provides our approval of DCN 20110-001 which removes cleanout Manhole 1A. Methods to clean up to 1700 feet of the four-inch carrier pipe were successfully used when the leak was located and repaired. We conclude that the original design criteria that

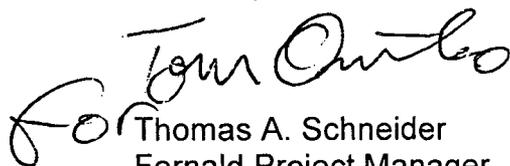
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the leachate force main be able to be cleaned along its entire length is still being achieved.

This letter also provides Ohio Environmental Protection Agency approval to initiate waste placement in the On-Site Disposal Facility for construction year 2003.

Should you have any questions, please contact Tom Ontko or me.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Schneider  
Fernald Project Manager  
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight

cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA  
Terry Hagen, Fluor Fernald  
Mark Shupe, GeoTrans, Inc.  
Michelle Cullerton, Tetra Tech EM Inc.  
Ruth Vandergrift, ODH