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May 9, 2003

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

ERNA  
OG  
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**RE: RESPONSES TO OUR COMMENTS ON IN SITU STABILIZATION THRU EARP**

Dear Mr. Reising:

The cover letter which transmitted your responses to our comments on the above-referenced plan stated that they were being sent for 'review and approval'. Rather than continue the comment response cycle, we prefer to withhold formal approval of the responses. We anticipate continuing the dialogue after the results of the bench-scale study are reported. We note however that the responses show a high level of knowledge and were well-written and reflect the considerable expertise of the responder. That being said, we still have reservations because of process reversibility after the re-establishment of the natural geochemical equilibrium.

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

Sincerely,

*For Tom Ontko*

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

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