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OPERABLE UNIT 1 FINAL REMEDIAL DESIGN WORK PLAN (INCLUDES RESPONSES TO OEPA COMMENTS OF MAY 30, 1995)

07/07/95

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RESPONSES

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Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P. O. Box 538705
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JUL 07 1995

DOE-1186-95

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V - 5HRE-8J
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

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

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

OPERABLE UNIT 1 FINAL REMEDIAL DESIGN WORK PLAN

Reference: Letter, J.A. Saric to J.R. Craig, "Approval of the Operable Unit 1 Remedial Design Work Plan", dated June 21, 1995

Letter, T.A. Schneider to J.R. Craig, "Conditional Approval of Operable Unit 1 RD Work Plan", dated May 30, 1995

This letter transmits the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) Operable Unit 1 (OU1) Final Remedial Design (RD) Work Plan. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) approved the Draft RD Work Plan with no comments. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) approved the Draft RD Work Plan on the condition of satisfactorily addressing the four comments provided. These were relatively minor editorial or clarification comments, and the Final RD Work Plan reflects changes made to address these comments. Responses to the Ohio EPA comments are also enclosed to this letter. Relative to the U.S. EPA request in its June 21, 1995, approval letter, the Final RD Work Plan specifically reflects that the results obtained from the Dewatering Excavation Evaluation Program (DEEP) will be factored into the Excavation Plan, a design deliverable in Package II.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Dave Lojek at (513) 648-3127.

Sincerely,

Johnny Reising

for Jack R. Craig
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FN:R.C. Janke

Enclosures: As Stated

Recycled and Recyclable

cc w/encs:

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cc w/o enc:

C. Little, FERMCO
M. Yates, FERMCO/9

Responses to the May 30, 1995 Ohio EPA Comments on the Operable Unit 1 Draft Remedial Design Work Plan

Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor:
Section #: General Comment Page #: Line #: Code:
Original Comment #: 1
Comment: As a general comment, Ohio EPA believes that wetlands restoration should be incorporated in the Remedial Design from the beginning of the design phase. The possibility of incorporating wetlands design and habitat enhancement to the final closure of the waste pits should be incorporated in the design plans.

Response: Agree. Although not explicitly identified in any of the design deliverables, the Operable Unit 1 (OU1) Remedial Design Work Plan (RDWP) does discuss various aspects of remediation around wetlands. In particular, wetlands protection was discussed in lines 2-8 on page 4-5, under "Compliance with Other ARARs," and on pages A-2 and A-3 of the ARAR tables in the May 1995 draft of the RDWP.

Action: Add the following sentence after the discussion on line 8 on page 4-5: "The potential for wetlands restoration in those areas disturbed from OU1 remediation activities, will be discussed in the Site Restoration Plan, identified as a design deliverable in Table 6-1."

Modify the "Content" for the Site Restoration Plan in Table 6-1 to state: "Description of backfill and waste pit closure activities including final grading, drainage, and wetland restoration."

Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor:
Section #: 2 Page #: 2-8 Line #: 4-6 Code:
Original Comment #: 2
Comment: On page 2-8, lines 4 through 6, the draft plan calls for disposal of construction debris and concrete in a sanitary landfill. The State of Ohio has not reviewed the potential environmental and/or health effects of disposing of materials that meet free release criteria established by DOE Order 5400.5 in a sanitary landfill. There are also potential problems with public perceptions of the disposal of these materials in a sanitary landfill. In addition we foresee the potential for various technical difficulties with the testing and analysis of porous materials such as concrete. There are also potential conflicts with Ohio Revised Code § 3701.914(B) which states in part, "No person shall...dispose of any low-level radioactive waste except at a facility that is licensed for...disposal under the "Atomic Energy Act of 1954"...as amended...regardless of whether the waste has been reclassified as "below regulatory concern"..."

For the above stated reasons, the Ohio EPA believes that it is preferable to dispose of these and similar materials in the on-site disposal facility.

Response: Comment acknowledged. The discussion on decommissioning and removal of the OU1 remediation facilities should simply reflect the fact that any such activities will be performed in a manner consistent with the site-wide strategy at the time for such dismantlement, decontamination, and dispositioning activities, rather than predispose what those activities might be.

Action: Delete the subject sentence which began on line 4 of page 2-8 (i.e., the sentence "Any concrete and construction....solid waste/sanitary landfill.")

Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor:
Section #: 2 Page #: 4 Line #: 19-20 Code:
Original Comment #: 3

Comment: On page 2-4, lines 19 and 20, reference is made to remediating the soils under the waste pits to levels consistent with OU 5 levels. However on page 3-1, line 10 reference is made to remediating these soils to levels established for OU1. Please add language to page 3-1 that explicitly states that soils beneath the waste pits will be remediated to levels that achieve the lower of the two OUs remediation levels.

Response: Agree. The intent of the excavation activities is to remediate to levels that achieve the lower of remediation levels for OU1 and OU5.

Action: Modify Section 3.1 as follows:

> "Remediation levels have been established in the Operable Unit 1 Record of Decision for both surface soils and soils beneath the waste pits, and are presented in Table 3-1 and Table 3-2, respectively. Only constituents of concern requiring remediation, with respect to the Operable Unit 1 remediation levels, are identified in Tables 3-1 and 3-2. These levels are protective of human health and the environment, assuming continued Federal ownership of the site as provided in the selected remedy of the Operable Unit 1 Record of Decision. The final remediation levels will need to factor in remediation levels identified and finalized in the Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision, which will be based upon available Operable Unit 5 Feasibility Study conclusions, recommendations concerning future land use from the Fernald Citizens Task Force, and further public comment. The final remediation levels for the Operable Unit 1 soils will be the lower of the two remediation levels from the Operable Unit 1 and Operable Unit 5 Records of Decisions, and will be discussed in the Excavation Plan, identified as a design deliverable in Table 6-1. Specific sampling and analysis details relative to Operable Unit 1 soils excavation will be identified in the Remedial Action Work Plan.

Responses to the May 30, 1995 Ohio EPA Comments on the Operable Unit 1 Draft Remedial Design Work Plan

No remediation levels are presented for waste pit materials since all of this material will be removed in its entirety as part of the remedial action."

Modify the sentence which begins on line 19 of page 2-4 to read as follows: "As the excavation proceeds into the pit liners and underlying soil, sampling is planned to ensure that the contaminant levels of remaining soils are below established final remediation levels of either the Operable Unit 1 or Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision, whichever are lower."

Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor:
Section #: 4 Page #: 4-8 Line #: Code:
Original Comment #: 4

Comment: On page 4-8, Section 4.4.3, DOE commits to implementing an air monitoring program that is specific to OU1s remedial activities. Both Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Health agree that such monitoring is necessary. We anticipate that this monitoring will include real-time monitoring of particulates caused by excavation and transportation activities in addition to source emissions from the drying facility.

Response: Comment Acknowledged. The maximum, practical use of real-time monitoring is an integral part of DOE's process to ensure that remediation facilities are constructed and remediation activities are undertaken in a manner that is safe and in compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements, as well as DOE orders. As indicated in Section 4.4.3 of the RDWP, the monitoring needs will be discussed in further detail in three of design deliverables, as well as deliverables associated with the Remedial Action Work Plan.

Action: None required.