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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG 12 2004

Mr. William J. Taylor
United States Department of Energy
Fernald Area Office
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: SR-6J

Subject: Approval of the Final Transportation and Disposal Plan for the Silo 3 Project

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has completed its review of the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) Final Transportation and Disposal Plan (T&D Plan) for the Silo 3 Project, dated July 7, 2004 and received by U.S. EPA on July 14, 2004. This final T&D Plan addresses previous comments made on the April 21, 2004 draft of the T&D Plan, and includes a response to comments document.

U.S. EPA appreciates DOE's desire to maintain continuous, uninterrupted shipment of Silo 3 material, and hopes that DOE can resolve its current Nevada Test Site disposal issues with the state of Nevada. As previously stated in our May 10, 2004 approval of the Revised T&D Plan, the Operable Unit (OU) 4 Record of Decision (ROD) requires a continuous process of extraction, treatment, packaging, transportation, and off-site disposal of the Silo 3 materials. Under the ROD, there is no allowance for on-site accumulation of extracted materials other than for the purpose of facilitating continuous off-site transportation and disposal of those materials. U.S. EPA expects that individual shipments will occur on a frequent and routine basis, and that at any given point in time the volume of extracted materials on-site would be very small and that turnover of that material would be continuous.

Overall, the T&D Plan and response to comments address U.S. EPA's previous comments. Therefore, U.S. EPA approves the final T&D Plan. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (312) 886-4591.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Jablonowski".

Gene Jablonowski
Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
Superfund Division

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
Johnny Reising, U.S. DOE-Fernald
Jamie Jameson, Fluor Fernald
Terry Hagen, Fluor Fernald
Tim Poff, Fluor Fernald