



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southwest District

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Bob Taft, Governor
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Joseph P. Koncelik, Director

February 9, 2005

William J. Taylor
U.S. Department of Energy
Ohio Field Office
Fernald Closure Project
175 Tri-County Parkway
Springdale, OH 45246

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**Re: Approval - Transmittal of the Draft Plan for Tree Clearing Operations
Related to the Stream Corridor Area**

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Ohio EPA has reviewed the document "Transmittal of the Draft Plan for Tree Clearing Operations Related to the Stream Corridor Area," received on January 25, 2005. Based upon our review of this document and a walk down of the SSOD excavation area to discuss the associated tree clearing operations, OEPA approves the tree clearing plan. This approval takes into consideration field discussions that included the involvement of the Natural Resources staff and project management sensitivity to efforts to leave existing large and/or significant (i.e. rare or valuable seed source) trees in place if possible, and maintaining as much native and undisturbed soil cover as possible. Storm water controls such as silt fence must be in place before any soil disturbance caused by the tree clearing occurs. This includes disturbances to soil cover by vehicles traveling overland.

Should you have any questions, please contact Joe Bartoszek or me at 937-285-6357.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA
Mark Schupe, GeoTrans, Inc.
Michelle Cullerton, Tetra Tech EM Inc.
Ruth Vandergrift, ODH