



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southwest District

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www.epa.state.oh.usBob Taft, Governor
Bruce Johnson, Lt. Governor
Joseph P. Koncelik, Director

May 22, 2006

Mr. Johnny Reising
U. S. Department of Energy
Ohio Field Office
Fernald Closure Project
175 Tri-County Parkway
Springdale, Ohio 45246**RE: COMMENTS ON SSOD INFILTRATION TEST REPORT RTC**

Dear Mr. Reising:

This letter provides as an attachment Ohio Environmental Protection Agency comments on the RTC on the Storm Sewer Outfall Ditch Infiltration Test Report. It is Ohio EPA's expectation that the Department of Energy take actions consistent with the OU5 ROD to aggressively take positive action to affect the remediation of the Great Miami Aquifer. Contrary to DOE's conclusions of the limited benefit of infiltration via the SSOD, Ohio EPA believes this action is a necessary and appropriate action under the OU5 ROD. Termination of this infiltration should only occur following an appropriate evaluation of aquifer data following several years of operation.

In the response to our comment #11, DOE requested clarification of our statement that the Ohio EPA is unlikely at any time in the future to approve diverting the discharge of remediation water from the GMR to the SSOD and PPDD. Briefly, the principle of anti-degradation would need to be honored. In this case of an intermittent stream hydraulically connected to the GMA, Ohio may consider the GMA to be the receiving body of water. Any proposal to send remediation water down the SSOD or PPDD would require significant post-excavation, treatment plant effluent data as well as supporting ground water modelling data to be considered. Even considering such supporting information the actual process would be time consuming.

In closing, in the interest of moving the process along, we have chosen not to respond to several of the statements made in the responses to our comments. This decision should not be construed to mean that we necessarily agree with all the statements in DOE's responses.

Mr. Reising
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If you have any questions please contact me at (937) 285-6466.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA
Mark Shupe, GeoTrans, Inc.
Michelle Cullerton, Tetra Tech EM Inc.

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