



Department of Energy

**Environmental Management
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JUL 12 2007

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V-SRF-5J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

EMCBC-00572-07

Mr. Thomas Schneider, Project Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Southwest District Office
401 East Fifth Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

**EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES FACT SHEET FOR THE
EXTENSION OF SILOS 1 & 2 INTERIM STORAGE**

Reference: Letter EMCBC-00477-07, J. Reising to J. Saric, "Request for Extension to Milestone for Explanation of Significant Differences for the Operable Unit 4 Remedial Actions," dated May 25, 2007.

In a letter dated May 15, 2007, U.S. Department of Energy requested an extension for a June 7, 2007 milestone for initiating permanent disposal for the Silos 1 & 2 material that is currently in interim storage in Texas. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved this request in a letter dated May 22, 2007. In that letter, the United States EPA requested the development of a "Fact Sheet" to document the extension.

The attached Fact Sheet explains the current situation regarding the Silos 1 & 2 waste. The Fact Sheet will be disseminated through the public distribution channels typically used at Fernald including posting on the site's website and distribution at Fernald's quarterly public meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (513) 648-3119.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Reising".

Johnny Reising
Director

Mr. Saric
Mr. Schneider

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EMCBC-00572-07

Enclosures

cc w/enclosures:

T. Schneider, OEPA-Dayton (three copies of enclosures)

M. Cullerton, Tetra Tech

M. Shupe, HSI GeoTrans

S. Helmer, ODH

AR Coordinator, Wanda Sumner

cc w/o enclosures:

F. Johnston, Stoller

R. Norton, Fluor



U.S. Department of Energy
Fernald Closure Project

Explanation of Significant Differences Fact Sheet for the Extension of Silos 1&2 Interim Storage

June 2007

Background

The remediation of Silos 1&2 at the Fernald Closure Project (FCP) involved the removal of 8,900 cubic yards of high-activity low-level waste from two concrete silos that were located near the FCP's western boundary. The remediation procedures for the Silos 1&2 Project were identified through an amended Record of Decision that was approved in July 2000, and an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) that was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 18, 2005. The remediation process included the extraction of the waste from the silos, blending the waste with flyash and concrete to reduce moisture content and leachability and packing and shipping the waste to an off-site disposal facility. Following the award of a \$7.5 million contract, the treated silos material was shipped to the Waste Control Specialist (WCS) facility in Andrews County, Texas for interim storage pending WCS receiving a license to permanently dispose of the waste at its facility. The ESD granted the authority to allow the interim storage through June 7, 2007. The waste shipping campaign from the FCP to WCS was completed in May 2006.

Approved Change

The U.S. Department of Energy has requested and U.S. EPA has approved a milestone extension that will extend the original deadline for initiating permanent disposal of the Silos 1&2 material from the original June 2007, date to October 31, 2009. This extension will allow WCS additional time to prepare the highly complex documentation and obtain the necessary public input and regulatory approval that is required for a license to permanently dispose of the silos material. WCS

has been granted an extension from the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) to allow the continued interim storage of the Silos 1&2 material until October 31, 2009.

Benefits

The treated Silos 1&2 material is in a safe configuration and safe interim storage at WCS. The TDSHS has granted WCS an extension for interim storage until October 31, 2009. Since the material is currently at WCS, approximately \$8 million in savings will result when compared to other permitted disposal location options if the material can be permanently disposed of at WCS. This will also reduce the transportation and worker handling risk while still meeting the environmental compliance requirements. This milestone extension allows DOE adequate time to continue to evaluate other alternatives and contingencies in addition to disposal at WCS.

Justification

For the past two years WCS has pursued a material disposal license for the Silos 1&2 material that is currently in interim storage at its facility. On January 12, 2007 WCS revised and resubmitted its entire application to the TDSHS in response to comments on prior submittals. This revision is subject to an extended technical review by the Texas regulators which will be followed by a public review and comment period and public meetings. DOE fully anticipated WCS obtaining a license for permanent disposal in time to facilitate meeting the original June 2007 milestone; however, the delays in the licensing process occurred incrementally. By the time it became apparent that the original milestone date would not be met DOE did not have adequate time to effectively pursue other options for the timely disposal of the material. DOE will continue to evaluate alternatives and other contingencies in addition to disposal at WCS and keep EPA informed.

Addition Information

For additional information on this Extension of the Silos 1&2 Interim Storage Request, contact Johnny Reising, DOE Fernald Closure Project at 513-648-3139, or email at johnny.reising@ejo.doe.gov