Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management

August 13, 2007

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

Mr. Thomas A. Schneider
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
401 East 5th Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

SUBJECT: **Transmittal of the June 2007 Fernald Site Inspection Checklist**

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the completed checklist for the June 2007 Fernald Site quarterly inspection. A map illustrating the findings was prepared and is included with this report. The inspection was conducted with participation from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Tetra Tech, and Geosyntec. Responses to OEPA comments on the March 2007 Site Inspection Checklist are also enclosed.

The June 2007 inspection was the second formal site inspection conducted at Fernald as directed by the Comprehensive Legacy Management and Institutional Controls Plan (LMICP 2006). The inspection began on Tuesday, June 26 and was completed on Thursday, June 28. Note that the On-site Disposal Facility (OSDF) cap has a separate inspection and reporting process.

No signs of unauthorized use were observed. Institutional controls appeared to be functioning. Access points, gates, fencing, signs, and other infrastructure seemed to be secure and in good condition. Roads, parking lots and walkways were generally in good condition. Restored areas are progressing as planned. However, a number of findings were observed during the site walk down. Documentation of these findings is discussed in more detail below.

The documentation of site inspection findings is an evolving process. For the March 2007 inspection, all field observations were consolidated and labeled on a site map. Identified items were prioritized by both a color-coding system (red or black text) and by the designation of a "Priority Maintenance Zone" that extended along the paved road to the future Visitors Center. This process proved useful for maintenance personnel to ensure that findings are addressed. However,

as findings were compiled for the June 2007 inspection, it became clear that a revised approach is needed.

Several revisions to the site inspection map were made. First, an enhanced prioritization process was developed that provides a better means of addressing corrective actions. Items that require immediate attention are labeled in red. Maintenance items that will be addressed as time permits are labeled in blue. Some findings require no further action, such as vehicle ruts in established fields. These items are labeled in green. Items that have been addressed are highlighted as well, with a black box around white text.

Second, two types of findings previously identified on the March 2007 map, were not labeled on the enclosed June 2007 inspection map. Thistle observations were noted across the site in both March and June. Field personnel have worked daily throughout the spring to control the spread of thistle and other noxious weeds. All areas site-wide have been systematically addressed as part of the site noxious weed control program. Herbicide application and physical clearing take place regardless of whether the noxious weed was identified during a site inspection. Labeling of individual thistle locations provided no benefit to this process. Because of this, thistle observations were not included on the June site inspection map. Likewise, field personnel do not use the site inspection map to determine the location of debris. Instead, a flagging system has been developed for the site. Inspection participants used yellow pin flags ("debris flags") to identify locations of debris in the field. The site Radiological Control Technician uses these flags to locate, identify, analyze, document, and subsequently dispose of debris. Since this process is in place, individual debris locations are not needed on the site inspection map.

Corrective actions continue. As stated above, thistle and other noxious weeds have been physically removed, trimmed, and/or treated with herbicide by a licensed herbicide applicator. Most areas were "spot sprayed" with a 2-4, D broad leaf herbicide (Triplet). Prairie areas in Paddys Run West, the South Field, east of the Borrow Area, and OSDF cell cap 1 were boom sprayed with Plateau herbicide. Plateau is protective of most native grasses and forbs, so it is ideal for noxious weed control in established prairies. All phragmites/reed canary grass locations were hand swiped with a glyphosate-based herbicide that is safe for use in wetlands (Rodeo). Overall, herbicide applications proved very effective. Mowing and trimming is also used to suppress thistle spread.

Goose control efforts include the use of visual deterrents and shaking eggs to prevent population growth. All such activities are in compliance with a 2007 Goose Damage Permit issued through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Eggs from over 60 goose nests were shaken following the March site inspection. This effort was very effective at limiting the reproduction of geese across the site.

For erosion areas, subcontractor support is being procured to design and implement effective and permanent erosion control measures. Erosion areas will be addressed site-wide, with prioritization given to the Waste Pits Area, the Former Production Area, the Southern Waste Units, and the Borrow Area. Area-specific designs will be provided separately.

A second part of the quarterly site inspection includes interviews of local residents and businesses, and a document review. The interviews are documented on the attached interview forms. In general, the local residents interviewed are pleased with the progress at the Fernald Site and have

no concerns. Continued communication with the contracted site manager and DOE is desired. Interviews with the local sheriff and fire departments indicated that all is going as expected at the site.

In addition, interviews were conducted with the Contracted Site Manager, the Aquifer Restoration Manager, and the Information Management Manager on site. Their interview forms are also included. A few items of concern were discussed and it was noted that those items are being addressed.

The next quarterly site inspection will occur in September 2007. Field investigations will focus on continued documentation of the findings described above.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please call me at (513) 648-3148.

Sincerely,

Jane Powell

Jane Powell,
Fernald Site Manager
DOE-LM-20.1

Enclosure

cc w/ enclosure:
M. Cullerton, Tetra Tech.
M. Murphy, USEPA-V, A-18J
J. Reising, DOE-EM
T. Schneider, OEPA (three copies of enclosure)
M. Shupe, HSI GeoTrans
Project Record File FER030.1(A) (thru W. Sumner)
Administrative Records (thru W. Sumner)

cc w/o enclosure:
J. Homer, Stoller
F. Johnston, Stoller
L. McHenry, Stoller