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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF SRF-5J

Mr. Johnny W. Reising  
United States Department of Energy  
Fernald Area Office  
P.O. Box 398705  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

8500

Subject: U.S. DOE Request for Extension for Response to Comments on Draft Final Remedial Design Package for the Silos 1 and 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project

Dear Mr. Reising:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has completed its review of the United States Department of Energy's (U.S. DOE) February 7, 2001, letter requesting an extension for response to comments on the draft final Remedial Design Package (RDP) for the Silos 1 and 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project (AWR). The extension request outlined DOE's reasons and approach that represents the most efficient means of assuring timely finalization of the design, and associated RD package documentation, for the AWR Project.

U.S. EPA understands the complex nature of the AWR project, and U.S. DOE's unique circumstances surrounding the relationship between U.S. DOE and the AWR contractor which have led to project delays. U.S. EPA has seriously weighed all the factors in U.S. DOE's proposed extension request. Such failures will not be acceptable in the future, and any future extension request must be submitted in a timely manner.

Therefore, U.S. EPA concurs with U.S. DOE's extension request. The date for submittal of a revised Draft Final Remedial Design Package for Silos 1 and 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval, incorporating the responses to all previous comments, is now April 6, 2001, and is an enforceable milestone under the 1991 Amended Consent Agreement.

Please contact me at (312) 886-4591 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Gene Jablonowski  
Remedial Project Manager  
Federal Facilities Section  
Superfund Remedial Response Branch #2

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO  
Kim Chaney, U.S. DOE-HDQ  
John Bradburne, Fluor Fernald  
Terry Hagen, Fluor Fernald  
Tim Poff, Fluor Fernald

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