



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION 5
 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
 CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

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FILE: _____
 REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF _____

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Mr. Johnny W. Reising
 United States Department of Energy
 Feed Materials Production Center
 P.O. Box 398705
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

SRF-5J

RE: Proposed Revisions to
 Groundwater FRLs

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 23, 2001, letter requesting the adoption of U.S. EPA's recently promulgated final Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for uranium in drinking at the Fernald site. This promulgation finalized the MCL for uranium at 30 micrograms/liter from the previously proposed value of 20 micrograms/liter.

The finalized MCL value for uranium would be used as the final target for cleanup of the Great Miami Aquifer and as the new uranium limit for waster discharged to the Great Miami River.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit (OU)5 adopted the proposed uranium MCL of 20 micrograms/liter with the expectation that once finalized, that number would most likely be used at the Fernald site. U.S. EPA concurs with this position.

Also, the MCL for arsenic in drinking water was recently finalized at 10 micrograms/liter, and U.S. DOE has requested to adopt the finalized arsenic MCL for groundwater. U.S. EPA also concurs with this position.

It is U.S. EPA's opinion that changing the values for groundwater remediation levels from those documented in the OU 5 ROD represents a significant change in the ROD and the most appropriate method for documenting this change is and Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). U.S. DOE should proceed with the ESD and must work with the public in the ESD approval process.

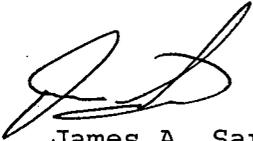
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Please contact me at (312) 886-0992 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



James A. Saric
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
SFD 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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