



Department of Energy

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JUL 11 2002

Mr. Phil Harris
Division of Hazardous Waste Management
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
401 East 5th Street
Dayton, OH. 45402-2911

DOE-0574-02

Dear Mr. Harris:

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT LABELING/STIPULATED AMENDED CONSENT DECREE 60-DAY TIME EXCEEDANCE: SELF-REPORT

This letter provides additional information per your request on the labeling and storage of 18 containers of mixed waste as a follow-up to our June 12, 2002 telephone conversation. The issue involving the containers was initially self-reported to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) in a May 31, 2002 telephone conversation with Paul Pardi.

Background

The waste characterization process at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) culminates in the generation of Characterization Change Notices (CCN), which designate the proper waste codes to be applied to individual containers of waste in storage. As characterizations are completed, Fluor-Fernald distributes electronic CCNs on a weekly basis to capture any newly generated or recharacterized waste that requires a change to the marking/labeling or physical movement to an appropriate storage location.

On February 22, 2002, an electronic CCN report was generated, which included eighteen Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) mixed waste containers that initiates the movement to approved storage and/or marking changes to the containers. Although the CCN report is generated on a weekly basis, it requires a quality review and approval prior to issuance to Operations. Due to an oversight of the individuals involved, this particular CCN was not distributed the week of February 22.

On April 15, it was discovered that the CCN of February 22 had not yet been sent for electronic distribution. The CCN was consequently issued on April 16, and sent to the field for implementation the following day. The 18 RCRA containers were processed

JUL 11 2002

Mr. Phil Harris

-2-

DOE-0574-02

between April 18 and April 25. As a result of the delayed notification, labeling of the 18 containers was not completed until 55 to 66 days after characterization. Also, movement into RCRA storage was not completed for five of the containers within the 60-day timeframe required by Subsection 3.5.1(f) of the Stipulated Amended Consent Decree (SACD). The enclosed tables give more detailed information on the waste containers, waste types, locations, and dates of events.

The types of waste contained in the 18 drums include thorium contaminated paint chips, lead contaminated waste water, broken lead-acid batteries, and Silo 3 Treatability Study waste.

Corrective Actions

Upon discovery of the delayed CCN, Fluor Fernald personnel conducted an investigation of the events and reviewed the characterization/CCN process in order to determine the root cause of this non-conformance. It should be noted that this occurrence, although a rarity, highlighted several failures in communications and responsiveness to the event. Management made a critical assessment of the process to correct the shortcomings; delay in recognition that a CCN had not been issued; communication delays to the field; and responsiveness of Operations once communicated. As a result, corrective actions have been implemented to provide a broader communication of CCNs by field, oversight, management, and compliance personnel. In addition, individuals have been counseled on their respective responsibilities and significance of their roles. This redundancy will ensure that CCNs will be issued, distributed, and acknowledged on a regular basis. In addition, the Sitewide Waste Information Forecasting and Tracking System (SWIFTS) reports will be run on a frequent basis and used as a management tool to verify that all characterized waste is in proper storage. This approach will ensure that all RCRA hazardous and mixed wastes are properly labeled and moved to appropriate storage within the required timeframes.

Summary

Based on the information associated with the event, the FEMP believes that no significant environmental or human health impacts have occurred. We are confident that the corrective actions outlined herein are robust and will prevent reoccurrence of this event. The FEMP is committed to full compliance with all regulatory requirements, and will continue to assess its own performance as part of our continual improvement process.

2

4366

JUL 11 2002

Mr. Phil Harris

-3-

DOE-0574-02

If you have any questions regarding the reported event or about the CCN process in general, please contact Ed Skintik at (513) 648- 3151.

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Project Manager

FEMP:Skintik

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/o enclosure:

J. Sattler, OH/FEMP
D. Carr, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS2
S. Eleton, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS41
R. Giroir, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-3
T. Hagen, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS9
R. V. Holmes, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS3
M. Jewett, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-5
S. Lorenz, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-5
T. Nail, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS41
T. Poff, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS65-2

3

ENCLOSURE

I. CONTAINERS WHICH EXCEEDED 60 DAY SACD LIMIT FOR MOVING INTO PROPER STORAGE AND WERE NOT LABELED

MEF #	Inventory #	Waste Description	EPA Codes	Original Location	Current Location	Date Characterized	Date Completed Movement and Labeling	Total Days
3799	W195412 W195413 W195414 W195415 W195416	Treated Silo 3 Material Spiked with RCRA Metals	D004 D006 D007 D008 D011	Vitrification Pilot Plant	TS-6	2/22/02	4/29/02	66

4

4366

II. CONTAINERS THAT WERE MOVED INTO PROPER STORAGE WITHIN 60 DAYS BUT WERE NOT LABELED

MEF #	Inventory #	Waste Description	EPA Codes	Date Characterized	Date Completed Labeling	Total Days
874	W214764 W214769 W214770 W214771 W214772 W214774 W214777 W214812 W214813 W217957	Thorium-Contaminated Paint Chips	D008	2/20/02	4/18/02	57
1585	W171292	Broken Lead Acid Batteries	D002 D008	2/22/02	4/18/22	55
3822	W207868 W207876	Lead-Contaminated Waste Water	D008	2/21/02	4/24/02	62

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