



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

5473

MAY 17 2004

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

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

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RE: AWWT Conversion

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) May 5, 2004, letter regarding the conversion of the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWT) to address the long-term infrastructure at the Fernald site. U.S. EPA has met with representatives of U.S. DOE regarding this issue for several months and has discussed this issue in detail. U.S. EPA concurs with U.S. DOE's proposed path forward for conversion of the AWWT.

The approach would permit the decontamination and dismantling of approximately 90 percent of the existing AWWT footprint and the placement of the impacted materials into the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF). The remaining "carved down" AWWT would allow for a protective long-term treatment facility to complete the aquifer restoration, while meeting all of the discharge limits required in the Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision.

This carved-down AWWT must be able to handle stormwater requirements as well as groundwater extraction and treatment requirements during the time the OSDF remains open. U.S. DOE has committed to submitting various documents (detailed in the attachments to the letter) to further evaluate the aquifer restoration and manage leachate at the OSDF. Also, U.S. DOE has agreed to comply with schedules included in the attachments to the letter. However, if issues arise regarding the inability of the carved-down AWWT to meet stormwater and groundwater needs, or if the overall current remediation schedule significantly changes, additional stormwater and groundwater treatment capabilities may be necessary.

U.S. EPA also recognizes the operational issues that could arise during the transition period to stabilize the carved-down AWWT. U.S. EPA commits to working with U.S. DOE to resolve any potential issues.

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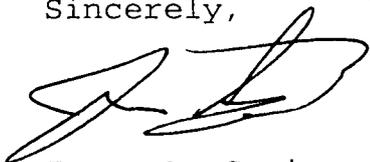
U.S. EPA wishes to continue all efforts to address the most effective methods for enhancing aquifer restoration, and toward developing a plan for determining when and how the aquifer has met final remediation levels.

Finally, U.S. EPA expects the OSDF closure date of December 2006 as identified by U.S. DOE to be maintained. Any change in the OSDF closure schedule would require the issue of adequate stormwater and groundwater management to be revisited.

The carved down AWWT proposed by U.S. DOE presents both an environmentally protective and cost-effect approach for the long term infrastructure at the Fernald site. This effort represents extensive involvement between all Stakeholders to develop an appropriate path forward that meets the needs of all parties for the future of the Fernald site.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (312) 886-0992.

Sincerely,



James A. Saric
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
SFD Remedial Response Branch #2

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
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