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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
726 MINNESOTA AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

NOV 04 1993

Sent Via Facsimile

Mr. David G. Adler
Former Sites Restoration Division
Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Adler:

This is in response to your letter of October 28, 1993, in which you request clarification of EPA's expectations regarding the schedule for the remaining elements of the remedy selection process.

As we discussed in our meeting of October 20, 1993, we believe that the feasibility of DOE's proposed remedial action has not been sufficiently established by the information as currently presented in the remedial investigation and feasibility study documents. Significant uncertainties exist with regard to the effectiveness of the proposed remedy, which relies on natural systems to provide containment. However, the potential exists that additional field investigations could sufficiently resolve these uncertainties. This letter serves as written notice to the DOE pursuant to Section XII of the FFA that the EPA has determined that additional work is necessary to adequately evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed remedy.

As you point out, technical considerations aside, under the terms specified by the FFA, on November 11, 1993, the FS and proposed plan documents have to either become the final documents or the EPA must initiate a dispute resolution process. While we cannot agree to finalizing the documents in their current form, we do not believe the dispute resolution process is a desirable or effective way to address this issue.

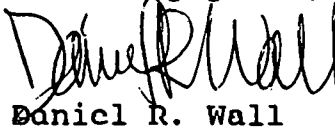
We suggest that the best course of action would be for EPA and DOE to agree that additional information is necessary to enable adequate evaluation of the available remedial alternatives, and further agree that the schedule should be

modified pursuant to Section XXI (B) (5) to allow for the gathering of this additional information.

It is probably appropriate to defer renegotiation of the schedule until the scope of additional investigations has been defined. At this point, we are hopeful that sufficient aquifer testing can be performed using existing wells and that additional drilling will not be required. If this is the case, significant slippage of the current ROD schedule is not anticipated.

If you are in agreement that additional work is necessary, and the schedule for finalization of the feasibility study should be extended, to a date to be agreed upon, please respond in writing prior to November 11, 1993. If we have not reached agreement extending the schedule, in writing, by that date it is our intention to initiate the dispute resolution process.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel R. Wall
Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Branch

cc: Bob Geller, MDNR

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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for the St. Louis Site, Missouri



U.S. Department of Energy