



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

February 29, 2016

Ms. Tracey Duncan
Federal Facility Agreement Manager
United States Department of Energy
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Site Office
5501 Hobbs Road
Kevil, KY 42053

RE: EPA Approval of: **Proposed Plan for the Burial Grounds Operable Unit Source Areas at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Paducah, Kentucky: Solid Waste Management Units 5 and 6 (DOE/LX/07-1275&D2R1)**
EPA ID KY8890008982, McCracken County, KY

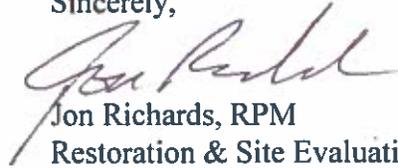
Dear Ms. Duncan,

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 has reviewed the D2/R1 Proposed Plan for Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) 5 and 6 in the Burial Grounds Operable Unit at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. No additional comments were generated as a result of EPA's review. The document is approved as submitted for publication by the Department of Energy to solicit feedback from the local community regarding the Preferred Remedial Alternative presented in the Proposal Plan.

The preferred remedial alternative that will be offered for public comment for SWMU 5 (C-746-F Burial Ground) and SWMU 6 (C747-B Burial Area) is to close the waste units in place with an engineered cap, land use controls, and monitoring. EPA is mindful, however, that feedback from the local community may drive reconsideration by the regulatory agencies and the Department of Energy of a different cleanup strategy for these burial grounds. Previous recommendations from the Paducah Citizens Advisory Board have expressed a preference that the cleanup reduce the legacy waste footprint both inside and outside the fence and create an environment that is conducive to community reuse and economic redevelopment. On-going consideration of a regulatory option for possible future construction of a CERCLA on-site waste disposal facility, for example, creates an opportunity for all interested parties to explore a comprehensive approach to the cleanup at the PGDP in a manner that maximizes footprint reduction and avoids leaving a patchwork of waste units and contamination closed in place across the site. Finally, there is considerable uncertainty regarding the nature of the buried waste and contaminated soils in SWMUs 5 and 6 and recent groundwater data indicates that wastes may be periodically inundated with groundwater. With these factors in mind, and looking forward to receipt of additional public input during the Public Comment Period, EPA remains flexible regarding both the preferred alternative, and the timing for final remedy selection and remedy implementation, for the SWMUs 5 and 6 burial grounds.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me at (404) 562-8648 or Richards.jon@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Jon Richards, RPM
Restoration & Site Evaluation Branch
Superfund Division

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