

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Floodplain Statement of Findings for Operable Unit 2 Removal Action No. 30 at the Fernald Environmental Management Project**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).  
**ACTION:** Floodplain statement of findings.

**SUMMARY:** This is to give notice of DOE's planned actions for the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP), located approximately 18 miles (29 kilometers) northwest of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. The subject of this Floodplain Statement of Findings is Operable Unit 2 Removal Action No. 30. DOE proposes to protect human health and the environment by excavating contaminated sediments and constructing a seepage collection system to prevent leaching and infiltration of contaminated sediments into the Great Miami Aquifer. Excavation and construction activities associated with implementation of this action would involve a small portion of the floodplain along Paddys Run in Hamilton County, Ohio. In accordance with Executive Order 11988 and 10 CFR 1022, DOE prepared a floodplain assessment describing the effects, alternatives and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain. The assessment found that the proposed action would have minimal temporary or long-term impacts on the floodplain.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by the DOE at the following address on or before May 17, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail comments and/or requests for further information, including a site map, to: Mr. Wally Quaid, Acting Associate Director, Office of Safety & Assessment, U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office, P.O. Box 538705, Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705, Phone: (513) 648-3137, Facsimile: (513) 648-3077.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information on general DOE floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements, contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, Phone: (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Floodplain Statement of Findings for Operable Unit 2 Removal Action No. 30 at the FEMP has been prepared in accordance with Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management," and 10 CFR

Part 1022, "DOE Regulations for Compliance with Floodplain/Wetland Environmental Review Requirements." A Notice of Floodplain Involvement was published in the **Federal Register** (FR) on April 13, 1995 (60 FR 18805) and a Floodplain Assessment was incorporated in the Removal Action No. 30 Work Plan. DOE is proposing to protect human health and the environment by excavating contaminated sediments (in the low area in the southeast corner of the South Field) to prevent leaching of contaminated sediments into the Great Miami Aquifer, and by constructing a seepage collection system to prevent infiltration of contaminated sediments into the Great Miami Aquifer. In order to eliminate the threat of a release to Paddy's Run, limited excavation would occur in the floodplain. Direct physical impact to the floodplain would result from the operation of heavy equipment during excavation of contaminated sediments and construction of a sump/pump station and portion of a discharge line within the floodplain. Potential indirect impacts to the 100- and 500-year floodplain, as a result of removal activities involving the Inactive Flyash Pile and South Field, include surface water runoff and sedimentation loading into the floodplain. Several alternatives were considered and evaluated in making this determination, including no-action, removal of sediment/construction of a seepage interceptor system, and sediment removal/construction of a seepage collection system (i.e., the preferred alternative). Direct and indirect impacts would occur during the implementation of any action alternative considered. However, minimal or no change in flood elevations would be expected. The proposed removal action has been designed to conform to applicable Federal and State regulations, including floodplain protection standards. Before this action begins, approval would be obtained from the Federal and State agencies having jurisdiction.

DOE has determined that there is no practicable alternative to the proposed removal action and that this action has been designed to minimize harm to the 100- and 500-year floodplain of Paddys Run. Engineering controls (e.g., silt fences, straw bales) will minimize any indirect impacts such as runoff and sediment deposition to the floodplain. Backfilling activities following the Operable Unit 2 Removal Action will eliminate any long-term adverse impacts.

Issued in Miamisburg, Ohio on April 19, 1995.

**George R. Gartrell,**

*Acting Deputy Manager, Ohio Field Office.*

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**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project Nos. 10822-000 10823-000-CT]

**Summit Hydropower [Upper and Lower Collinsville Projects]; Notice of Intention To Prepare an Environmental Assessment and Conduct Public Scoping Meetings**

April 26, 1995.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has received applications for two original licenses for the construction and operation of the Upper Collinsville Project No. 10822; and the Lower Collinsville Project No. 10823. The projects are located on the Farmington River in Hartford County, Connecticut.

The Commission staff has determined that licensing these projects would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the staff intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) on the hydroelectric projects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff's EA will objectively consider both site specific and cumulative environmental effects of the projects and reasonable alternatives, and will include an economic, financial and engineering analysis.

A draft EA will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the draft EA will be analyzed by the staff and considered in a final EA. The staff's conclusions and recommendations will then be presented for the consideration of the Commission in reaching its final licensing decisions.

**Scoping Meetings**

The Commission staff will conduct two scoping meetings. The evening scoping meeting is primarily for public input while the day-time meeting will focus on resource agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) concerns. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend and assist the staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

To help focus discussions, a preliminary scoping document outlining