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**FERNALD PROJECT CLEANUP REPORT
FEBRUARY 1994**

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FACT SHEET

FERNALD PROJECT 5249

CleanUP

R E P O R T

February 1994

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CERCLA Public Meeting

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 22, 1994

The Plantation

9660 Dry Fork Road

Harrison, Ohio

about safety concerns. He also said FERMCO appeared closer to meeting DOE's demands for accountability and good financial management.

Grumbly also noted some progress in labor relations. "There's a whole new attitude on the part of (FERMCO) management that we have an obligation to those who worked here during the Cold War," Grumbly said. "There is major effort being made to engage the workers and in trying to work with the labor leaders."

In assessing the cleanup challenge at Fernald, Grumbly said the contamination is relatively low compared to other sites, but added that the volumes of contamination are extensive. "The good news is that this is a doable project," Grumbly said.

Grumbly encouraged by progress during Fernald visit

Thomas P. Grumbly, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management for the Department of Energy, said he saw many signs of progress in the Fernald cleanup after a two-day visit to the site in mid-January.

Grumbly, who had been critical of FERMCO's performance at a congressional hearing in December, said he was "heartened" by the commitment of the new FERMCO management team to addressing DOE's concerns. He said FERMCO has taken a number of steps to improve its conduct of operations and that significant progress is being made in the environmental restoration effort.

During his visit, Grumbly met with DOE's Fernald management team and FERMCO managers and leadership of the unions representing Fernald workers and Fernald Residents for Environment, Safety, and Health (FRESH). Grumbly also toured the site and viewed a variety of

technologies that are being used or considered for use in the Fernald cleanup.

While Grumbly indicated that FERMCO was moving toward a passing grade in its management of the Fernald cleanup, he said the grade right now would be an "incomplete".

Grumbly said Fluor Daniel, parent company of FERMCO, had sent its best people to assess the Fernald health and safety programs and had taken steps to guarantee that employees have the right to speak up



Thomas Grumbly (left), DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, discusses the South Groundwater Contamination Plume with FERMCO engineer Rob Kneip.

FERMCO names new president

Don Ofte has been named the new FERMCO president, effective March 1, 1994.

Ofte brings more than 35 years of experience in research, development and management activities at a number of DOE sites. He is currently vice president of Advanced Sciences Inc., an environmental consulting firm, and is responsible for management of DOE programs. Prior to that, he was vice president of government operations for United Engineers and Constructors, a unit of Raytheon Engineers and Constructors.

Hugh Coble, chairman of the FERMCO board of directors, said: "Don brings a unique blend of expertise to FERMCO. He has unparalleled experience within DOE as well as in handling large, complex programs. The health and safety of the work force and the surrounding community will be his primary focus. His charter is to continue to work closely with the DOE and all other stakeholders to ensure the safest, quickest and most cost effective cleanup possible at Fernald."

Ofte replaces Bill Breen, interim FERMCO president named to



Don Ofte

the site with a Fluor Daniel management team in December 1993.

Ofte holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from Dana College, Nebraska, and performed graduate studies in metallurgical engineering at Ohio State University.

Envoys to help Fernald Communicate

Fernald employees are being asked to help DOE and FERMCO get the public more involved in making decisions affecting the Fernald site.

The Fernald Envoy Program -- the first of its kind in the entire DOE system -- is designed to improve decision making by using site employees to build closer relationships with stakeholder groups on a person-to-person basis.

"Too often we announce decisions that have already been made or actions already taken. That isn't good enough anymore," said Ken Morgan, director of Public Information for the DOE Fernald Field Office. "The DOE's policy now is to get input

from a wide spectrum of the community before -- not after -- decisions on matters affecting the public are made."

Some 30-40 employees who are active in local civic or other groups, and willing to volunteer some personal time to help improve Fernald, are being sought for participation in the program. The envoy program is expected to be operational by this spring.

Professional development training will be provided to envoys on such topics as personal communication, risk communication, conflict resolution, and small group facilitation. Envoys also will be provided the

latest information about events, programs, schedules, policies, technologies, accomplishments and failures at the Fernald site.

"We have to get our public involvement program on a more personal basis and build better relationships. Many of our communications efforts are not working well because we have to compete with so many other interests and so many other messages to really reach people," Morgan said.

"Each person receives thousands of messages per day through advertisements, signs, mail, telephone, trademarks and so forth. The messages delivered on a personal basis are the ones most likely to be retained," he said.

If you are an active member of a community group and would like more information about the Fernald Envoy Program, call Pete Kelley, program coordinator, at 648-6312.

"We have to get our public involvement program on a more personal basis and build better relationships."

- DOE's Ken Morgan

Subcontractor terminated from ore silos dismantling project

The contract of Martech USA, Inc. was terminated by FERMCO on December 17, 1993, due to unsatisfactory schedule performance. Martech was a FERMCO subcontractor working on the Plant 1 Ore Silos Removal Action, a dismantling project.

Martech was significantly

behind schedule and could no longer meet its contractual completion date.

The project was suspended December 7, 1993, after a Martech worker sawed through a conduit containing live electrical wire.

By contract Martech was responsible for dismantling all 14 ore silos and their structural components.

Actual dismantling of the concrete ore silos began in September 1993. Four of the 10 concrete silos had been removed, and scaffolding was being installed around the four larger tile silos, when the project was suspended.

The Plant 1 Ore Silos Removal Action is scheduled for

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completion by December 18, 1994, under the terms of the 1991 Amended Consent Agreement between DOE and the U.S. EPA.

DOE and FERMCO are exploring options for completing the project.

FERMCO, FATLC sign 60-day agreement

FERMCO and the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council (FATLC) signed a 60-day Memorandum of Agreement on January 19, 1994. Key elements of this agreement were the no-strike, no-lockout, no-lay off provisions. Both FATLC and FERMCO have agreed to reconvene in the near future to continue discussions toward reaching a long term collective bargaining agreement. Bob Schwab, President of FATLC, and Marshall Coleman, Senior Director of Industrial Relations, Fluor Daniel, feel confident that both parties can and will successfully achieve this objective to the benefit of both FERMCO and to the members of the FATLC bargaining unit.

Area near Southfield investigated

A review of a historical aerial photograph taken in 1954 indicated an area of land excavation just south of the Operable Unit 2 Southfield area along Willey Road on Fernald property.

The photo raised the possibility of a contamination source in this area due to possible historical disposal practices. If waste had been disposed of in this area, it could have potentially contributed to the South Plume.

Subsurface borings were performed and samples of soil, groundwater and surface water from the area were collected and analyzed. This investigation found no evidence of any buried material, nor was there any indication from the field sampling that any contamination is present.

Uranyl nitrate to be neutralized on site

A decision has been made to process Fernald's inventory of uranyl nitrate hexahydrate (UNH) material on site. Dedicated lines and pumps will be installed. These improvements are required to ensure worker safety and health during UNH processing.

The alternative to ship the acidic uranyl nitrate for processing off site was eliminated due to transportation safety concerns and cost factors.

DOE and FERMCO are presently addressing Ohio EPA concerns regarding the removal, neutralization and continued storage of UNH material on site. DOE submitted an action plan to the Ohio EPA on February 7, 1994, responding to Ohio EPA's immediate concerns. DOE and FERMCO are developing schedules for purchasing the required equipment and associated piping, and for the actual processing of UNH material.

The processing of UNH was initiated in September 1992. In November 1992, after a 20,000 gallon batch had been processed as part of a systems operability test, the project was placed on hold to allow for an evaluation of systems. Processing resumed April 13, 1993, but was stopped April 20, 1993, to complete a commitment requiring an operational readiness review. The project has been on hold since April 20, 1993.

During treatment of slopwater (rainwater, washdowns, drips, leaks, etc.) on April 27, 1993,

UNH was inadvertently pumped into the slopwater treatment system. On April 28, 1993, during an attempt to recover the inadvertent transfer, approximately 30 gallons of dilute UNH solution were spilled from the slopwater system to a gravel outdoor area. Cleanup operations were immediately initiated, and the spill and contaminated gravel were collected and placed into drums for further treatment and disposal.

This CERCLA Removal Action is designed to neutralize the uranyl nitrate inventory and convert it to a solid form which can be drummed and properly stored in warehouses pending final disposition.

Small leaks within secondary containment have developed in the piping system associated with the tanks. The UNH tanks themselves are not leaking; all leaks are confined to associated valves and flanges and are being contained.

Uranyl Nitrate is an intermediate product in the former uranium recovery process at Fernald. There are approximately 200,000 gallons of UNH stored in 18 tanks in or near the Plant 2/3 Refinery.

UNH became a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) issue due to its low pH (high acid content) when the material was declared waste by DOE in 1991. RCRA is a federal law designed to ensure safe handling, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste.

Depleted uranium derbies shipped to buyer

Fernald has initiated the first of 25 shipments of depleted uranium metal derbies to Manufacturing Sciences Corporation (MSC) of Oak Ridge, Tenn. Derbies are the initial uranium metal forms historically produced in Fernald's Plant 5 and cast into ingots for machining into final products. "Depleted" uranium contains less than the .71 percent of naturally-occurring uranium-235 as

uranium is mined from the earth.

Approximately 970,000 pounds of depleted uranium derby metal (2,613 derbies), all of which has been sold to MSC, is stored on site. The depleted uranium derbies will be used for radiation shielding in medical and industrial (non-military) applications. The current shipping schedule calls for one shipment per

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month through December 1996.

The revenue to the U.S. Government from this sale is approximately \$120,000, which will go to the U.S. Treasury. Funds to package the material have been provided by DOE, and MSC is paying transportation costs.

This sale results in avoidance of \$397,000 in costs to Fernald for containers, freight and burial if the material had not sold.



Uranium metal derbies such as the ones pictured above have been sold to a Tennessee firm and are now being shipped. The derbies were historically produced in Fernald's Plant 5.

Plant 1 plutonium investigation complete

FERMCO has completed an investigation of the June 1993 incident in which traces of plutonium were detected during a routine inspection of overpacked drums in the Plant 1 mill area.

Results of the final set of urine and fecal samples were received from the independent laboratory on December 22, 1993, indicating no presence of plutonium. Because of this new data, FERMCO has concluded the three urine samples, which indicated the presence of plutonium from the initial urine analysis, were anomalous readings. If the original

urine results had been valid, all three workers should have had measurable levels of plutonium in their follow-up fecal samples. Since plutonium was not detected in any of the fecal samples, the initial urine results are considered to be anomalous readings.

The seven workers have been notified of the final results, as well as two of the three workers who were not involved in the incident but who requested urine and fecal tests. FERMCO mailed the test results to the home address of the third person, a subcontractor who is no longer employed at the Fernald site.

The Fernald Calendar:

Following is a list of upcoming public participation opportunities and other activities taking place at Fernald:

- A public meeting on Fernald cleanup progress including break-out discussions on topics of stakeholder interest is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 22, 1994, at the Plantation, 9660 Dry Fork Road, Harrison, Ohio.
- A public workshop on the Proposed Plan for Remedial Action in Operable Unit 4 (Silos 1-4) is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 21, 1994, at the Plantation. Representatives from DOE, U.S. and Ohio EPAs will discuss the

remedial alternatives for Operable Unit 4 including DOE's preferred alternative, answer questions, and accept public comments. The public is invited to comment on the Proposed Plan for Remedial Action from March 7 through April 25. Written comments should be sent to: Mr. K.L. Morgan, Director of Public Information, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 398705, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45239-8705.

- The Fernald Citizens Task Force is addressing site conditions during the February-March 1994 time frame. While the site-specific advisory board continues to identify and analyze future use options for Fernald, its members also are developing a working understanding of

CERCLA update

- The Operable Unit 1 Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan for remediation is due to the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA by March 7, 1994, for review. The Feasibility Study provides an evaluation of alternatives for remediation of the waste pit area, and the Proposed Plan includes a discussion of DOE's preferred alternative for remediation of Operable Unit 1.
- The Operable Unit 2 Remedial Investigation/Baseline Risk Assessment is due to the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA by February 18, 1994. The Remedial Investigation Report documents the nature and extent of contamination in Operable Unit 2. The Baseline Risk Assessment evaluates the risks to human health and the environment associated with the existing conditions in Operable Unit 2 in the absence of any cleanup actions.
- DOE and FERMCO are presently addressing U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA comments on the Draft Final Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan-Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Operable Unit 4.
- U.S. EPA has approved a change in one of the 1991 Amended Consent Agreement scheduled for Operable Unit 3. The Initial Screening of Alternatives (ISA) report, originally scheduled for submittal to U.S. EPA by March 28, 1995, will be consolidated into the Operable Unit 3 Feasibility Study (FS) report. A separate ISA will not be necessary because the Interim Record of Decision will ultimately reduce the scope of alternatives requiring evaluation. The FS report for Operable Unit 3 is due to the U.S. EPA in August 1996.
- The Operable Unit 5 Remedial Investigation (RI) report is scheduled to be submitted to the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA in June 1994. The RI report defines the nature and extent of existing contamination in environmental media (soils, groundwater, surface water, sediment, etc.) on and around the Fernald site.

the physical, cultural, economic, demographic, and environmental characteristics of the Fernald facility and surrounding areas. The task force also is developing an understanding of the contamination of structures, soils, air, surface water and groundwater, and associated present and future risks. The group is identifying applicable and emerging remediation technologies and their associated cost and risk factors. The task force met February 12, 1994, to discuss these issues. The next public meeting of the task force is scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 12, 1994, at AmeriSuites, 12001 Chase Plaza, Forest Park, Ohio.

FERNALD PROJECT CLEANUP REPORT

U.S. Department of Energy
Fernald Field Office
P.O. Box 398705
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The Fernald Project Cleanup Report is prepared by Fernald Environmental Restoration Management Corporation monthly for the U.S. Department of Energy, to inform the community about cleanup progress at the Fernald Environmental Management Project. Address all inquiries regarding the Fernald Project Cleanup Report to:

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