

5374

**DOE TO HOLD WORKSHOP ON CLEANUP PLANS
FOR FERNALD WASTE PITS (ADVERTISEMENT
FOR THE WORKSHOP ON MARCH 29, 1994**

03/24/94

**DOE-FN/PUBLIC
4
NEWS RELEASE
OU1**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 1994

DOE

NEWS

- 5874

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Ken Morgan
(513) 648-3131

~~DOE TO HOLD WORKSHOP ON CLEANUP PLANS FOR FERNALD WASTE PITS~~

CINCINNATI, Ohio -- The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) will conduct a public workshop Tuesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. at the Ross Fire House to present its recommendation on the proposed clean up strategy for the waste pit area at the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

The waste pits are one of the five defined Operable Units at Fernald which cover the environmental hazards at the facility. Known as Operable Unit 1, the waste pits cover a 37.7-acre area in the northwest portion of the Fernald Site. This Operable Unit consists of six waste pits, a burn pit, and a clearwell. There are also pit berms, liners, concrete pads, underground piping, utilities, and fencing associated with the waste pits. In all, there is more than 600,000 cubic yards of contaminated material associated with the waste pits.

Under a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) agreement between DOE and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DOE is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to assess the nature and extent of contamination at Fernald.

Based on the results of the Remedial Investigation phase for Operable Unit 1, DOE has submitted a draft Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan to EPA. The Feasibility Study evaluates alternatives for cleanup; the Proposed Plan identifies the preferred cleanup remedy for the Waste Pit Area.

-- more --

Under the Proposed Plan submitted by DOE, the waste pit contents would be excavated and treated by drying, and then shipped by rail to a permitted commercial disposal facility. Drying the material reduces its volume and weight for shipping and packaging considerations. The dried material also has a lower potential for contaminant migration during shipment or after disposal.

~~DOE estimates that it will take 8 years to complete the waste pit~~
cleanup project at a cost of about \$457 million.

At the March 29 workshop on the draft Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan, DOE will discuss why it is proposing excavating, treating, and shipping the waste contents off site. Other topics to be discussed include: overall status of Operable Unit 1; plans for remediation of Pit 6, which is the first Fernald waste pit targeted for excavation under current plans; and opportunities for public participation in the cleanup decision making process.

Community acceptance is one of the criteria that must be considered in evaluating the cleanup alternatives. A formal public comment period on the Proposed Plan is expected to occur later this year. DOE and EPA will then consider all public comments in developing a Record of Decision to formally select the final cleanup strategy.

Fernald Environmental Restoration Management Corporation (FERMCO) is managing the cleanup of Fernald under a contract with DOE. The uranium production mission at Fernald ended in 1989.

#####

CLEANING UP FERNALD'S WASTE PIT AREA

**March 29, 1994 • 7 p.m.
Ross Fire House, Cincinnati - Brookville Road, Ross**

The U.S. Department of Energy has made its recommendation to regulators about the best way to clean up Operable Unit 1, the Waste Pit Area. You are invited to hear about how and why that recommendation was developed. Other topics of discussion include:

- The status of the Operable unit 1 Remedial Investigation**
- Opportunities for public participation in the decision making**
- Plans for Waste Pit 6**

You are encouraged to attend this workshop and to participate in the decision-making process for cleaning up Operable Unit 1.

For more information, call DOE at (513)648-3014

CLEANING UP FERNALD'S WASTE PIT AREA

March 29, 1994 • 7 p.m.
Ross Fire House, Cincinnati-Brookville Road, Ross

The U.S. Department of Energy has made its recommendation to regulators about the best way to clean up Operable Unit 1, the Waste Pit Area. You are invited to hear why DOE proposes excavating the contents of the waste pits, treating it, and shipping it to an off-site disposal facility.

Other topics to be discussed include:

- **The status of the Operable Unit 1 Remedial Investigation**
- **Opportunities for public participation in the decision making**
- **Plans for Waste Pit 6**

You are encouraged to attend this workshop and to participate in the decision-making process for cleaning up Operable Unit 1.