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**THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC
INSPECTION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT
OPERABLE UNIT 3 RECORD OF DECISION FOR
INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION AT THE FERNALD
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT
REF: 5481**

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The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces that the *Proposed Draft Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision for Interim Remedial Action* at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) is available for public inspection. The proposed interim remedial action for Operable Unit 3 represents a major portion of the remedial action for the operable unit and for the site as a whole. While DOE maintains an active maintenance program, the former uranium processing support facilities contained within Operable Unit 3 are, in general, at or beyond their design life and in a state of advancing deterioration. These current conditions indicate a possibility of future releases of hazardous substances to the environment due to structural collapse or other failure mechanisms. This action utilizes permanent solutions and alternative treatment technologies to the maximum extent practicable, given the limited scope of the action. While the DOE and EPA are proceeding toward a decision on the final disposition of these structures as part of the Operable Unit 3 RI/FS process, the decision resulting from this effort will not likely occur until late 1997. This interim action will allow some cleanup to occur prior to 1997. Upon completion of EPA review, this decision document will be signed later this year.

An Administrative Record File was previously established to support the Operable Unit 3 RI/FS process. The Administrative Record File is a compendium of documentation which is compiled throughout the RI/FS process. The file contains documentation relied upon in the selection of a final cleanup alternative for Operable Unit 3.

The *Proposed Draft Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision for Interim Remedial Action* and the Administrative Record File are available at the following location:

Public Environmental Information Center
JAMTEK Building
10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway; Harrison, Ohio 45030
Hours:
Monday & Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For additional information, please contact:

Mr. Gary Stegner, Public Information
DOE Field Office, Fernald
U. S. Department of Energy
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Telephone: (513) 648-3153

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