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FERNALD ENVOY PROGRAM

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FACTSHEET

FERNALD ENVOY PROGRAM


FERNALD

Environmental Management Project

December, 1994

Purpose

In February 1994, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Fernald Environmental Restoration Management Corporation (FERMCO), a subsidiary of Fluor Daniel Inc., initiated an Envoy Program at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP), located about 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati, Ohio. Uranium metal products for the nation's defense programs were produced at the facility between 1953 and 1989. During those years the facility produced slightly enriched or depleted uranium products for use in production reactors to make plutonium and tritium at other DOE sites. Uranium metal production was suspended in July 1989 to focus resources on environmental restoration.

The Envoy Program was established to promote one-on-one communication between Fernald personnel and local community groups in the tri-state area.

Who is involved in the Envoy Program?

The program consists of employees from DOE and FERMCO organizations at Fernald. These employees serve as Envoys to a wide range of stakeholder groups such as adjacent property owners, business leaders, schools, environmental groups and agencies, and public officials.

The program is designed to facilitate two-way communications and improve the decision making process at Fernald by building closer relationships with numerous stakeholder groups. Envoys provide detailed information about Fernald objective, policy, mission, roles, constraints, and requirements to stakeholders. The key element of the envoy program is for envoys to listen to the ideas, suggestions, concerns, questions, and values of stakeholders. Envoys then provide input back to Fernald's decision makers before final cleanup decisions are made.

About 20 new employees were added to the program in August 1994, bringing the total to some 75 active Fernald Envoys. The Envoys were carefully selected based on their interests, positive attitude, leadership qualities, and willingness to spend personal time to improve Fernald. As a result, Fernald now has the largest and most diverse stakeholder group in the DOE complex, including 42 stakeholder groups with whom DOE and FERMCO had no previous direct contact. The program has been recognized as an innovative way to inform and listen to stakeholders at very little expense.

The Envoy Program is coordinated through the Public Affairs Division at Fernald. If you have any questions about the Envoy Program, please call Pete Kelley at (513) 648-6312, or Kathy Graham at (513) 648-6306.

