6535 G-000-1005.95

GARY STEGNER'S PRESENTATION AT THE FRESH MEETING OF 01/26/95

01/26/1995

DOE-FN FRESH
11
PRESENTATION

6535

FRESH MEETING
JANUARY 26, 1995

GARY STEGNER, DOE FERNALD AREA OFFICE PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR

FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY APPOINTED TO PERMANENT DOE POSITIONS

- Appointed director of DOE's Fernald Area Office in early January, Jack Craig is now responsible for all environmental restoration and decontamination and decommissioning activities at the Fernald site. For the past seven years, he has held various technical and managerial positions at Fernald. Before joining DOE, Jack was responsible for managing facility improvements and environmental projects for General Dynamics Corp., at Department of Defense facilities. He was also employed by the Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington, D.C., where his responsibilities included ship design and shipyard inspections. Jack holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Ohio State University and has completed graduate studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

  In addition, Glenn Griffiths was appointed DOE deputy director of the Fernald site. Glenn began his DOE career in the Oak Ridge Operations Office in 1974 as an industrial relations officer. In April 1993, Glenn was transferred to Fernald, with various duties in the office of the assistant manager for Administration. During January through March 1994, Glenn served as a member of the Ohio Field Office Working Group in Washington, D.C., working on the establishment of the DOE Ohio Field Office. From April through September, he served as acting assistant manager for Administration at the Ohio Field Office.

NEVADA LAWSUIT AGAINST DOE DISMISSED

- On January 12, a federal judge threw out of court significant portions of a lawsuit brought by Nevada, which is trying to prevent DOE from importing low-level radioactive waste from Fernald and other DOE sites. U.S. District Judge Philip Pro ruled that shipments of waste from Fernald to NTS should continue, and he refused to block them in any way.

  In the suit, filed in June 1994, Nevada claimed DOE had failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and had not prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) for activities at NTS. Judge Pro's order said that although Nevada is understandably concerned over shipments, part of its claim is irrelevant because DOE has filed a notice of intent to prepare the EIS. Judge Pro said the Fernald shipments were an integral part of the environmental cleanup which has been ongoing at Fernald since 1989, pursuant to requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

REGULATORS APPROVE REVISED FERNALD *COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN*

- On January 18, U.S. EPA verbally approved the Fernald *Community Relations Plan*, and an approval letter has been sent to DOE. Ohio EPA approved the document in December 1994. The revised *Community Relations Plan* outlines how DOE will continue to involve stakeholders in decision making during the design and remediation cleanup phases. Once printed, copies of the plan and feedback from community leaders during the 1994 community assessment will be placed in the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC), 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway (phone: 513-738-0165).

REGULATORS APPROVE *FINAL* RECORDS OF DECISION (ROD) FOR OPERABLE UNITS 4 AND 1

- U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA have approved the first final Records of Decision for Operable Unit 4 (Silos) and Operable Unit 1 (Waste Pits). On December 8, U.S. EPA approved the *Final Record of Decision for Remedial Actions at Operable Unit 4*; Ohio EPA approved the selected remedy December 6. On December 22, U.S. EPA approved the draft *Record of Decision for Remedial Actions at Operable Unit 1*, pending incorporation of the agency's comments. The documents are at the PEIC.

  Under the **Operable Unit 4** remedy, the K-65 residues in Silos 1 and 2 and the cold metal oxides in Silo 3 will be removed and treated in a new, on-property vitrification facility. Following treatment, the vitrified residues will be containerized and transported for disposal at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The concrete silo structures will be dismantled. The decant sump tank system, radon treatment system and other structures will be demolished; contaminated debris will be dispositioned under the final Operable Unit 3 ROD. The vitrification facility will be disassembled and decontaminated as practicable; materials will be recycled or reused when feasible. In Operable Unit 4 areas where contaminated soils will be excavated, clean backfill will be added and revegetated. Contaminated soil and debris will be placed in site interim storage for disposal under Operable Unit 5 or 3. Any perched water encountered will be treated at the Advanced Wastewater Treatment facility (AWWT) before discharge to the Great Miami River.

  The **Operable Unit 1** remedy calls for excavating the waste pits, treating the waste materials through thermal drying, and shipping the waste by rail for disposal at a permitted commercial disposal facility.

OPERABLE UNIT 1 WASTE PIT EXCAVATION TO BEGIN IN LATE JANUARY

- As part of the Operable Unit 1 remedy, efforts are currently focused on the Dewatering Excavation Evaluation Program (DEEP), a short-term field program aimed at determining the best techniques to excavate the waste pit material. Field work is expected to begin in late January 1995 and will consist of digging seven trenches. Two trenches will be dug in Waste Pits 1 and 2, and three trenches will be dug in Waste Pit 3. Each trench will be a maximum of 30 feet by 30 feet by 15 feet deep. Several different techniques are available for excavating wastes like those found in Operable Unit 1, and the DEEP tests will help identify the most efficient method. Although the waste pits are covered with soil, they contain water-saturated wastes. Because "wet" excavation presents special challenges, the field program will provide information on the best way to remove water from the excavation area and will help identify the best methods and equipment for excavation.

  As part of the testing, the first four trenches will be observed, sampled and will then be returned to the pits within the day. The remaining three trenches (one from each pit) will be sampled for over 24 hours, and the material will be returned to the pits. The trenches will not remain open for more than three days. To control water drainage, affected surfaces will be graded before excavation. In addition, dust controls will be in place, and real-time air monitors will be located to check for emissions. Personnel performing the testing will wear appropriate personal protective clothing, including photo-ionization detectors to alert personnel of possible organic vapors being released into the air. The integrity of the waste pit liners will not be affected by this program.

NEW REMOVAL ACTION IDENTIFIED FOR OPERABLE UNIT 2 (OTHER WASTE UNITS)

- A new removal action has been identified for Operable Unit 2: "Seepage Control at the South Field and Inactive Fly Ash Pile (Removal Action No. 31)." The goal is to reduce impacts on the Great Miami Aquifer from contaminated seepage from the South Field and Inactive Fly Ash Pile and infiltration through the sediment at the southeast corner of the South Field.

  Located southwest of the former Production Area, the South Field and Inactive Fly Ash Pile were used as disposal areas for non-process wastes, including boiler plant ash and construction debris. Much of the material is contaminated with low concentrations of uranium. Water seeping into ditches along the northern and eastern edges of the South Field and the western edge of the Inactive Fly Ash Pile, as well as sediment in the southeast corner of the South Field, have been found to have elevated concentrations of uranium. Drainage from the ditches at the South Field travels rapidly over land to an area located directly above a region of the Great Miami Aquifer which has elevated concentrations of uranium in groundwater. Removal Action No. 31 has two major components:

  - Collect contaminated seepage in the drainage ditches along the South Field and the Inactive Fly Ash Pile and pump that seepage, together with runoff from the initial portion of storms, to the AWWT facility. The seepage collection system would consist of a weir/sump with a water-level-activated pump located in the drainage ditch at each subunit. The pumps would be controlled by the water level in the sump. The seepage would be collected, but rainfall from major storms would spill over the weir and drain downstream.

  - Remove contaminated sediment from the southeast corner of the South Field so that infiltration through that sediment will not contribute to contamination of the Great Miami Aquifer. Sediment removed from the South Field and soil/debris excavated from the installation of the seepage collection system would be placed in an existing controlled stockpile.

  The removal action work plan was submitted to U.S. EPA January 21. A notice of availability for public inspection of the removal action work plan was published in the local newspapers. The work plan is also available to the community at the PEIC. A formal public comment period is not required by CERCLA for this type of removal action.

OPERABLE UNIT 2 FORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CONCLUDED JANUARY 20

- Originally scheduled to conclude November 25, the formal public comment period on the Operable Unit 2 Proposed Plan ended January 20. The public comment period began October 26, and a public meeting was held November 8. Due to a public request, the comment period was extended to December 30, and was then extended again to January 20, 1995, based on a second public request. Due to the extensions, the Operable Unit 2 Record of Decision submittal date to U.S. EPA was formally changed from January 5, to February 4, 1995. The Amended Consent Agreement was modified by U.S. EPA and DOE to reflect this change.

  The draft *Record of Decision for Remedial Actions at Operable Unit 2* will be submitted to U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA on February 4, 1995, and at that time, will also be available to the public at the PEIC. The document will include responses to all public comments received during the comment period.

OPERABLE UNIT 3 REMEDIAL DESIGN/REMEDIAL ACTION (RD/RA) ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS

- By the end of January, DOE expects to receive U.S. EPA approval or conditional approval on the *Operable Unit 3 Remedial Design/Remedial Action Work Plan for the Interim Remedial Action* and the *Building 4A Implementation Plan*. The purpose of the RD/RA Work Plan is to identify the activities to design and implement the Operable Unit 3 interim remedial action. The interim action involves decontaminating and dismantling all Operable Unit 3 structures and related facilities to reduce any potential threat to public health and the environment.

  In March 1995, DOE will submit the draft *Operable Unit 3 Remedial Design Prioritization and Sequencing Report* to U.S. EPA for review. This report presents the overall framework used to determine the priority and sequence of remediation for over 200 structures and related facilities in Operable Unit 3. The report also provides:

  -- a continuous schedule for decontaminating and dismantling structures in compliance with the *Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision for Interim Remedial Action* based on current funding projections for Fiscal Year 1996 and subsequent years;

  -- a schedule for closure of 25 hazardous waste management units that are expected to be remediated as part of the interim action; and

  -- a discussion of the types and estimated quantities of construction debris generated during the interim action, the anticipated rate of generation, and the impacts of the interim action schedule to on-property storage availability.

  The first building to be remediated as part of the interim action is Plant 4. Other possible near-term projects include the Decontamination Building, the Sewage Treatment Plant Incinerator, and the Skeet Range Building as a combined project; Plant 1; and the Plant 9 and Thorium complexes. A discussion of upcoming remedial action activities for Operable Unit 3 will be provided at a public workshop on February 21, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Plantation in Harrison.

  To reduce the potential spread of contamination from the former production buildings and to prepare for future dismantling projects, DOE and FERMCO will continue to focus resources on Safe Shutdown as a top site priority. Under the Safe Shutdown Program (Removal Action 12), Fernald workers will remove left-over or holdup materials from production-related equipment and lines and isolate utilities. Fernald workers are completing Safe Shutdown activities in Plant 4 and will begin field activities in Plant 1 (the dismantlement project anticipated to follow Plant 4) late this month.

FERMCO AWARDS SUBCONTRACT TO RECYCLE STRUCTURAL STEEL FROM PLANT 7

- On January 5, FERMCO awarded Alaron Corp. a $1.4-million subcontract to decontaminate and recycle 700 tons of radioactively contaminated structural steel from the Plant 7 dismantling project. Alaron will recycle the steel in its Nuclear Regulatory Commission-licensed Northeast Regional Service Facility in Wampum, Penn. DOE and FERMCO held an alignment session with Alaron in January to finalize plans to begin recycling the metal by March 1995.

  In late March 1995, FERMCO will begin shipping the 79 sea/land containers of structural steel to the Northeast Regional Service Facility. Using a combination of mechanical and chemical processes, Alaron will decontaminate the steel, which will be free-released in commercial markets.

  Secondary waste generated as a result of recycling Plant 7 structural steel will be shipped back to Fernald for treatment, as appropriate, and final disposition. One waste stream is mixed wastes, including lead-based paint chips and solidified sludges resulting from the grit blast activity. Another waste stream is radiologically-contaminated wastes which can not be decontaminated to acceptable regulatory limits for free release, such as end pieces of structural steel and other metal materials. Non-process radiologically contaminated wastes, including personal protective equipment, filters and parts used during recycling, will also be shipped back to Fernald because DOE is responsible for any waste generated as a result of a DOE process. Fernald site personnel will oversee the recycling process to ensure Fernald waste is not comingled with another generator's waste. Secondary wastes which are not successfully recycled are currently scheduled for disposition at NTS.

  Forty drums of secondary waste, equivalent to 296 cubic feet of material, are expected from the recycling of Plant 7 steel. In August 1995, Alaron is tentatively scheduled to begin shipping this secondary waste to Fernald. By October 31, 1995, shipments are expected to be complete.

PLANT 1 AND PLANT 4 DISMANTLING CONTRACTS AWARDED

- In November 1994, FERMCO awarded two contracts to Babcock and Wilcox (B&W-NESI), of Lynchburg, Va., to dismantle Plant 4 and Plant 1. Plant 4 is the first building to be dismantled under the Operable Unit 3 interim remedial action, which U.S. EPA approved in July 1994. The Plant 4 B&W-NESI subcontract is valued at approximately $2.86 million. Originally in Plant 4, chemical processes were conducted to produce uranium tetrafluoride (green salt). Plant 1 was originally a sampling plant for incoming uranium ore.

  Fernald workers will complete Safe Shutdown in Plant 4 by March 1995, when decontamination-and-dismantling (D&D) work is scheduled to begin. After removing asbestos, equipment, materials, interior walls, and exterior siding and roofing, B&W-NESI currently plans to implode the remaining steel superstructure using shaped explosive charges similar to the dismantling of Plant 7. Fernald workers have begun Safe Shutdown in Plant 1 and should finish in early summer. Efforts will continue to redistribute power from Plant 1, the hub for electrical lines and feeders, in preparation for D&D.

  Waste materials generated during the D&D are currently planned for disposition at NTS. Actual future disposition options may include recycling, free release, or on-site disposal, pending technology development and stakeholder concurrence. FERMCO has been investigating potential on-site facilities to package waste generated during the D&D of Plant 4. Based on current costs, DOE and FERMCO do not plan to recycle structural steel and other materials from Plant 4; it is not economically feasible at this time. Recycling is a potential path for material disposition and will be evaluated case by case, pending technology development and resolution of key issues, such as disposition of secondary waste streams. Completion of Plant 4 D&D activities is anticipated by October 1996.

  Design work on the Plant 9 complex, including the thorium complex, will be completed as scheduled. Design work for dismantling the Boiler Plant will be initiated and completed in Fiscal Year 1996.

REMOVAL AND CLOSURE OF TWO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS COMPLETED

- Removal activities for two of the four remaining underground storage tanks were completed in December 1994. The two underground storage tanks which had contained waste oils from production processes, were removed, cut into pieces, and moved to the decontamination pad to be recycled as scrap metal.

  Removal efforts for the third underground storage tank are planned to be complete in late January. This tank was originally intended to hold waste oil from Plant 9 operations and now holds water from washing the Plant 9 floor. Removal activities include emptying the contents, cutting, decontaminating, and recycling the tank as scrap metal.

  The last underground storage tank is partially buried under a Plant 6 support building and cannot be removed until final demolition of Plant 6. Efforts are underway to empty the tank, which held waste oils from Plant 6 and currently holds perched water; fill it with grout material to keep water from seeping in; and disconnect and seal the piping.

  Fernald's Underground Storage Tank Program consisted of 15 underground storage tanks. Eleven underground storage tanks containing flammable liquids such as diesel fuel, gasoline and oils, were removed before 1991. The tanks were emptied, disconnected, and lines from the tanks capped. Removal and closure of the last two underground storage tanks will complete the Underground Storage Tank Program.

OPERABLE UNIT 4 DRAFT REMEDIAL DESIGN WORK PLAN SUBMITTED TO U.S. EPA

- The draft *Work Plan for the Operable Unit 4 Remedial Design* was submitted to U.S. EPA on January 25, two weeks before the deadline. The remedial design work plan identifies and defines the activities required to develop final construction plans, specifications and bid documents for implementation of the selected remedial action for Operable Unit 4. The draft *Work Plan for the Operable Unit 4 Remedial Design* is available to the community at the PEIC.

OPERABLE UNIT 4 VITRIFICATION PILOT PLANT TO BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST

- A pilot-scale vitrification facility is currently being built to support the Operable Unit 4 Treatability Study; construction is scheduled for completion in August 1995. The treatability study is being conducted to obtain detailed design, cost and performance data required to optimize the treatment process and design of a full-scale system to remediate Operable Unit 4.

  Beginning in late August 1995, the Vitrification Pilot Plant is scheduled to operate for several months, using non-radioactive surrogate materials. Beginning in January 1996, radioactive materials from Silo 2 and Silo 3 will be processed in the Vitrification Pilot Plant.

AWWT FACILITY TO BE ON LINE BY JANUARY 31

- By January 31, the AWWT facility is anticipated to be operational, treating 1,100 gallons of Fernald site wastewater per minute, including: stormwater; process wastewater; and South Plume Groundwater.

  AWWT construction began in March 1993; completion will fulfill several regulatory commitments, including the Operable Unit 2 Dispute Resolution which required additional treatment of the South Plume groundwater. The AWWT will significantly reduce uranium in Fernald discharges to the Great Miami River.

PUMPING TEST INVOLVING SOUTH PLUME RECOVERY WELLS TO OCCUR IN FEBRUARY

- In December, activities were initiated to replace the pumps in the five South Plume Recovery Wells. This action was necessary because the pumps which were originally installed were operating below the manufacturer's recommended operational range. Through the start-up period and first few months of operation of the well field it was found that the optimum pumping rate for the recovery wells fell below the lower limit recommended by the manufacturer. Operating below this limit may have contributed to repetitive pump failures.

  As pump replacement activities progressed, it was discovered that three wells (RW#1, RW#3, and RW#5) had significant amounts of sand and gravel inside the well screen. The material was removed from the wells, and a video inspection was conducted of each well. The video inspection revealed that each well had a hole in the well screen, allowing aquifer sediments to enter the well. It was decided that RW#1 and RW#3 would be redrilled and that RW#5 would be taken out of service with no attempt to rehabilitate or replace the well at this time. Operation of RW#5 is not critical to the capture of the 20-part-per-billion uranium plume. RW#1 and RW#3 will be returned to operation temporarily until a replacement well can be drilled.

  Beginning in February, a pumping test will be conducted in the South Field area. This test is being conducted to refine understanding of the hydraulic properties of the aquifer in this area of the site. This pumping test near the South Field is critical to design of the groundwater remediation system, since much of the proposed groundwater recovery system is focused in this area.

URANYL NITRATE HEXAHYDRATE (UNH) PROJECT PROGRESSES

- FERMCO and DOE are evaluating a new date to commence operation of the UNH treatment system. Although DOE and FERMCO made a good-faith commitment to meet the scheduled January 16 startup date, the deadline could not be met *and* still ensure the safety of the Fernald work force. System operability testing performed on the treatment system prior to the planned January startup date continued to identify problems with pumps, pipes, and instrumentation, which must be addressed before a safe startup of the system can be assured. FERMCO has formed a special engineering design team to ensure the problems identified in the system operability testing are properly resolved prior to startup.

  The number of leaks in the UNH tank system increased from 18 to over 60 during a two-month period from November to January. The rate of these leaks range from less than one drop per day to approximately six drops per minute. To reduce and/or eliminate leaks, FERMCO has taken aggressive actions including preparing work plans and procedures for leak repair, which can be accomplished by its maintenance work force, and FERMCO has hired a reputable subcontractor to repair the leaks which are beyond the capabilities of maintenance.

  To enhance FERMCO and Fluor Daniel management interests directly in the day-to-day management of the UNH project, Vice President of Engineering Bob Heck was selected as the UNH project manager. Dave Brettschneider will continue to serve as the deputy project manager.

  An intermediate product during uranium production, UNH is defined as any acidic uranyl nitrate solution having a pH of less than 2.0 and a uranium concentration greater than 10 grams/liter. About 200,000 gallons of UNH are stored on site in 18 tanks. The objective of the UNH processing system is to neutralize the UNH inventories using magnesium hydroxide, which will eliminate the acid hazard by stopping the corrosive threat; precipitate most of the uranium and heavy metals out of the solution; and bind uranium and heavy metals in the precipitated filter cake. The resulting filter cake will be shipped to NTS. Liquid effluent will be treated through Fernald's biodenitrification facility, to remove nitrates, and site waste water treatment systems, to remove additional uranium, before discharge to the Great Miami River.

FEDERAL FACILITY COMPLIANCE ACT (FFCAct) PROPOSED SITE TREATMENT PLAN TO BE PUBLISHED IN MARCH

- The first draft of the Proposed Site Treatment Plan (PSTP) is being reviewed internally by DOE-Fernald. This revision includes the responses to comments received or questions that were asked during the public comment period on the Draft Site Treatment Plan.

  The initial submittal of the PSTP to Ohio EPA was due in February 1995. At that time, the document would be made available to the public and another public comment period would be held. However, at a recent meeting with the DOE and the states working with DOE on the FFCAct, several states suggested changing the submittal date to March 1995. DOE-EM Management agreed to this request after consultation with the National Governors' Association and the States.

  DOE's overall schedule for compliance with the act by October 6 will not be affected by this one month delay. The act requires that six months be allowed for the regulatory agencies to review and approve the plans and issue compliance orders. By submitting the Plans no later than April 6, 1995, there is sufficient time to get approved plans and orders in place by October 6, 1995. Information on DOE's efforts to comply with the FFCAct is available from the Center for Environmental Management Information, 1-800-736-3282.

FERNALD THORIUM SHIPMENTS TO NTS CONTINUE

- During December 1994 and January 1995, Waste Programs Management shipped 203.5 and 389.9 drum equivalents of thorium to NTS. As of January 20, 2,586 drum equivalents of thorium have been shipped off site. There are 5,876 drums and 414 white metal boxes of thorium still on site. (Each box is equivalent to six drums.)

  There were no shipments in November because to ship thorium materials to NTS, the Fernald site is required to submit a thorium material work plan to DOE-Nevada and the Fernald site's As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) Committee for review and approval. Approval to ship thorium materials from both parties was obtained by early December 1994, allowing for shipments in December and January.

  According to the thorium work plan, thorium-contaminated materials that do not require sampling and analysis due to heterogeneity or physical form (i.e., wood pallets, etc.) would be primary shipments. During December 1994 and January 1995, six shipments of these materials were released to NTS per the work plan. The thorium work plan also includes thorium residues which must be sampled and analyzed to confirm Resource Conservaton and Recovery Act (RCRA) "non-hazardous" waste determinations prior to shipment to NTS per NVO-325, Rev. 1, July 1992, "Nevada Test Site Defense Waste Acceptance Criteria, Certification, and Transfer Requirements." Sampling of these materials is scheduled for March 1995; therefore, shipment of thorium residues determined to be RCRA "non-hazardous" may be resumed in May or June 1995.

ROSS TRUCKING COMPANY HIRED TO SHIP FERNALD WASTE

- In October 1994, FERMCO hired Autumn Industries, a small, local, woman-owned trucking company with a terminal in Ross (in addition to Ranger Trucking, which has been the sole transporter for the past nine years) to support Waste Management in transporting legacy waste from the Fernald site to NTS. While about 90 percent of waste shipments are still being transported through Ranger, Autumn Industries averages about two truckloads per week. Since the terminal is located at 3955 Krause Lane (behind Ival's Pizza) some of the trucks leaving the Fernald site travel through Ross to check in at the terminal. Autumn Industries has only transported low-level waste (no thorium).

DEFECTIVE WASTE SHIPMENT CONTAINERS RESULT IN TEMPORARY, SELF-IMPOSED SHIPPING SUSPENSIONS

- FERMCO personnel observed a white metal box (Inventory Number 653739), of residue material, packaged for shipment to NTS, to be leaking. The shipment (Shipment Number 95-156) was suspended until the source of the leak could be investigated. Coincidentally, another shipment (Shipment 95-138) was delivered to NTS on January 3, and one box (Inventory Number 653744) in the shipment was found to be leaking. Failure of these containers was attributed to defective welds in container construction. As a result of the findings, FERMCO Waste Programs Management/Low Level Waste Management (WPM/LLWM) conducted an incident investigation, submitted a corrective action plan to DOE-NV, suspended all shipments (approximately 15) of process residues under Waste Stream ONLO-000000006 and recalled two loads which were in transit.

  During the week of January 16, an NTS audit team visited Fernald to survey low-level waste packaging operations and management oversight. DOE-NV gave verbal approval to resume residue material shipments under waste stream ONLO-000000006 at WPM/LLWM's discretion. A status of corrective actions and a formal letter of intent to resume residue waste shipments will be submitted. Residue waste shipments are expected to resume January 27 or January 30.

URANIUM-CONTAMINATED WATER SPILLED IN PLANT 8 AREA

- On January 24, at 2:35 p.m., approximately 35 gallons of uranium-contaminated water were spilled in the Plant 8 area as liquid from a water dumpster was being transferred to a tank. The contaminated water had a pH above 10 and a uranium concentration of less than 0.1 micrograms per liter. From the new D&D facility, the contaminated water was being transferred to a designated tank, from which it was to be pumped to EIMCO filters to remove uranium so it could be returned to the sump.
  When the water dumpster arrived on the west pad of Plant 8, the process leader decided to unload the dumpster immediately, due to concerns that the contents could freeze if the dumpster was left outside. The capacity of the tank, which can hold 8,970 gallons, already contained 7,800 gallons. Since the dumpster only contained 800 gallons of contaminated liquid, there was sufficient capacity for the tank to receive the dumpster's contents.

  An error during the pumping process resulted in an overflow of the dumpster's contents onto a western part of the Plant 8 pad. Cleanup entailed placing containment diking around the puddles of water, using a High-Efficiency Particulate Air Filter vacuum and collection drum, and rinsing the pad and water dumpster. After cleanup was done, radiological surveys were performed to ensure the contamination was removed.

PRODUCTION RECORDS EXPOSED TO WEATHER

- Eight pallets of boxes containing non-sensitive production records dating from the early 1950's to the late 1980s were left outside, exposed to weather, for more than a month. On January 12, the boxes were discovered outside Building 64 (Thorium Warehouse). They were placed there on November 29, 1994, after being removed from Plant 4 to allow for safe shutdown activities, since Plant 4 is the next building to be dismantled. All contaminated production records have been stored in a consolidated area in Plant 4 since 1989. Although the documents are uranium-contaminated, there was no spread of contamination from the boxes.

  Approximately 85 percent of the boxes (six pallets) contained old "derby cards" -- IBM punch cards and source cards that were used by workers at each stage of uranium metal derby production, inspection and shipping. Daily wage distribution cards, job assignment sheets, and area foreman logs are prioritized for recovery. Second-tier priority records include job orders, production logs and work permits. DOE and FERMCO are obliged to preserve government records, as required by the National Archives and Records Administration and the General Services Administration. In addition, some documents may be subject to an order by U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel.

  Sprayed with a bacteria inhibitor to stop the spread of mold, the records are stored in a refrigerated tractor trailer. The current recovery plan calls for freeze-drying the documents and restoring their readability (by changing the icy formation to a gas form), then scanning them on microfilm. Recovery is estimated at 99 percent, according to the document recovery subcontractor BMS Catastrophe of Texas. DOE and FERMCO are investigating to find out how and why the records were left outdoors unprotected from the weather and to make certain proper procedures prevent similar events in the future.

MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM CREATED FOR HISTORICALLY UNDER-UTILIZED BUSINESSES

- In December 1994, FERMCO announced initiation of its Mentor-Protege Program to provide historically under-utilized businesses (small disadvantaged and/or women-owned businesses) with appropriate developmental assistance to enhance their capabilities to perform as subcontractors and suppliers to FERMCO. Businesses interested in participating in the FERMCO Mentor-Protege Program must provide products and/or services that may be used in support of the environmental restoration of the Fernald site. Implementation of the FERMCO Mentor-Protege Program is scheduled for March 1995. The deadline for receipt of completed applications was January 20. The program was advertised in Cincinnati and Dayton newspapers.

FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE DISCUSSES WASTE DISPOSAL ISSUES

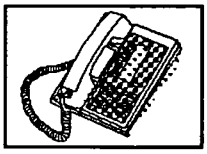
- The Fernald Citizens Task Force's monthly meeting was held January 14, at the Joint Information Center, in Fairfield. About 50 people, including task force members, representatives from DOE, U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Health, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and FERMCO attended. The task force discussed waste disposal issues, such as disposal cell design, with emphasis on redundancies built into the design to protect the aquifer. In response to a question about allowing wastes from other sites to be disposed at Fernald, the task force approved the following:

  > "The Fernald Citizens Task Force strongly opposes the use of the Fernald site for the permanent disposal or long-term storage of any waste materials originating from other locations."

  Also during its meeting, the task force agreed to cut its budget by the same proportion the site's overall budget is reduced.

  On January 25, the task force held a public workshop to discuss waste disposal issues.

FERNALD CALL-IN COMMUNITY ACCESS LINE NOW AVAILABLE



A call-in community access phone line is now available for Fernald employees and stakeholders to obtain updated information about Fernald-related public meetings, public involvement activities, documents available for public comment. Announcements about monthly FRESH meetings are included.

Call-in Community Access Phone Line: 513-648-6272

CALENDAR ITEMS

FOURTH GREATER CINCINNATI REGIONAL SCIENCE BOWL TO BE HELD SATURDAY

- The fourth Annual Greater Cincinnati Regional Science Bowl will be held Saturday, February 4, at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. The science bowl is an academic competition between teams of high school students who answer questions on scientific topics in biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth science, computer science, mathematics, and current events in science and technology. The teams consist of four students, one alternate, and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach. The winner of the regional bowl will compete in the National Science Bowl held in Washington, D.C., April 28 through May 1. Approximately 50 FERMCO and DOE employees have volunteered their time to this effort. Both Ross High School and Harrison High School have entered this year's competition.

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO HOLD PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY MEETING FEBRUARY 8

- On February 8, the Hamilton County Commissioners will hold a meeting to discuss the Public Water Supply. The meeting will be held at Crosby Elementary School, from 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Advertisements announcing the meeting were published January 14 and January 21 in local newspapers.

NEXT FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE MEETING TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 11

- The Fernald Citizens Task Force will hold its next meeting February 11, beginning at 8:30 a.m., at the Joint Information Center, Fairfield.

DOE TO HOLD A PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON REMEDIAL DESIGN, REMEDIAL ACTION AND UPCOMING OPERABLE UNIT 3 ACTIVITIES

- A public workshop on the remedial design and remedial action process for the Fernald site's five operable units will be held February 21, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Plantation, in Harrison. The workshop will include a discussion of public involvement opportunities during the design and cleanup phases at Fernald, as well as an update from Operable Unit 3 regarding upcoming remedial action activities.

FERNALD HEALTH EFFECTS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL BE DISCUSSED AT PUBLIC MEETING

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will hold a public meeting to discuss establishment of a Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee to further involve the Fernald community in their work. The meeting will be held Saturday, February 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Plantation's Oak Room, in Harrison. More information regarding this meeting can be obtained by calling Steven Adams, CDC, 404-488-7040.

DOE TO HOLD NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING MARCH 14

- DOE will hold its next community meeting March 14, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Plantation, Harrison. Additional details about the meeting will be provided at the February 23 FRESH meeting.