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FERNALD PROJECT UPDATE - OCTOBER 1991

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FACT SHEET

An Information Bulletin for the
Fernald Community

October 1991

FERNALD PROJECT Update



FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT — FERNALD, OHIO

Fernald Environmental Management Project dedicated

John C. Tuck, Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, announced Fernald's official change in mission from defense production to environmental restoration during an inauguration ceremony August 23, 1991, at the Fernald Site.

"The Feed Materials Production Center is no more. In its place, we officially dedicate the Fernald Environmental Management Project," Tuck said in his keynote address to Fernald employees, elected officials and various other dignitaries who attended the ceremony.

"I am particularly proud to share this occasion with you and, on behalf of Admiral Watkins (Secretary of Energy), to convey his appreciation to all those who have worked through the years in support of our country's nuclear deterrent," Tuck said.

"Today is a time for remembering, but even more so, for looking forward to the future. I assure you, the next phase in Fernald's proud history — a period that will be dedicated to environmental restoration will be just as challenging and certainly as important to the people of Ohio and the nation, as what has gone before," he said.

Tuck pointed out that only two years ago, less than half of the Fernald Site's budget was devoted to environmental activities. But from now on, he said, all of it will be earmarked for cleanup.

Tuck was accompanied by Leo Duffy, Director of the Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, DOE Headquarters, the branch designated program responsibility for the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

Gerald W. Westerbeck, DOE Fernald Site Manager, served as Master of

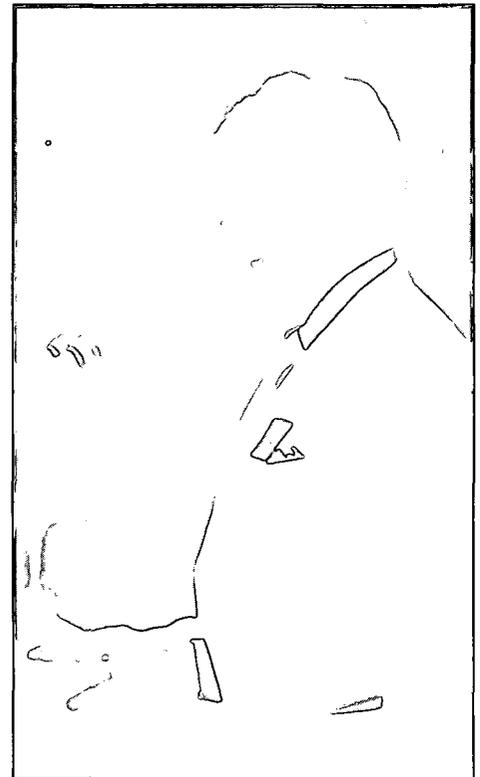
Ceremonies. Westerbeck introduced guest speakers and dignitaries in the audience, and offered opening and closing remarks.

"In my short seventeen months here, I have seen tremendous improvements in all aspects of environmental restoration, waste management, community relations, and environmental compliance. There is no doubt we have truly moved into the 'all systems go' mode. Our efforts and resources are totally focused here at Fernald on one goal, one mission — environmental restoration," Westerbeck said.

Westinghouse Materials Company of Ohio, DOE's management and operations contractor at Fernald, changed its name to Westinghouse Environmental Management Company of Ohio as a show of its support for the new site mission, said Bill Britton, company president who addressed the audience.

"Our new name, like the new site name, is intended to signal clearly our support for the environmental restoration mission as defined by our customer, the Department of Energy. As we leave here today, let us carry with us the same resolve, the same commitment, and the same energy that we once devoted to the defense production mission. Together, we were successful then. Together, we can be successful now," Britton said.

In July 1989, production was suspended to concentrate on cleanup, waste management, and other environmental, safety, and health compliance issues. The Department of Energy transferred management responsibility for the Fernald site from Defense Programs to the Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management in October 1990. Then, in



JOHN TUCK

February 1991, the Department announced its intention to formally end the production mission and submitted a closure plan to Congress. That decision became effective in June 1991.

"The lessons we learn here, as we proceed with the cleanup effort and develop new technologies, will have widespread application to many other communities," Tuck said.

"Fernald will be on the 'cutting edge' of environmental restoration, and many will want to come here to learn from your success," he told the workforce.

For some 36 years, from 1953 to 1989, the Fernald site produced a variety of high-purity uranium metal products which served as "feed materials" for defense programs at other DOE sites.

DOE's Tiller named manager of Fernald Project

Robert E. Tiller, Deputy Manager of the Department of Energy-Idaho Field Office, has been named Manager of the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

Tiller, who has worked for the Department of Energy and its predecessor agencies for 28 years, began his duties at Fernald on September 13, 1991.

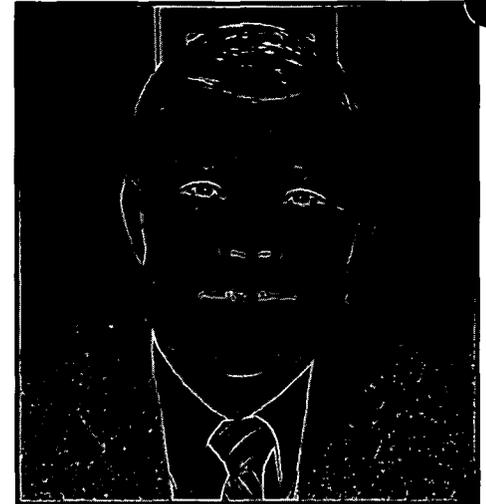
Tiller was selected for the post based on his broad experience as a project manager, his work in Environment, Safety and Health areas at the headquarters level, and his past efforts on special assignments for the Department of Energy.

Tiller has served DOE with high distinction, receiving the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award, one of the federal government's highest awards, in 1981 and 1990, and he also received the

DOE's Meritorious (Silver Medal) Award in 1990. In that same year, he was named Outstanding Federal Manager by the Southeastern Idaho Federal Employees Association.

In addition to serving as Deputy Manager at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Tiller was selected personally by Admiral Watkins as Director of the Savannah River Special Projects Office, in charge of reactor restart, from June 1989 until March 1990.

He also served as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health at DOE Headquarters in 1984 and 1985. In this capacity, Tiller was asked to revitalize the department's efforts to improve environmental compliance, health and safety. He started the Technical Safety Appraisal (TSA)



ROBERT TILLER

program, which is still used to evaluate various DOE sites including the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

Request for Proposal issued for environmental contractor

The Department of Energy is seeking an Environmental Restoration Management Contractor (ERMC) for the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

DOE issued a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) in July to allow the general public and potential contractors an opportunity to comment on aspects of the ERMC contract, such as contract provisions, and the nature and overall structure of the contractual relationship with DOE. The 30-day public comment

period expired August 30, 1991.

The Environmental Restoration Management Contractor program was established by DOE to bring specialized and efficient cleanup contractors to DOE sites. In implementing this new strategy, DOE is seeking unique and innovative approaches to the management, technical implementation, and cost control of environmental restoration activities, including new performance-based incentives to reward the contractor.

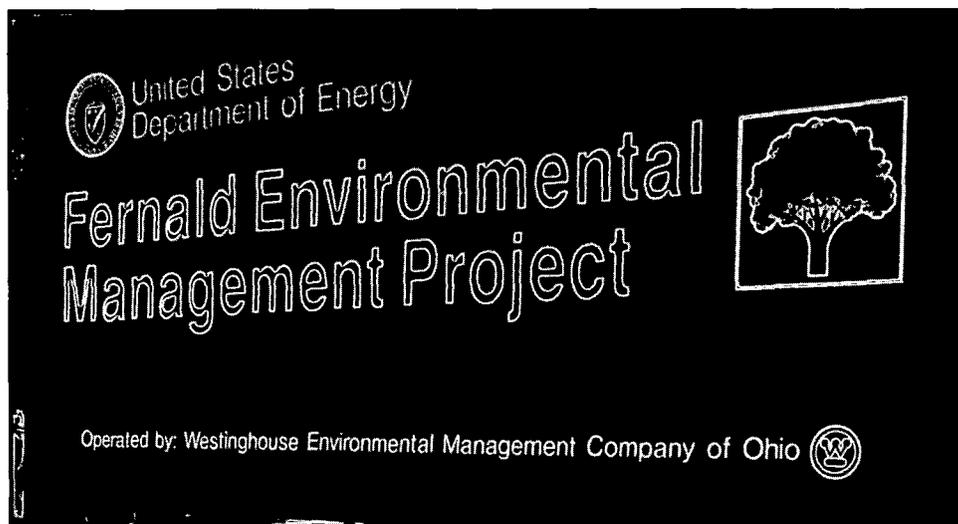
The ERMC will be the prime contractor at the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

The ERMC will also be responsible for decontamination and decommissioning activities, waste management, safe shutdown, environmental monitoring, and utilities operations.

The current management and operations (M&O) contract held by Westinghouse Environmental Management Company of Ohio (WEMCO), which was to expire September 30, 1991, has been extended by DOE until the end of August 1992.

WEMCO is now serving in an "integrator" role at the request of DOE to assure that environmental restoration and waste management operations continue without interruption, including management responsibility for the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and Remedial Design activities of the contractors who are currently performing that work under contract to DOE.

Future DOE weapons program requirements for uranium metal products formerly produced at the Fernald Site will be met by commercial vendors.



New signs at the entrances reflect the site's mission.

New RI/FS schedules forthcoming at Fernald Project

The Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have completed negotiations for revised cleanup schedules for the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

A negotiation team, comprised of representatives from DOE Headquarters and DOE Fernald Office, Westinghouse Environmental Management Company of Ohio, and Advanced Sciences Inc./International Technologies, reached tentative agreement in August on revised schedules for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

(RI/FS) documents, and the acceleration of cleanup via specific "removal actions."

Removal actions are initiated when there is a need to accelerate cleanup activities to address releases or potential releases of hazardous substances.

Careful study under the RI/FS process will ensure that final site remediation protects human health and the environment. Removal actions are being designed to reduce environmental risk by conducting near-term cleanup activities while the RI/FS process continues.

Revised schedules are necessary to meet the need for additional field data. Characterization data are needed to further refine understanding of the nature and extent of contamination at the site, and to support the completion of treatability analyses. Treatability analyses will help determine whether a given technology can effectively treat the waste at the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

A public comment period is under way.

Magnesium inventory removed from Fernald Site

Workers at the Fernald Environmental Management Project have successfully completed off-site shipment of 400,000 pounds of magnesium, a nonradioactive material formerly used in the production of uranium metal at the facility.

Magnesium is no longer needed at the Fernald Project, since the plant's mission has changed from production to environmental remediation and waste management. The material was sold by the Department of Energy to Reade Manufacturing Co. of Lakehurst, N.J. through a sealed-bid process.

"Removal of the magnesium inventory is another important step toward the safe shutdown of all production facilities here at the Fernald Environmental Management Project," said Gerald W. Westerbeck, DOE Site Manager, "because it eliminates a potential fire hazard associated with the material. While it is not easily ignited, a magnesium fire is difficult to extinguish once it begins burning."

The shipped magnesium was in the form of pellets, or granules slightly larger than cornmeal. It was packaged and loaded onto Department of Transportation approved tractor trailers. Ten truckloads of magnesium were shipped without incident in June 1991.

Before production at the Fernald Site was suspended in July 1989, magnesium was used in the production of uranium metal. Magnesium was blended with



Workers at the Fernald Environmental Management Project load the last shipment of magnesium onto a truck.

uranium tetrafluoride and heated to produce a reaction resulting in a uranium metal mass, called a derby. Derbies were then remelted and cast into various sizes and shapes of uranium metal which became "feed material" for other Department of Energy sites as part of the national defense program.

"While the primary activity at this site is directed at environmental restoration and waste management, our

comprehensive safe shutdown program is an essential part of the long term cleanup effort," Westerbeck said.

The shutdown program includes shipment of the site's inventory of uranium products and in-process materials to other DOE sites, waste shipment activities and eventual decontamination and decommissioning of all buildings at the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

Perched water pumping and collection resumes

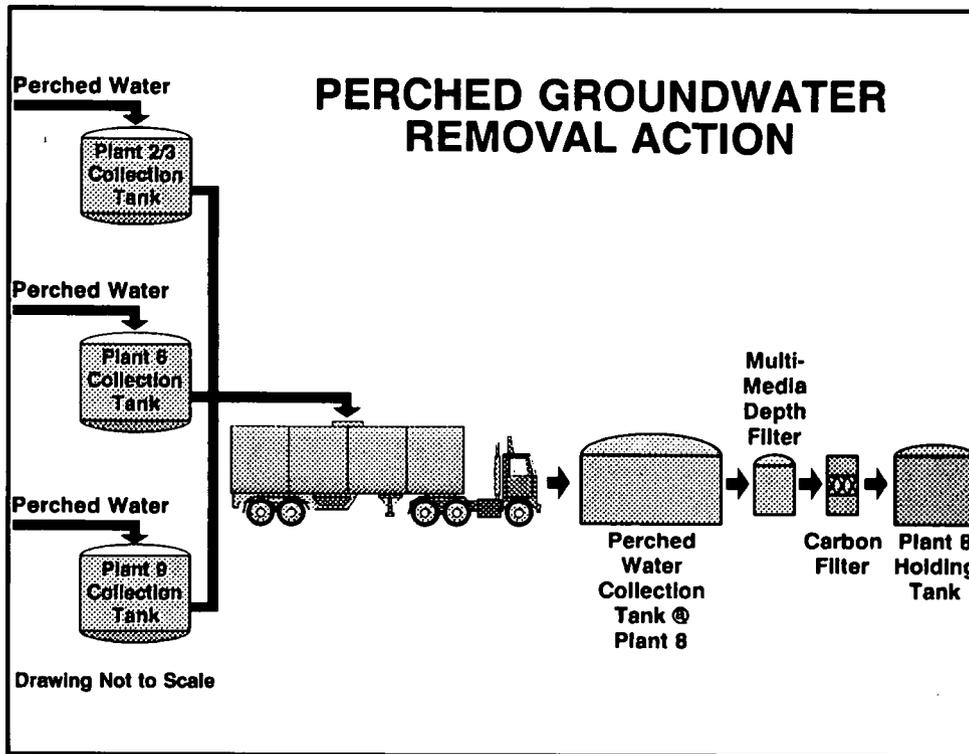
Pumping operations to extract contaminated groundwater from beneath former production buildings has resumed after development of a system to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the water.

The pumping operation at Plant 6 had been halted in April 1990 when these compounds were identified in uranium-contaminated "perched" water being extracted from beneath that plant. Perched water settles in underground pockets of porous sand and gravel separated from the underlying aquifer by layers of impermeable clay.

The Perched Water Removal Action was initiated in November 1989 to reduce the potential for migration of contaminated water into the underlying aquifer. The process included pumping and treating the water to remove uranium before its discharge to the Great Miami River.

Pumping was suspended when sampling showed the presence of VOCs such as trichloroethylene and trichloroethane (solvents in degreasers commonly used in Plant 6 during past operations). Because these chemicals are considered toxic, the water could not be discharged to the river until a system was designed to remove the VOCs.

The presence of VOCs also necessitated a complete redesign of the pumping system, including new piping and collection tanks, and development of a modified removal action work plan which was approved by the U.S.



This graphic illustration shows the processes involved in the Perched Groundwater Removal Action.

Environmental Protection Agency in October 1990.

The perched water is now being pumped into a collection tank in Plant 6 from where it is transported to treatment facilities located in Plant 8. The new treatment system uses activated charcoal filters to absorb the VOCs. The water is then processed through the facility's existing treatment system for the removal of uranium and eventually discharged to the Great Miami River.

Perched water has also been identified beneath Plant 2/3, Plant 8, and Plant 9. Four-inch testing wells, additional piping and a collection system has been installed in Plant 9, and the Plant 9 pumping and collection system was placed into operation in August 1991 in support of the Perched Groundwater Removal Action.

Construction activities are in progress to complete the pumping and collection systems at Plant 2/3 and Plant 8.

'Buried vault' report issued

Workers at the Fernald Environmental Management Project have completed a report on the "buried vault" issue and concluded that such a structure as described by a former employee does not exist today and never has existed on the Fernald Site.

An investigation was launched into the "buried vault" issue after an employee, who worked at the Fernald Site when it was under construction in 1951, claimed that a large concrete vault

was constructed and later buried in the northeast corner of the production area.

Available photographic evidence, geophysical characterization, and additional personnel interviews do not substantiate the existence of a buried vault. It is very possible that the large excavation and concrete work for the Plant 6 basement was mistaken as a buried vault.

Based on intensive studies of archival photographs, records and other

documents used in compiling the report, additional personnel interviews, and the results of geophysical surveys of the northeast portion of the production area, further investigations or studies of the northeast portion of the Fernald Site are unwarranted.

The report is available for reading in the Public Environmental Information Center.

Construction begins on the Waste Pit Area Stormwater Runoff Control project

The U.S. Department of Energy has begun work on a construction project to further reduce the potential for release of uranium-contaminated stormwater runoff into Paddy's Run, a small stream which runs along the western side of the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

The \$5.2 million project will consist of a series of drainage structures to collect stormwater runoff from the site's waste pit perimeter area.

The water will be routed to a collection sump and pumped to an existing 8.2 million gallon biodenitrification surge lagoon. From the lagoon, the collected water will be routed through the site's biodenitrification and effluent treatment system before being discharged to the Great Miami River.

The first construction phase is finished (an existing culvert was upgraded and widened to be capable of holding more water). The second phase is nearing completion (a 30-inch storm sewer pipe that is 750 feet long is being installed).

The site's Stormwater Retention Basin has significantly reduced uranium discharges to Paddy's Run by collecting runoff from the former production area and other locations. By controlling stormwater runoff from the waste pit perimeter area, the DOE estimates that an additional 150 pounds of uranium per year will be prevented from entering Paddy's Run and, possibly, reaching the aquifer which underlies the Fernald area.

This project was a specified "removal action" in a 1990 consent agreement between the DOE and U.S. EPA for

cleanup of the former uranium processing facility. Removal actions are designed to eliminate or reduce the immediate potential for releases of hazardous substances, while the DOE conducts a long-term Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) as part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) agreement with the U.S. EPA.

The DOE has already completed additional removal actions, and others are being planned as part of a commitment to accelerate near-term cleanup efforts while final environmental restoration alternatives are being developed and studied.



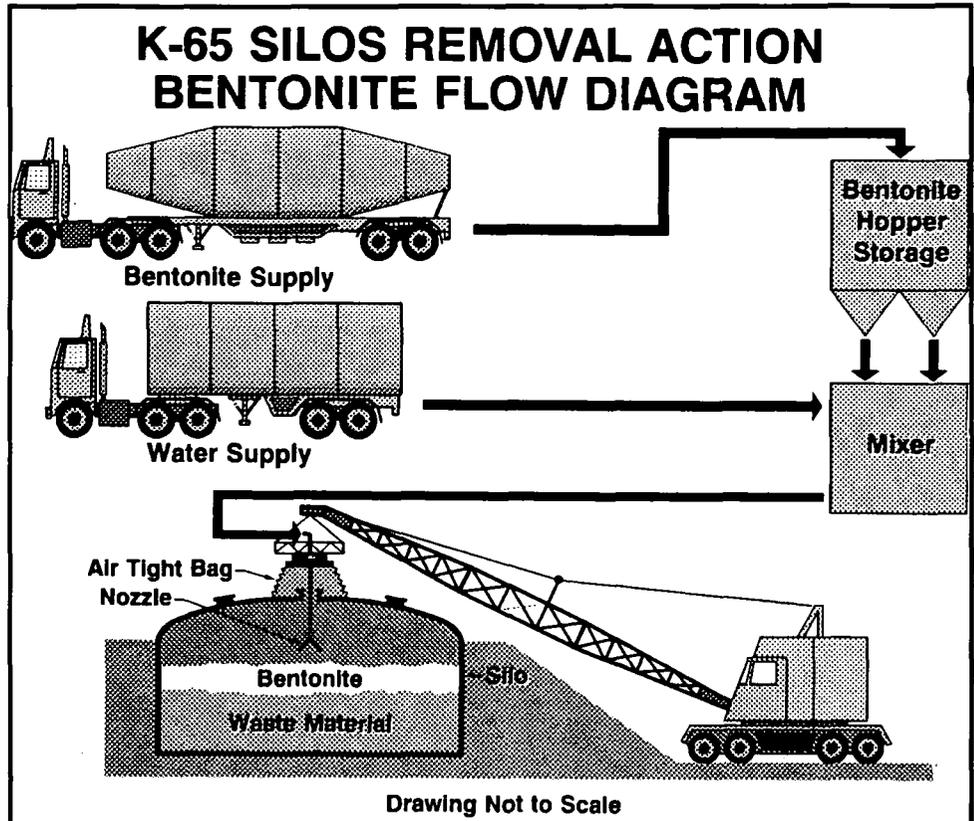
DOE's Ray Hansen (left) and WEMCO's Phil Weddle participate in a recent groundbreaking that marked the beginning of construction to control stormwater runoff from the Waste Pit Area.

Bentonite installation to begin in K-65 Silos 1 and 2

Equipment is being procured and assembled, and field activities are in progress in support of K-65 Silos 1 and 2 Removal Action. Bentonite clay is scheduled for installation this month, and this removal action is scheduled for completion by December 1991.

The clay will be applied over the silo residues to reduce radon levels in the silos, and to provide protection from releases to the environment in the event of a silo dome collapse.

The graphic at right illustrates how bentonite will be installed in the silos.



K-65 berm, slant boring projects completed

The K-65 Low-Angle (Slant) Borings project has been completed, and all soil samples have been acquired, prepared, and transported off site to an independent laboratory for analysis.

Soil analysis is being conducted to determine if residual materials have migrated from the silos or the associated

underdrain system into the underlying soils or perched groundwater. Analytical results are expected by the the end of January 1992.

Analysis of soil samples collected during the K-65 Vertical (Berm) Borings project is continuing. Results are expected by the end of October 1991.

Samples were collected from vertical borings in the silos' berms to determine if measurable quantities of residual materials or radon gas have leaked or diffused from the walls of the silos into the surrounding silos.



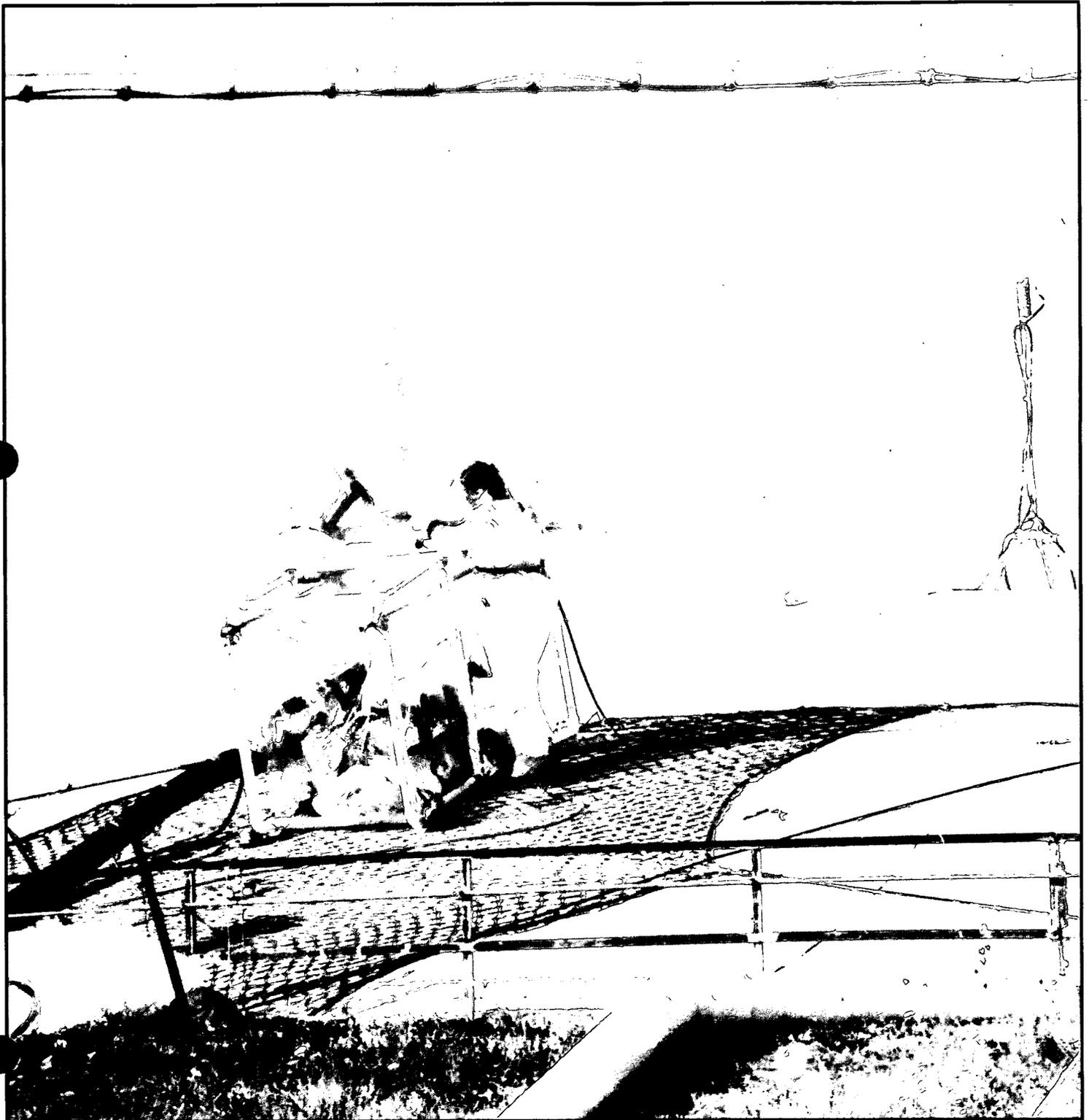
Above, workers advance a low-angle auger into the ground.

Resampling of K-65 residues completed

Resampling of residue materials in the K-65 silos 1 and 2 was completed in August 1991, and sample analysis results are tentatively scheduled to be available in January 1992.

The amount of material retrieved from the silos is adequate to perform planned chemical, radiological, and geotechnical analysis in addition to treatability studies. Resampling of the silo contents was

necessary because the amount of material retrieved during previous sampling operations was inadequate to be representative of the entire contents of the silos.



Adequate samples of residue materials inside the two K-65 silos were collected during recent resampling operations. Sample results will be used to determine appropriate treatment methods for K-65 contents.

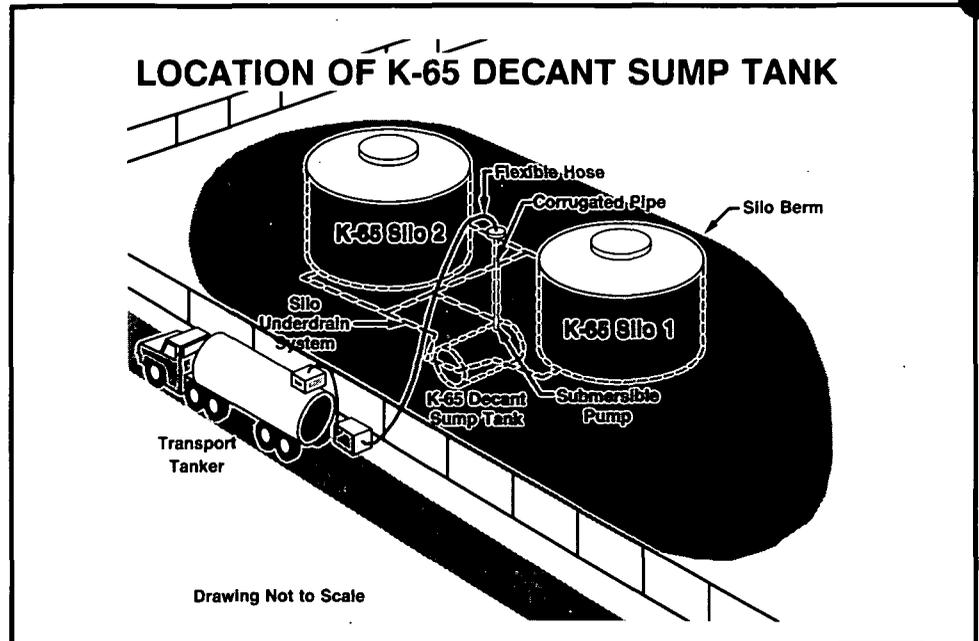
K-65 Decant Sump Tank Removal Action completed

Workers at the Fernald Environmental Management Project successfully removed water from a sump tank located underground between K-65 silos 1 and 2, reducing the potential for leakage of water into surrounding soils.

The K-65 Decant Sump Tank Removal Action was initiated to address a near-term concern in advance of final remediation of the Fernald Site's waste storage area. The removal action was completed in April 1991.

The decant sump tank was designed to siphon the liquid from the K-65 slurry as solid materials settled during the process of filling the silos in 1958, and collect potential liquid drainage from the underdrain system of the K-65 silos. While there has been no evidence of failure in the underdrain system, removal of water in the decant sump tank provides an extra measure against leakage of water to surrounding soils.

The project consisted of pumping approximately 8,000 gallons of liquid



out of the sump tank and into another holding tank located in a former production building now being used for storage of waste materials. Samples of

the liquid removed from the sump tank are being analyzed and characterized to determine proper treatment and final disposition.

Fernald product inventory shipments continue

Usable products which are no longer needed due to the lack of a production mission at the Fernald Environmental Management Project are being shipped to other DOE sites or sold to private industry.

Approximately 11,500 metric tons of uranium (MTU), which represents approximately 56.5 million pounds, is scheduled to be removed from the site by mid-1994. More than half of this (approximately 29 million pounds) has been declared waste. Approximately 2.9 million pounds are recoverable residues.

Workers shipped 1,150 MTU from the

site in Fiscal Year 1991 (October 1, 1990 through September 30, 1991). The uranium metal is in the form of derbies, ingots, and recoverable uranium scrap metal.

The inventory of uranium hexafluoride has been shipped to other DOE sites. Plans are being made for the disposition of the uranium inventory consisting of uranium tetrafluoride, uranium trioxide, and uranium metal.

Contaminated graphite materials are now being shipped to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) for burial. Usable graphite materials will be shipped to other DOE

sites or sold to private industry.

Of the 15,000 containers of thorium materials on site, approximately 7,200 containers have been declared waste by DOE. This thorium waste is being repackaged and prepared for eventual disposal. The remaining inventory of thorium is being offered for use in the private sector. Materials not purchased by private industry will be evaluated for possible disposal as waste.

The entire product inventory at the Fernald Environmental Management Project eventually will be removed from the site.

Decontamination and decommissioning facility under construction

A \$4.65 million contract has been awarded to Wise Construction Co. of Dayton, Ohio, for the construction of a new decontamination and decommissioning facility at the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

The new facility will feature modern industrial cleaning and environmental control equipment designed to remove radioactive contamination from vehicles, machinery, tools, and other metal used at the site. Once these items are cleaned and thoroughly checked to assure that they are no longer contaminated, they can be reused within the facility or safely shipped off site.

Designed by A.M. Kinney architect

/engineers, the two-story, 80 x 100 foot structure will include a drive-in vehicle bay capable of handling large tractor trailer rigs, a totally-enclosed grit blasting system, and an ultra high-pressure water system. The facility will use a reduced air pressure system to maintain complete containment of radiological contamination within the structure.

Decontamination and decommissioning is an integral part of the safe shutdown, environmental restoration, and waste management efforts at the Fernald Environmental Management Project. Materials and equipment no longer needed due to the absence of a production mission can be

decontaminated in the new facility and reused on site or recycled into the private sector, thus avoiding the expense of off-site shipment and burial as low-level radioactive waste.

The contract for the new decontamination and decommissioning facility was awarded to Wise Construction under the 8(a) Contracting and Business Development Program administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Rust Engineering, construction management contractor for Westinghouse Environmental Management Company of Ohio, will oversee the project, which is expected to be completed in late 1992.

Removal of uranium from soils being demonstrated at Fernald

An integrated technology demonstration on the removal of uranium from soils will be held at the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

The demonstration is being coordinated by Kim Nuhfer, a senior engineer who works in the Environmental Management Department of Westinghouse Environmental Management Company of Ohio. Nuhfer was recommended as the Integrated Demonstration Coordinator (IDC) and interviewed by the DOE Office of Technology Development (OTD) in Washington, D.C., to be formally selected as the first IDC at Fernald.

"The goal is to develop a system to solve our problem and similar problems at other DOE sites," Nuhfer said.

The demonstration has been broken into six task groups, each comprised of appropriate technical people from throughout the DOE complex, to focus on 1) characterization, 2) excavation, 3) soil decontamination, 4) secondary waste disposal, 5) regulatory issues, and 6) performance assessment to evaluate the system and provide cost analysis.

"Each of these groups has about six members and a leader. They'll work on this problem at their sites, then they'll

come here to pull it all together when they're ready," Nuhfer said.

An integrated technology demonstration —such as the removal of uranium from soils —is designed to demonstrate the entire process, as opposed to a technology support demonstration that focuses on a single aspect of remediation.

The task groups will be looking for applicable technologies, putting together specifications, reviewing proposals, defining deficiencies, and initiating research and development efforts.

"We know to a degree the location of uranium contamination at the Fernald Environmental Management Project based on the Remedial Investigation/-Feasibility Study. Now we have to find out what form it is in, and the most efficient way to remove it," Nuhfer said.

Other integrated technology demonstrations being sponsored by the DOE-OTD can be adapted to Fernald, in particular the handling of underground storage tanks and silos that is taking place at the Hanford facility in Richland, Washington.

Other integrated technology demonstrations currently underway within the DOE complex include the



KIM NUHFER

removal of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from soils at the Savannah River site; removal of VOCs from soils at the Hanford site; removal of plutonium from soils at the Nevada Test Site; mixed waste disposal at Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, and the handling of buried waste at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

Waste management program in high gear

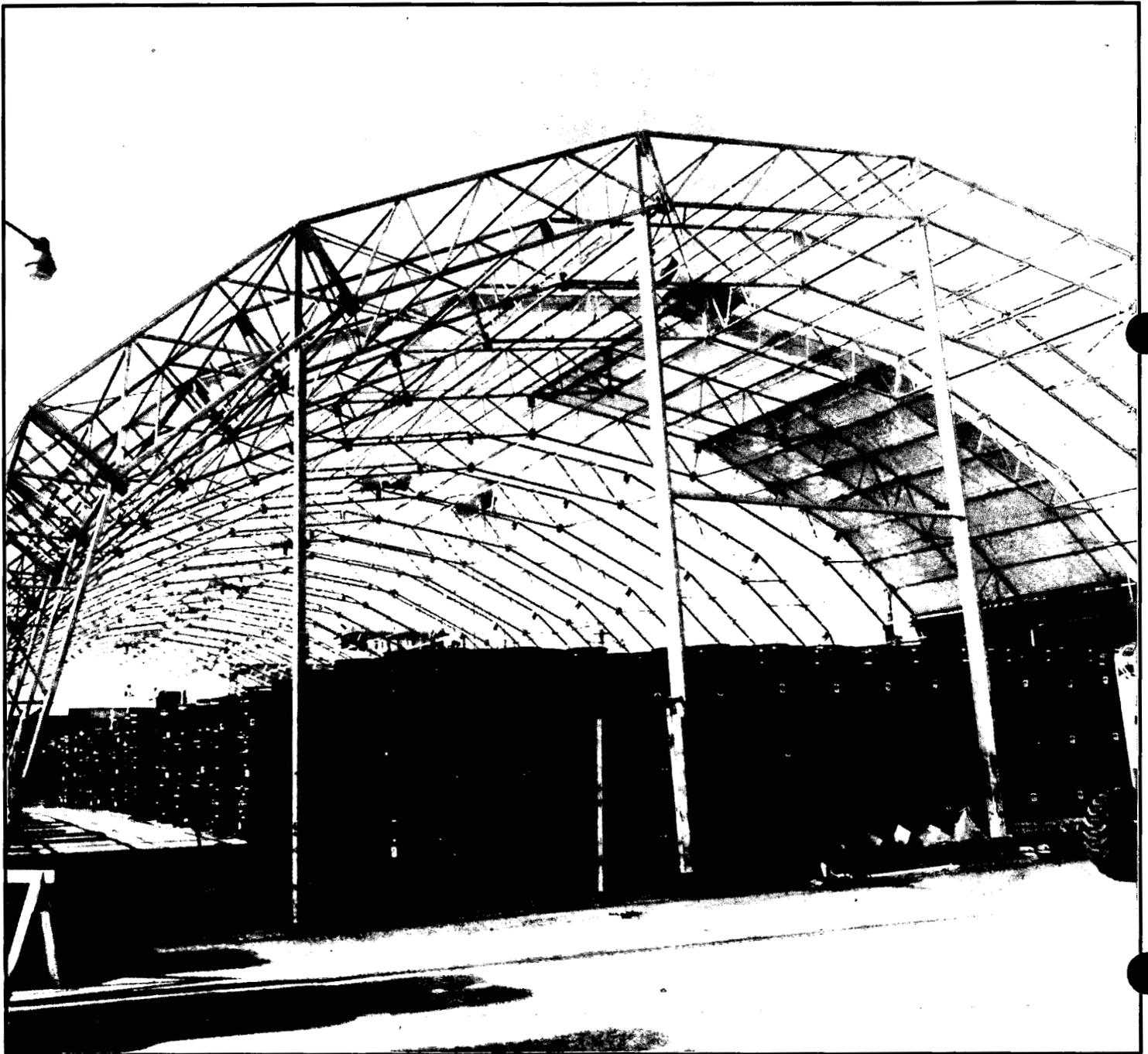
The Department of Energy has shipped more than 37,000 drum equivalents (DEs) of low-level radioactive waste to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) for disposal during Fiscal Year 1991 (ending September 30, 1991). A drum equivalent is approximately 7.4 cubic feet, the volume of a 55-gallon drum.

More than 240,000 DEs of low-level waste has been shipped to NTS since 1985, and DOE continues to ship low-

level radioactive waste as part of an aggressive waste management program. Disposal of the Fernald Site's entire low-level waste backlog is scheduled for completion by 1995.

Drummed waste continues to be moved to inside storage in former production buildings and other covered structures pending final disposition. The waste is repackaged as needed before being moved indoors.

Approximately 120,000 drum equivalents of low-level waste are currently stored at the Fernald Environmental Management Project. Waste being shipped to NTS includes both backlog waste and slightly-contaminated construction rubble that has been generated as part of the facility's environmental restoration effort.



Covered storage structures such as the one pictured above are being installed at various locations within the former production area to provide for safe, indoor storage of drummed waste material pending final disposition. This photo was taken in August 1991, as roofing was being applied to the framework.

WEMCO awards scholarships to local students

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Westinghouse Environmental Management Company of Ohio awarded scholarships in June to three area high school graduates pursuing careers in communications-related fields.

The scholarship, named for the late Susan Renae Cook, manager of Community Relations for Westinghouse at the Fernald site until her death in 1989, offers \$2,000 in scholarships each year to communications students at Ross and Harrison high schools who best exemplify the enthusiasm, initiative, and leadership for which Renae Cook was known during her service at the Fernald site.

Terra Malcom of Ross High School received a \$2,000 scholarship. Erin Roberts and Charlotte Renee Day, both June graduates of Harrison High School, each were awarded \$1,000 scholarships.

Ms. Malcom, daughter of Joy Malcom, is attending Ohio University and pursuing a career in public relations.

Ms. Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Roberts, was accepted at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, and plans a career in writing for a national Christian organization for high school students.

Ms. Day, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lane, is attending the University



Julie Loerch, Supervisor of Community Relations for WEMCO (right), presents plaques to scholarship winners Renee Day (left) and Erin Roberts, both graduates of Harrison High School.

of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music and pursuing a career in the news broadcasting field.

"Renae Cook played a vital role in establishing an award-winning community relations program for Westinghouse and the Department of

Energy at the Fernald site," said Pete Kelley, WEMCO Manager of Public Affairs.

"We know that Renae would be pleased and proud that we are able to offer these scholarships to these fine young students in her memory."

Workers schooled on environmental laws, regulations

The third DOE/Westinghouse School for Environmental Excellence began September 9 in Richland, Washington, near the DOE Hanford facility.

Enrolled in the school are students with various technical backgrounds from the U.S. Department of Energy and its government-owned, contractor-operated sites operated by Westinghouse.

The school is designed specifically to upgrade the knowledge of workers in areas of environmental compliance and

site remediation. Westinghouse manages six DOE facilities, including the Fernald Environmental Management Project which has seven employees attending the current six-week course.

Students are kept abreast of changing regulatory requirements, complex environmental restoration issues, and the latest available technologies. The school covers environmental laws and regulations in a practical way, focusing on the particular needs of DOE sites.

The school is geared to help personnel make sound environmental decisions. Coursework includes lectures, tests, team problem solving, and visits to various waste management sites.

The first two DOE/Westinghouse Schools for Environmental Excellence were held in the Cincinnati area. FRESH member Marvin Clawson is a recent graduate.

Fernald Project Update

Published by the Performance Assessment and Communications Department of Westinghouse Environmental Management Company of Ohio for residents near the Fernald Environmental Management Project, a U.S. Department of Energy facility located at Fernald, Ohio

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Utilities water treatment laboratory receives OEPA certification

The Fernald Site's Utilities Plant Water Treatment Laboratory was recently granted the status of a "certified laboratory" by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). A representative from the OEPA Water Quality Section, Division of Public Drinking Water, inspected the facilities and the analytical proficiency preparatory on July 11, 1991.

The certification inspection of the facility followed several years of

preparation both in laboratory construction and equipment procurement as well as technician and operator training.

Prior to granting the certification, the OEPA representative reviewed the reagent preparation, laboratory standardization procedures, recordkeeping practices, and analytical techniques. During the certification process, the reviewer did not identify any procedural deviations.

Following the granting of certification, Utilities personnel began performing the Fernald Site's water analyses at the Water Treatment Laboratory. Prior to this date, water samples were sent to an off-site certified lab.

"We will save over \$1,000 per month as a result of being certified," said Digger Pennington, manager of the Utilities Section. "There is no longer any need to send samples off site."

Visit reading rooms filled with reports, fact sheets, plans, and documents at the three locations listed below. The Public Environmental Information Center also houses the Administrative Record which contains historical documents and all other documents used to make decisions in the Fernald Environmental Management Project's long-range cleanup program.

Public Environmental Information Center

10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway
Harrison, Ohio 45030

(513) 738-0164

Monday and Thursday: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The Main Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (Downtown)

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 369-6938

Monday through Friday: 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Harrison Branch Library

300 George Street
Harrison, Ohio 45030

(513) 367-4728

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Thursday: 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Friday and Saturday: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

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