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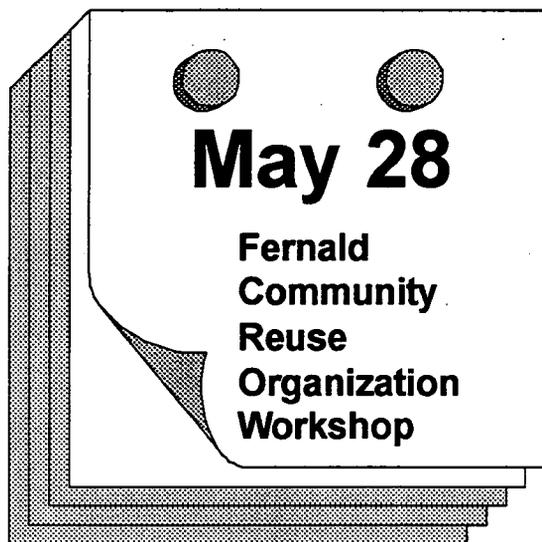
FERNALD REPORT - APRIL 1996

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FACT SHEET

# *Fernald Report*

April 1996



## **DOE To Host Fernald Community Reuse Organization Workshop In May**

On May 28, DOE will hold a public workshop to discuss initiation of the new Fernald Community Reuse Organization (CRO). The CRO will advise the DOE on local economic development issues and community planning for the future. The workshop will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Plantation in Harrison.

Convener Maria Curro Kreppel, associate professor at the University of Cincinnati's College of Applied Science, was contracted to ensure the CRO formation process is fair, open and inclusive of all interests. She will screen member candidates, develop the CRO charter and operating procedures, and recommend to DOE the CRO's membership and chair. Kreppel will also participate in the May workshop.

## **What is the CRO?**

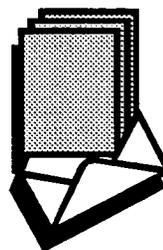
The CRO will be a diverse community group which will address Fernald economic development issues. The group will be comprised of local residents; elected officials; representatives from educational, local business and financial institutions; Fernald employees; economic development agencies; the Fernald Citizens Task Force; the Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH); and other public interest groups. For more information about the CRO, call Maria Curro Kreppel, convener, 513-556-4692, or Gary Stegner, DOE Fernald Area Office public information director, 513-648-3153.

## **How Can I Apply or Nominate Someone for CRO Membership?**

Anyone interested in volunteering time and energy to address Fernald economic development issues may apply for CRO membership. The nomination form is available on page 2 of the *Fernald Report* and at the Public Environmental Information Center, 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio, 45030 (phone: 513-738-0164).

Completed CRO nomination forms should be submitted to:

Maria Curro Kreppel  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Applied Science  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206-0103  
FAX: 513-556-4599



APPLICATION/NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Fernald Community Reuse Organization**

(Circle the appropriate choice.) I apply/nominate for consideration to serve on the Fernald Community Reuse Organization (CRO). \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

1) My interest in making this application/nomination is based upon:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) I/this nominee would bring the CRO ties to these community constituencies. (Please name all possibilities.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Among the three charges of the CRO, I/this nominee could contribute to:

- Specific community planning issues;  
 Economic development and work force issues;  
 Planning for distribution of Fernald's capital assets; or  
 Any of these three charges.

4) I/this nominee would bring the following *skills, abilities, and experience* to the CRO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's OR nominee's:

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

[If you are nominating] YOUR name: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

Maria Curro Kreppel  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Applied Science  
Cincinnati, OH 45206-0103  
(Phone: 513-556-4692)  
FAX: 513-556-4599

## Fernald Funding and Priorities to be Discussed at DOE's May 7 Community Meeting

At the next community meeting on May 7, DOE personnel will give presentations on the remediation progress at the site and the fiscal year 1998 budget development.

Currently, the fiscal year 1998 Fernald site priorities are:

1. Program Management;
2. "Landlord" Services;
3. Waste Management;
4. D&D/Safe Shutdown/Operable Unit 3;
5. Operable Unit 4;
6. On-site Disposal Facility;
7. Operable Unit 2;
8. Operable Unit 1; and
9. Operable Unit 5.

### DOE Community Meeting Time and Location

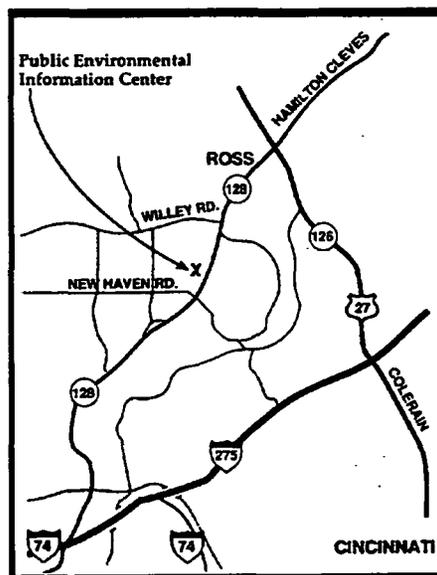
DOE will hold a community meeting on Tuesday, May 7, at The Plantation in Harrison, Ohio. At 6:30 p.m., personnel from DOE and FERMCO will be available to talk to the public. The regular meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Also During the meeting, John Bradburne, FERMCO's new president, will be introduced. In addition, updates and remarks will be given by representatives of U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, the Fernald Citizens Task Force, and FRESH. Extra time has been allotted on the meeting agenda to give the public an opportunity to provide input or ask questions. DOE encourages Fernald employees, as well as external stakeholders, to attend the community meeting and participate in the discussions.

## Public Environmental Information Center Announces New Operating Hours

To save money, the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC) will no longer be open Thursday evenings or Saturdays, due to lack of patronage. Under its current operating schedule, Fernald security personnel must monitor the PEIC 12 additional hours a week. Under the new schedule, taxpayers are projected to save \$12,000.

The changes were based on tracking reports PEIC personnel maintain for the additional hours of operation, which included Monday and Thursday evenings, as well as Saturdays. Only 14 percent of all PEIC visitors during calendar year 1994 patronized the PEIC during evening and Saturday hours. This percentage dropped even lower -- to 8 percent of all visitors -- during calendar year 1995.



### New PEIC Operating Hours, Effective June 1

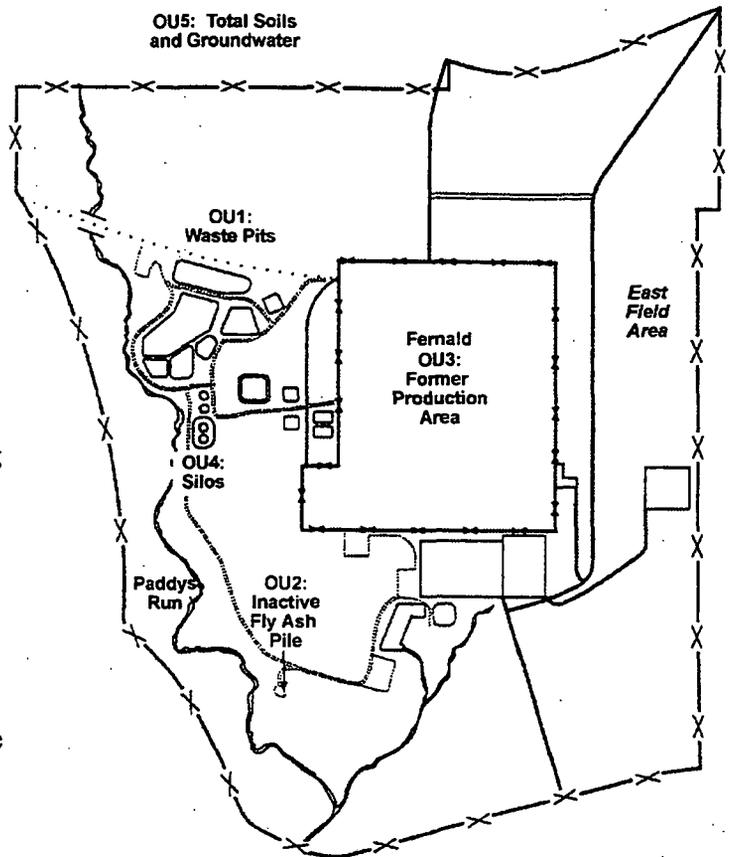
Under the current schedule, the PEIC is open 46.5 hours a week. Under the new schedule, the PEIC will actually be open more hours -- a total of 49 hours a week -- since it will open at 7:30 a.m., rather than 9 a.m.

Monday 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Tuesday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Wednesday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## On-site Disposal Facility Field Work Initiated in Fernald's East Field Area

In support of the On-site Disposal Facility construction project, several significant field activities have begun on the east side of the Fernald site.

Underground utility locations have been identified and marked with orange flags. Workers have already begun identifying the location of drain tiles in the area using a hand probe, and characterizing soils in the east field and at the borrow area (southern part of the east field) using a Geoprobe. The Geoprobe is housed in a van that will be located from one sampling location to another. In addition, remedial action support facilities, including four trailers and one hut, will be installed to accommodate personnel and equipment.



During May, trenching activities will be performed to determine if water will be encountered during construction of the on-site disposal facility. In addition, cultural resource artifact recovery activities will be conducted at three locations in the east field area.

Another key activity in the near future is construction of a test pad which will simulate the conditions of the clay layers of the on-site disposal facility cap and liner. This activity will cover a one-acre area and will involve installing fencing; placing and compacting the clay; and performing tests to ensure the on-site disposal facility will comply with Ohio EPA requirements.

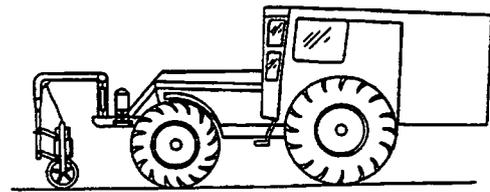
Other east field area projects scheduled later this summer and fall include Remediation of Area 1 Phase I (the area in the northernmost portion of the east field). This work will include removing the top six inches of soil and verification sampling. Also, between September 1996 and April 1997, the site's north entrance road will be relocated, and the primary waste haul road to the On-site Disposal Facility will be constructed.

## DOE Selects Technologies for Plant 1 Demonstration Project

In October 1995, the DOE Morgantown Energy Technology Center D&D Focus Area selected Fernald's proposal for removing structures associated with the Plant 1 Complex as one of three proposals to receive major funding for technology demonstrations. To facilitate review, candidate technologies were divided into two groups -- Group A and Group B. After reviewing 38 candidate "Group A" technologies, in April 1996 DOE approved three technologies for the Plant 1 Demonstration Project: a vacuum technology to remove material wool insulation from transite-sided buildings; a sponge cleaning technology; and a steam cleaning technology, which will be used to clean contaminated equipment. The demonstrations will be executed this summer. DOE is currently considering 58 "Group B" technologies for future demonstrations.

## Integrated Technology Expected to Improve and Expedite Soil Cleanup

At no purchase cost, FERMCO has acquired a four-wheel drive vehicle specifically adapted from a tractor to operate as a radiation tracking system. The vehicle, valued at \$350,000, is referred to as the Radiation Tracking System (RTRAK), and was transferred to Fernald in January to map areas of radionuclide contamination in a real-time mode.



*Deployment of the RTRAK vehicle is expected to significantly reduce sampling costs associated with the Fernald Soil Remediation Project, saving time and resource requirements.*

Developed by the DOE Office of Science and Technology and obtained through the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) project, Grand Junction, Colo., FERMCO is planning further modifications so it will detect uranium-238 and other radionuclides in Fernald soils, mark the exact location of the source materials with paint, and map the location of the source materials. With several technologies integrated into one efficient unit, the RTRAK includes many unique features.

Prior to acquiring the RTRAK vehicle, several radiation technicians and sampling personnel had to characterize acres of land by walking -- friskers in hand -- detecting contaminated areas. Once the technicians located the contaminated areas, other personnel obtained soil samples to be sent to a laboratory for analysis. This process takes days, weeks, or sometimes even months.

For example, a sodium iodide detection system mounted to the vehicle is to be integrated with a global positioning system that works with satellites to detect the precise location of elevated radionuclide contamination. Once identified, the contaminated area is marked on the soil surface with environmentally acceptable paint.

Also unique to the RTRAK vehicle is its ability to create a map of radionuclide contamination in a real-time mode. This is accomplished by an on-board computer software and management system, which creates the map as the vehicle moves along a predesignated route. Initial plans are to deploy the RTRAK, by the end of June, to characterize approximately 300 acres in the Fernald's east field area.

## Second Pre-final Design Package Submitted To Regulators

On May 2, DOE submitted the second Operable Unit 4 pre-final remediation design package to regulators for review. This design supports the fabrication and installation of the silo superstructure, which will be built over each of the two K-65 Silos to accommodate removal of the radioactive residues within the silos. The superstructures are designed to accommodate silo residue removal without applying additional structural loads to the silos. Design of the equipment and systems necessary for silo residue removal is not included in this package and will be addressed in a future design submittal. The pre-final design package is available at the PEIC.

## DOE Holds Formal Public Meeting On Operable Unit 3 Cleanup

More than 50 people attended an April 23 meeting which provided an opportunity for the public to express opinions about the remedial alternatives being considered for Operable Unit 3 final remedial action. DOE's preferred remedial alternative includes treatment, where required, of some materials, on-property disposal of debris, and off-site disposition of any materials exceeding the waste acceptance criteria of the planned on-site disposal facility. Recycling/reuse of materials will also be utilized when economically feasible. DOE, FERMCO, EPA and Ohio EPA representatives discussed the remedial action alternatives being considered and answered questions. A 30-day public comment period on the Operable Unit 3 Proposed Plan ended on May 2. Assuming public acceptance of the preferred alternative, DOE and EPA will sign a Record of Decision which will describe the selected remedial action, the reasons for its selection, and include responses to comments received during the public comment period.

## Thorium Overpacking Project Operations to Begin

Thorium Overpacking Project operations are scheduled to begin during the week of May 6. Engineered and administrative controls have been put into place to mitigate consequences in the event of a drum failure. These controls entailed constructing an air lock, installing a differential pressure measurement system and sealing the Building 65, where the thorium overpacking operations will be conducted. Additional administrative controls and operator training were completed to fulfill requirements of recommended control measures.

The FERMCO Operational Readiness Review began March 8, and the final report was issued April 17. The DOE Operational Readiness Review began April 22. Safety, openness and overall morale of the project employees is exemplary. All project employees interviewed clearly have safety as their first priority. All Thorium Overpacking Project employees are encouraged to share experiences and make suggestions for variations in the work process.

## DOE Offers Transportation-related Public Information Training

DOE is sponsoring transportation public information training to Fernald personnel and any stakeholders who communicate transportation-related information to the public. The training will be held May 13 and May 14 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. To attend the training, call Judith Holm, DOE Headquarters, 301-903-7613, or Gary Stegner, DOE Fernald Area Office, 513-648-3153.

### Low-Level Radioactive Waste Materials Shipments to Nevada Test Site During March

In March 1996, the following data indicate the volume of low-level radioactive waste materials per waste stream shipped to the Nevada Test Site (NTS):

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>Internal Vol. (cf)</b>	<b>External Vol. (cf)</b>
Process Area Scrap	7,044	8,094
Thorium	0	0
Residues to NTS	18,628	21,733
Contaminated Trash	0	0
Construction (Legacy)	5,870	6,745
Construction (Newly Generated)	1,174	1,349

Note: one drum equivalent = 7.4 cubic feet

The following data indicate the volume of low-level radioactive waste materials per waste stream shipped to NTS in fiscal year 1996:

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>Internal Vol. (cf)</b>	<b>External Vol. (cf)</b>
Process Area Scrap	50,301	57,816
Thorium	0	0
Residues to NTS	30,552	36,131
Contaminated Trash	800	1,051
Construction (Legacy)	5,870	6,745
Construction (Newly Generated)	5,870	6,745

Note: one drum equivalent = 7.4 cubic feet

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***Fernald Report***

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Fernald Area Office  
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The *Fernald Report* is prepared by the Fernald Environmental Restoration Management Corp. for the U.S. Department of Energy to inform the community about activities at the Fernald Environmental Management Project. Address all inquiries regarding the *Fernald Report* to:

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