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FERNALD REPORT - FACT SHEET - AUGUST 1996

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FACT SHEET

Fernald Report

August 1996

DOE Appoints Members of New Fernald Community Group

DOE has appointed 19 stakeholders to the Fernald Community Reuse Organization, a new community group that will advise DOE on socio-economic issues resulting from downsizing and eventual closure of the Fernald site. The members were recommended by University of Cincinnati associate professor Maria Curro Kreppel, who was contracted to convene the new group and develop the charter and operating procedures.

Aug. 17 is First Meeting

The Fernald CRO will meet for the first time on Saturday, Aug. 17, to get acquainted, tour the site and discuss the group's future plans and path forward. A public meeting will be held at a later date.

The membership is composed of representatives from the community, businesses and organizations surrounding the Fernald site. DOE has appointed David McWilliams to serve as chair and lead the new group. An educator for 26 years, McWilliams has master's and doctorate degrees in language communications from the University of Pittsburgh.

Fernald Community Reuse Organization Members

Stakeholder

Alisa Bollinger
Robert Copeland
Sharon Cornwell
Lisa Crawford
Louis Doll
Ralph Hennard
William Hinkle
Maurice Hornbach
Darryl Huff
Linda Krekeler
Dan Lawler
David McWilliams
Kenneth Moore
William Neyer
Thomas Renck
Gary Storer
Robert Tabor
Donald Thiem
Larry Thinner

Affiliation

FERMCO employee;
Morgan Township trustee;
FERMCO employee;
FRESH president and Fernald Citizens Task Force member;
Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council representative;
International Guards Union of America representative;
Hamilton County Communications Operations director;
Crosby Township representative and former Fernald employee;
Fernald Citizens Task Force member;
Fifth Third Bank Ross Banking Center manager;
Crosby Elementary School principal;
Ross Local School District superintendent and CRO chair;
Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission administrator;
DOE Fernald Area Office employee;
Ross Area Merchants Association representative;
Crosby Township trustee;
Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council representative;
Ross Township trustee; and
West Shell Realtors, vice president and office manager, West Chester.



Graphics 6171-177



A Message from Jack Craig

As Fernald moves toward completion of cleanup activities at the site under the Accelerated Cleanup Plan, our employees and the community face many challenges and opportunities. Downsizing and eventual closure of the Fernald site will have a significant impact on the local economy. Issues such as what to do with the land and equipment and how to offset the loss of Fernald jobs will need to be addressed.

To tackle these difficult issues, I am pleased to announce the formation of the Fernald Community Reuse Organization. The 19 individuals who have agreed to serve possess a wealth of experience, fresh ideas, and talent. Dr. David McWilliams, who accepted the challenge to serve as the chair of the Fernald Community Reuse Organization, will provide strong leadership and facilitation skills. We appreciate his willingness to take on this new task, despite the rigorous demands of his job as superintendent of the Ross Local School District.

Fernald has enjoyed great success in involving the public in the site's decision-making process. The Fernald Citizens Task Force has helped the site develop policy on key issues directly impacting Fernald's cleanup process. With stakeholder involvement, four of five records of decision and one interim record of decision have been completed, and we're now finalizing Fernald's last record of decision. I look forward to more success stories as the Fernald Community Reuse Organization leads community transition and economic development planning into the next century.

Jack Craig

DOE Fernald Area Office Director



DOE and Regulators Reevaluate Remedial Treatment for Silo 3 Waste

Although the Operable Unit 4 record of decision identified vitrification as the preferred treatment for waste and waste residues contained in Silos 1, 2 and 3, DOE, U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA are reconsidering the remedial method for the waste and waste residues in Silo 3.

The physical, chemical and radiological characteristics associated with Silo 3 waste make it a leading candidate for solidification/stabilization by cementation. This alternative method could be used to remediate the Silo 3 residues in an equally protective manner in parallel with remediation of Silos 1 and 2.

The public is encouraged to participate in discussions regarding the reevaluation of remedial action for the Silo 3 residues.

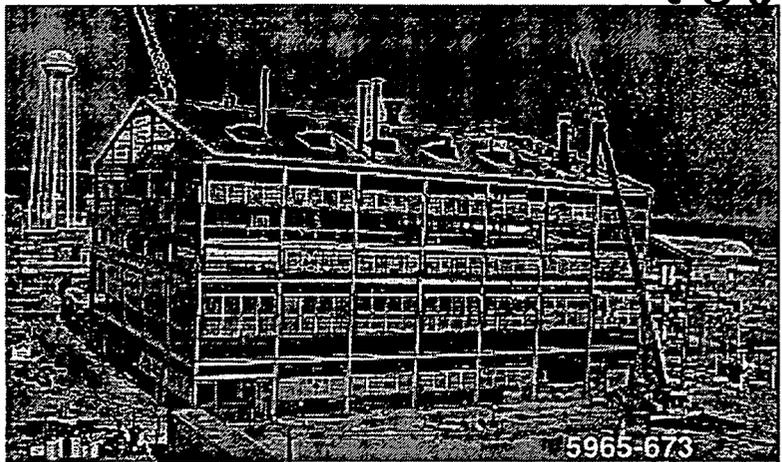
Public Invited to Aug. 20 Meeting
 On Aug. 20, DOE will host a public workshop to explain the proposed path forward regarding Silo 3 remediation, address questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Road.

A fact sheet has been prepared and is available at the Public Environmental Information Center, 513-738-0164.

Plant 4 Implosion Targeted for Aug. 24

The target date to implode Plant 4 is Saturday, Aug. 24. Many factors may impact this date, including inclement weather and completion of final decontamination and dismantling (D&D) activities. *Prior to the implosion, the actual date and time range will be publicized on Fernald's community access line. Employees, local residents and community leaders will be notified. The community access line number is 648-6272. Information is available on the line 24 hours daily.*

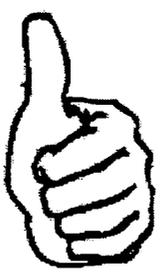


Under a subcontract with Plant 4 D&D subcontractor Babcock & Wilcox, Controlled Demolition Inc. (CDI) will implode Plant 4 using a combination of linear-shaped charges and explosives. CDI also imploded Plant 7 in September 1994.

Stakeholder Comments on Draft Recycling Methodology Received

Fernald is currently evaluating comments received from local residents and regulators on the *Draft Decision Methodology for Fernald Scrap Metal Disposition Alternatives*. This methodology will first be used as a tool to evaluate disposition options for Plant 4 structural steel and will be integrated with the *Operable Unit 3 Remedial Design/Remedial Action Work Plan*. Stakeholder comments were requested by July 26. After comments are resolved, copies of the revised methodology will be placed in the Public Environmental Information Center. The Plant 4 case study -- scheduled to be completed by Sept. 30 -- will be the first application of the scrap metal disposition methodology. Fernald will share the results of the case study with stakeholders later this fall at a community roundtable.

U.S. EPA Approves Draft Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision



In 30 days, U.S. EPA approved the draft *Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision for Final Remedial Action* and the associated responsiveness summary with only minor comments. This is the first time U.S. EPA has approved a Fernald draft record of decision on first submittal. EPA requires up to 60 days to review and submit comments, so the quick turnaround of the document will result in an early final approval. Current plans include resolving comments from Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA and stakeholders and resubmitting the final document to U.S. EPA for signature by late August. The final document will be placed in the Public Environmental Information Center.

First Phase of On-Site Disposal Facility Project Contract Awarded

FERMCO awarded Kelchner Environmental Inc., of Centerville, Ohio, a contract for construction of the Area 1, Phase 1 Remedial Action Project, which will take place in the east field area in the northeast portion of the Fernald site. Excavation of the area is expected to begin in mid-August.

Another Fernald Structure Remediated

To support site preparation and grading activities associated with the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project, dismantlement of the 1-million-gallon Low Nitrate Tank was completed in August, five years earlier than originally scheduled. Removal of the High Nitrate Tank is also in progress to clear the path for the On-Site Disposal Facility haul road.

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FERMCO Positions to Meet Challenges of Implementing Accelerated Cleanup Plan

FERMCO has begun a projectization initiative to enable its personnel to effectively implement the Accelerated Cleanup Plan. Projectization will enhance FERMCO's ability to focus on environmental restoration projects at the Fernald site. Also known as reengineering among other companies, projectization relies on the concepts of communication, teamwork, responsibility and integration.

Projectization has specified beginning and ending points and includes a defined scope, detailed project plan and schedule. It focuses on client satisfaction and mandates the availability of resources, such as funding. "No longer is it enough to stay within the boundaries of our regular responsibilities," FERMCO President John Bradburne said. "Instead, we must look at the big picture and find better ways to complete our mission in record time."

FERMCO personnel are aligning with their DOE counterparts on project priorities, and they are currently identifying projects critical to moving forward on the projected path. Projectization will better enable FERMCO to perform multiple cleanup activities simultaneously and independently.

Vitrification Pilot Plant Production Being Studied

The Vitrification Pilot Plant Project is beginning to provide information needed for future design work on upgraded or full-scale vitrification facilities. The plan is to operate the Vitrification Pilot Plant to develop data for a full-scale facility to be constructed at Fernald. The full-scale plant would be capable of processing up to 25 metric tons of silo material daily.

FERMCO Forms Leadership Team

During the projectization, some personnel have been repositioned to focus their efforts on various cleanup projects. FERMCO President John Bradburne established a leadership team to form task forces in five areas.

The two programmatic areas and their respective leadership team members are Ed Zobrist, Program Support; and Dennis Carr, Oversight and Program Integration. The three project areas and their leadership team members are: Jamie Jameson, Facilities Closure and Demolition Projects; Bob Heck, Waste Management Technology and Silo Projects; and Chuck Little, Soil and Water Projects.

The leadership team is now focusing on the organizational structure which will support them. Team members will be given the necessary responsibilities and resources to complete their projects safely and in the most cost-effective, high-quality manner possible.

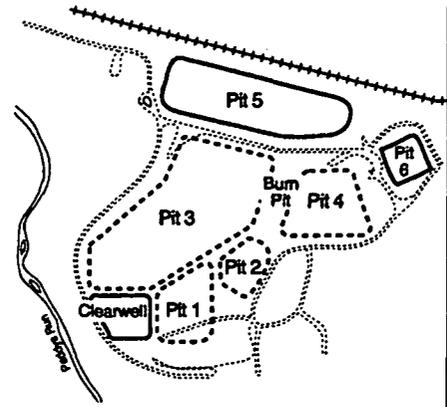


Graphics 6385-117

Pictured above is the Vitrification Pilot Plant, with K-65 Silos 1 and 2 in the background. An evaluation is being done to determine the potential for expanding the capacity of Vitrification Pilot Plant production from 1 metric ton per day to 6 metric tons per day over a longer time period.

DOE Requests Proposals from Prospective Waste Pits Remedial Action Project Subcontractors

FERMCO issued a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) to prospective vendors for certain aspects of the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project to be subcontracted at Fernald. The final RFP is expected to be issued later this summer or early fall. The selected subcontractor will be responsible for excavating the waste pits, treating the excavated wastes by thermal drying and then loading the treated waste onto covered rail cars for off-site shipment.



This "Alternative Remedial Action Subcontracting Approach" is part of a concerted effort by DOE and FERMCO to enhance project efficiency at the Fernald site to the greatest extent possible. The goals are to save time and money and enhance safe performance during final cleanup actions by using experienced, specialized subcontractors, as deemed appropriate by DOE and FERMCO.

DOE's Public Water Supply Project Responsibilities Near Completion



Most residential connections to the Public Water Supply are expected to be completed by the end of August. These connections must meet the requirements of the Ohio EPA, Hamilton County General Health District and Cincinnati Water Works. Once completed, DOE's share of the total cost is estimated to be \$5.8 million of \$9.4 million required for completion of the Western Hamilton County Water plan, Phase IA. Work began in early March to complete DOE's commitment to supply drinking water to those homeowners potentially affected by the South Groundwater Contamination Plume. Service connections are currently being made to approximately 140 properties through contracts administered by Hamilton County Department of Public Works.

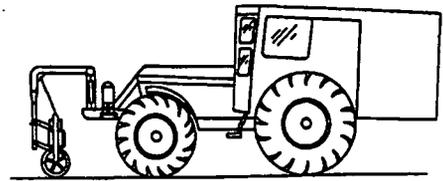
DOE and FERMCO Host Business Opportunity Exchange '96

On Aug. 6, more than 500 people attended Business Opportunity Exchange '96, hosted by DOE and FERMCO at the Sharonville Convention Center. The purpose of Business Opportunity Exchange '96 was to identify and maintain quality suppliers for DOE at all of its Ohio Field Office sites, including the Fernald Environmental Management Project; the Mound plant, in Miamisburg; the Reactive Metals Inc. plant, in Ashtubula; Battelle Laboratories, in Columbus; and the West Valley Demonstration Project in West Valley, New York. Representatives from each site explained, in detail, their technical requirements and projected future procurement opportunities.



New Technologies for Fernald Discussed

During its July 31 bimonthly meeting of the Site Technology Coordination Group (STCG), Fernald Technology Programs personnel gave two presentations on two technologies to be used at the site during remediation: the Road Transportable Analytical Laboratory (RTAL) and the Radiation Tracking System (RTRAK). The RTAL is a set of mobile labs that provides analytical capabilities close to a remote project and allows faster turnaround times on samples. The RTRAK is a modified tractor that will detect elevated radionuclide contamination as it drives over an area by marking the soil and creating a map in a real-time mode.

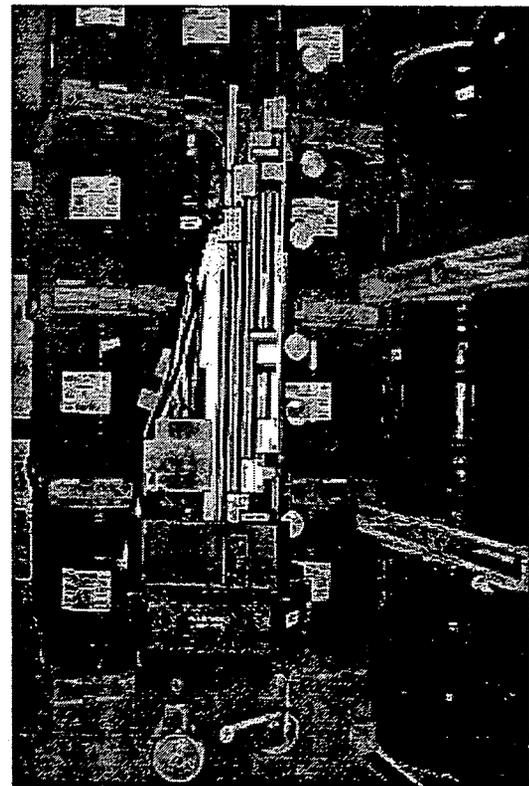


At no purchase cost, FERMCO acquired the RTRAK, a four-wheel drive vehicle specifically adapted from a tractor to operate as a radiation tracking system. Valued at \$350,000, the RTRAK was transferred to Fernald in January to map areas of radionuclide contamination in a real-time mode.

The 18 attendees included representatives of FRESH, the Fernald Citizens Task Force, Ohio EPA, the Mixed Waste Focus Area group, DOE and FERMCO. Composed of representatives from sites throughout the DOE complex, the Mixed Waste Focus Area group is focusing on near-term priority environmental restoration and waste management problems. The group's objective is to provide acceptable technologies that enable implementation of mixed waste treatment systems developed in partnership with users, stakeholders -- including tribal nations -- and regulators. Representatives from the Savannah River Site and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory each gave a presentation on how the Mixed Waste Focus Area group is assisting DOE sites, including Fernald, in the treatment of mixed waste through the use of appropriate technologies.

Aug. 21 Tentative Date for ARIES Robot Demonstration at Fernald

On Aug. 5, the Autonomous Robotic Inspection Experimental System (ARIES) drum inspection robot was delivered to Fernald for testing in the drum storage area on the Plant 1 Pad. ARIES is a mobile, self-navigating platform outfitted with cameras, bar code readers and lasers that inspect for rust, dents, blisters and other non-conformities on drum surfaces as a supplement to routine RCRA inspections. Developmental testing is being conducted at Fernald, and a demonstration is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 21 on the Plant 1 Pad.



The Autonomous Robotic Inspection Experimental System (ARIES) will be tested at Fernald's Plant 1 Pad.

FERMCO Firefighters Help Extinguish Rumpke Landfill Blaze

On July 23, members of the Fernald Emergency Response Team responded to a mutual aid call to assist Colerain Township Fire Department with efforts to contain a fire which had ignited a second time at the Rumpke landfill, just northeast of the Fernald site. Mutual aid is a written agreement between emergency response organizations -- in this case Colerain Township and Fernald -- for assistance in firefighting, medical treatment or other support in an emergency situation. In addition to emergency response personnel, FERMCO has also supplied equipment, such as the mobile Emergency Operations Center, which may not normally be available in local emergency response organizations.



Graphic 6152-143

To establish a good water supply, firefighters had to move a water line consisting of plastic piping and 100-foot, 80-pound sections of hose from the bottom of one side of the Rumpke landfill to the other side.

"We have more emergency response people available during the day than many of the surrounding fire departments. Typically our neighboring fire departments are short on manpower during the day," said Steve Wentzel, a FERMCO manager. Wentzel noted many firefighters serve on a volunteer or part-time basis, rather than full-time. The July 23 mutual aid call was the second time FERMCO firefighters had responded to the blazing landfill, which also caught fire earlier this year. "Due to the magnitude of the fire, they needed assistance to keep it from spreading further," Wentzel said. "It was a 24-hour operation and very labor-intensive." FERMCO provided firefighters for four days to help at the Rumpke landfill. "On average, we had five people up there during the daylight hours," he said, pointing out three fire fighters also worked during the evening, and one worked through the night.

"It was a great team effort. Our people worked well with the Colerain Township Fire Department," Wentzel stated. Along with Fernald, several other fire departments responded to the Colerain Township Fire Department's call for help, including those from the following jurisdictions: Crosby Township, City of Fairfield, City of Harrison, Miami Township, Village of Millville, City of Mount Healthy, New Burlington, City of Springdale, Green Township and Whitewater Township. In addition to firefighting personnel, representatives from Ohio EPA, Southwestern Ohio Air Pollution, the American Red Cross, Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency and the Hamilton County Health Department also assembled at the landfill.

Fernald Emergency Response Team Emergency Chief Mike McCreary, who is also a part-time fire lieutenant for Colerain Township Fire Department, said fighting the fire was a nine-day effort. He said many Colerain firefighters worked long hours without taking a break and were grateful for the assistance FERMCO and others provided. Working within Rumpke's rules and utilizing their own professional training and safety awareness, firefighters were able to extinguish the fire with no reported injuries.



Graphic 6152-127

The July 23 mutual aid call was the second time FERMCO firefighters had responded to the blazing landfill, which also caught fire earlier this year.

Fernald Emergency Response Team Called to Chemical Leak

During the weekend following the Rumpke landfill fire, the Fernald Emergency Response Team was again requested to respond to a mutual aid call from Whitewater Township, along with Crosby Township Fire Department.

The incident involved a truck carrying a mixed load of chemicals in drums -- including one with sulfuric acid that was leaking onto Interstate 74, between State Route 128 and Dry Fork Road. "By virtue of our operations at Fernald, we have more equipment to handle hazardous materials than many of the local fire departments," Steve Wentzel said.

Interstate 74 had been closed to traffic while Emergency Response personnel from several fire departments including FERMCO, Harrison, Crosby, Colerain, Whitewater and Bright, secured the leaking drum and stood by during cleanup operations, which took a total of eight hours.

"The events this week showed the value of the mutual aid agreements Fernald has with Ross, Crosby and Colerain townships for emergency assistance. This could have easily been us asking for help, and we know it is just a phone or radio call away," Wentzel said. "When needed, we know help is available, and our crews know how to work together. It doesn't matter what department you belong to just as long as we work together as a team."

More Than 2,500 People Find "Grounds for Celebration" at Fernald

Curious people, proud employees and perfect weather all contributed to the success of the 1996 Fernald Open House, held July 20.

Among the activities were bus tours of the former production area and more than 30 exhibits. The "Truck-O-Rama," displayed the Mobile Emergency Operations center, a Kids' Safe House and emergency vehicles used on site. Kids' Corner, where children could learn about science and environment-related careers, was also very popular.

Fernald Upgrades Mutual Aid Agreement With Ross Township

Fernald recently upgraded its mutual aid agreement with Ross Township to an automatic response agreement similar to the one that has been in place with Crosby Township for the past year.







Graphics 6420-111

More than 2,500 people attended the event, including 572 children. Visitors included members of the general public, Fernald retirees and current FERMCO employees and their families.

FERMCO Honors "Educational Achievers"

The FERMCO Career Development Center recently held an "Educational Achievers" banquet to recognize employees' academic accomplishments. Among the guests were 66 FERMCO employees who graduated from their respective educational programs. Currently, approximately 970 employees are enrolled in FERMCO's Educational Assistance Program.



As part of its ongoing efforts in support of work force restructuring, FERMCO continues to work with DOE to help employees make successful career transitions. FERMCO employees are encouraged to pursue their educational goals to enhance their capabilities and prepare them for their futures at FERMCO and beyond. FERMCO's Educational Assistance Program provides financial assistance in the form of tuition refunds to hourly and salary employees. Each employee has the opportunity to select from 5,500 educational institutions that are accredited by the American Council on Education.



FLUOR DANIEL

Fluor Daniel Inc. Wins Hanford Cleanup Contract

On Aug. 6, Fluor Daniel Inc., FERMCO's parent company, was notified by DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary that it had won the \$4.8 billion, five-year cleanup contract for DOE's Hanford site, a former plutonium production facility near Richland, Wash. Project Hanford is one of the largest and most complex environmental restoration projects in the nation's history.

On Oct. 1, the Fluor Daniel team will take over management of the site from the previous contractor, Westinghouse. This is the first major cleanup contract to be carried out under new DOE guidelines that encourage projects to be completed in a more timely manner, while retaining the highest level of safety performance. Just as is the case at Fernald, the Fluor Daniel team at Hanford will receive its fee only when project goals are accomplished safely, in a quality manner, and on schedule. Project Hanford is the largest environmental assignment Fluor Daniel has undertaken, with the challenge being significant cleanup progress in a careful and efficient manner. As with Fluor Daniel's contract at Fernald, DOE has an option for a five-year extension of its initial five-year contract at Hanford.

Fernald Employee Volunteers Form Community Involvement Team

On July 11, a kickoff event was held to introduce the Fernald Community Involvement Team (FCIT) concept and program to Fernald employees. The FCIT is a volunteer task force composed of Fernald employees and their families and friends who take an active part in carrying out significant social service projects in the community. During the kickoff event, Fernald employees donated food for the FreeStore and clothing for St. John's Center.

One recent example of how Fernald employees' volunteer efforts benefited a local community activity was their participation in the Silver Queen Festival, sponsored by the Ross Area Merchants. Approximately 50 volunteers staffed the Ross Area Merchants' Association booth. Fernald volunteers served food donated by the Ross IGA. Upcoming activities include Walktoberfest, Oct. 5; and "Adopt-a-Park" Oct. 12.



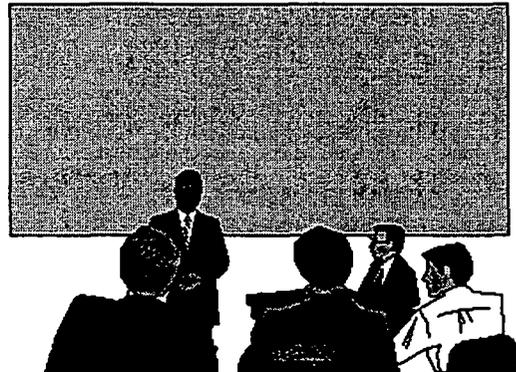
FERMCO Corporate Contributions to the Community

During June and July, FERMCO contributed corporate funds to the following organizations:

<i>Open Door Food Pantry</i>	<i>\$100</i>	<i>FreeStore/FoodBank</i>	<i>\$100</i>
-- Food		-- Kitchen equipment and meals	
<i>Junior Achievement (Butler County)</i>	<i>\$250</i>	<i>Junior Achievement (Hamilton County)</i>	<i>\$250</i>
-- Education materials for Ross schools		-- Education materials for Crosby schools	
<i>Elda Elementary</i>	<i>\$315</i>	<i>Southwest Schools</i>	<i>\$1,386</i>
-- Summer reading materials for first- and second-graders.		-- Computers, a scanner and presenter	
<i>Dan Beard Council Boy Scouts</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	Total: \$3,401	
-- Summer camp			

Aug. 22 Tentative Date for Fernald Dosimetry Reconstruction Project Public Meeting

Dr. John Till, Radiological Assessments Corp., will discuss the Fernald Dosimetry Reconstruction Project and present his report at a public meeting, tentatively scheduled for Aug. 22, at 7 p.m., at the Plantation in Harrison.



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Till's report will comprise three documents: appendices, which will contain a detailed description of the methodology and results; a report, which will summarize the results and methods; and a pamphlet, which will explain the project objectives and findings. The documents will be available for review by the National Academy of Sciences and stakeholders.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Shipments to Nevada Test Site

The volume, in external cubic feet (cf), of low-level radioactive waste shipped to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) during July 1996 was 43,382 cf. As of July 31, the Fernald site has shipped 191,980 cf (external) of low-level radioactive waste to NTS for fiscal year 1996. Low-level waste volume reduction includes approximately 4,232 containers of legacy low-level uranium residue; 789 containers of treated uranyl nitrate hexahydrate (UNH) residues; 216 containers of thorium oxalates/hydroxides; and 2,100 containers of mixed waste materials identified in *Fiscal Year 1996 Inventory Reduction Plan for Legacy Waste at the FEMP*.

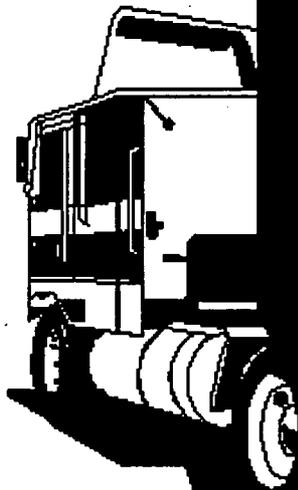
The volume of low-level radioactive waste materials per waste stream shipped to NTS in July follows:

Waste Stream	External Volume (Cubic Feet)
Process Area Scrap	8,094
Thorium	2,895
Residues	9,138
Contaminated Trash	0
Construction	8,094
Stabilized Mixed Waste	6,161
Stabilized Thorium	0

NOTE: one drum equivalent = 7.4 cubic feet

The total volume of low-level radioactive waste materials per waste stream shipped to NTS to date in fiscal year 1996 follows:

Waste Stream	External Volume (Cubic Feet)
Process area Scrap	67,259
Thorium	4,343
Residues	49,499
Contaminated Trash	5,553
Construction	59,165
Stabilized Mixed Waste	6,161
Stabilized Thorium	0



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