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**FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER FOR
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1996**

11/01/96

TASK FORCE PUBLIC
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NEWSLETTER



Newsletter

A U.S. Department of Energy Site-Specific Advisory Board

Volume 1, No. 3

October/November 1996

From the Chair:

*I*t has been an interesting year for the site and for the Task Force. A blizzard of negative press and ongoing budget cuts have caused us all to reassess our priorities. Moving to a quarterly meeting schedule proved to be insufficient for the Task Force to keep our hands in the important business of the site. We found out that we are still some time away from a "monitoring" mode and are reinvigorated to push site remediation forward. As a result, we will move to bi-monthly full meetings augmented with our ongoing committee schedule, which has worked extremely well for us over the past year. Newsletters will also be prepared bi-monthly to fill the gap between meetings, and will be aimed at keeping our broader readership apprised of our activities. Our members are kept informed with weekly information packages which we instituted early this year. These changes have helped us to stay current and relevant to the activities at Fernald. As we complete the transition from the study and decision phase to the design and construction phase, the Task Force continues to play a vital role in the remediation of the site.

John Applegate

INSIDE

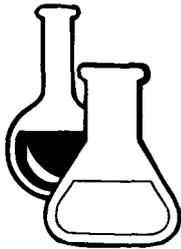
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Task Force Committee Reports

Monitoring

Areas of Involvement:

- Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan (IEMP)
- Project monitoring and completion criteria



Recent Activities:

- July 17 committee meeting on IEMP and air monitoring of the on-site disposal facility
- September 12 community roundtable on IEMP and monitoring plan for the on-site disposal facility

Upcoming Activities:

- No anticipated comments on monitoring plans, will review comments of EPA and Ohio EPA
- Will review project specific monitoring plans as they become available

Natural and Cultural Resources



Areas of Involvement:

- Input to the Natural Resources Trustee process
- Restoration and protection of natural resources on site
- Protection of cultural resources on site
- Site-wide excavation, grading, and natural resource restoration plans

Recent Activities:

- September 25 meeting to review progress of natural resource trustees, Native American remains, and site-wide excavation, grading and natural resource restoration plans
- Accepted map from DOE identifying Task Force identified post-remediation natural resource areas
- October 26 walking tour of natural resource areas on site

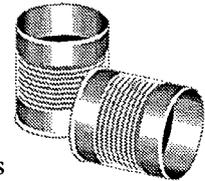
Upcoming Activities:

- Saturday, November 9: Tour Site Natural Resources
- Thursday, November 14: Meet with Natural Resource Trustees to discuss restoration principles
- January 1997: Committee meeting to discuss conceptual plans
- Meet with natural resource restoration plan developers to discuss conceptual approach
- Review draft site-wide excavation, grading and natural resource restoration plans (March 14, 1997 release date)

Waste Management

Areas of Involvement:

- On-site disposal facility
- Site-wide excavation and grading plans
- Recycling and reuse of materials
- Other on-site waste handling and disposal issues



Recent Activities:

- September 11 meeting to review progress of vitrification pilot plant and proposed changes to the remedy for Silo 3, and to make recommendations for technical presentation to Task Force at September 28 meeting
- October 16 meeting to identify information needs for Silo 3 decision

Upcoming Activities:

- Review technical issues regarding silo decisions
- Provide input to silo decisions as directed by Task Force
- Get involved in recycling and reuse issues
- Get involved in issues regarding material acceptance for on-site disposal facility

Transportation

Areas of Involvement:

- Highway safety
- Traffic volumes and management
- Off-site disposal facilities
- Rail activities

Recent Activities:

- July 1996 memo to Jack Craig of DOE requesting information on intermodal options for transport of waste to NTS
- Thursday, October 24 meeting to discuss intermodal options, highway improvements, and site traffic model

Upcoming Activities:

- Present intermodal recommendations to Task Force on November 9
- Present site traffic volumes to Task Force on November 9
- Request to DOE to further explore intermodal option in conjunction with unit train transport of our waste



Committee Reports (cont.)

Membership Committee

Areas of Involvement:

- Maintain viable Task Force membership

Recent Activities:

- Worked with expiring term members to explore ongoing commitment to the Task Force

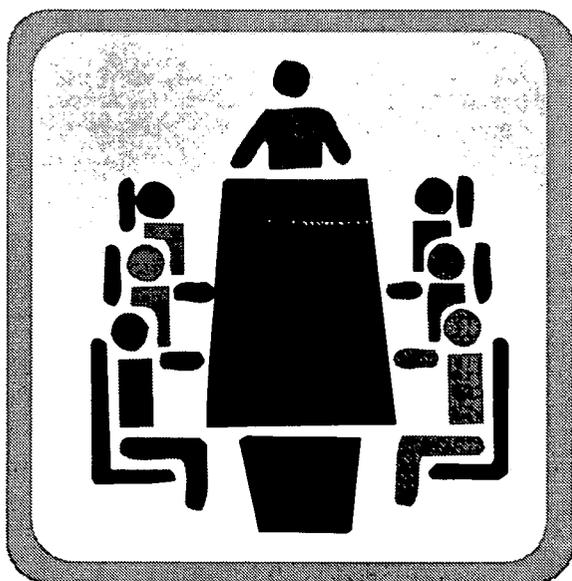
Liaison to the Community Reuse Organization

Areas of Involvement:

- Ensure coordination of activities between the two citizen groups

Recent Activities:

- In August John Applegate presented Task Force activities at CRO planning meeting
- Two Task Force members also serve on CRO



Task Force Staff Changes

Technical and administrative support to the Task Force is provided by Phoenix Environmental Corporation of Alexandria, Virginia. This summer, two new staff members joined the Task Force support team:

Deborah Dunstan is the Communications Specialist at Phoenix Environmental Corporation, where she concentrates in editing and management of current publications. Previously, she developed and promoted competitions and membership programs at law schools nationwide for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and wrote successful grant applications for both the Fairfax Symphony and the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. Deborah holds a B.S. in International Affairs from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

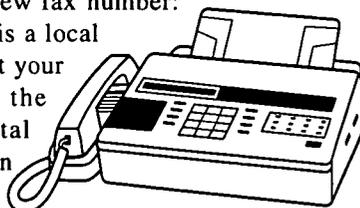
Kathleen Trail serves as administrative assistant for Phoenix Environmental Corporation. She has had an extensive and diverse background in office administration, ranging from working as an administrative assistant for an ophthalmologist, a reading consultant firm, and a grant-funded education arts program. She also has experience writing and editing newsletters, grant proposals, and newspaper articles. Kathleen is new to the Alexandria area, having recently graduated from Rice University in Houston, Texas, with a B.A. in English and a Bachelor of Music.

New Location and Fax Number for Task Force Office

The Task Force Office has moved across the parking lot to the second floor of the Uno Building. Visitors are welcome to come and visit the Task Force Library, which features reports, videos, and other materials related to the cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Ultimately, the Task Force will share its space with CRO members and staff.

Please also note our new fax number:

(513) 648-3629. This is a local Cincinnati number, but your faxes will print at the Phoenix Environmental Corporation offices in Alexandria, Virginia.

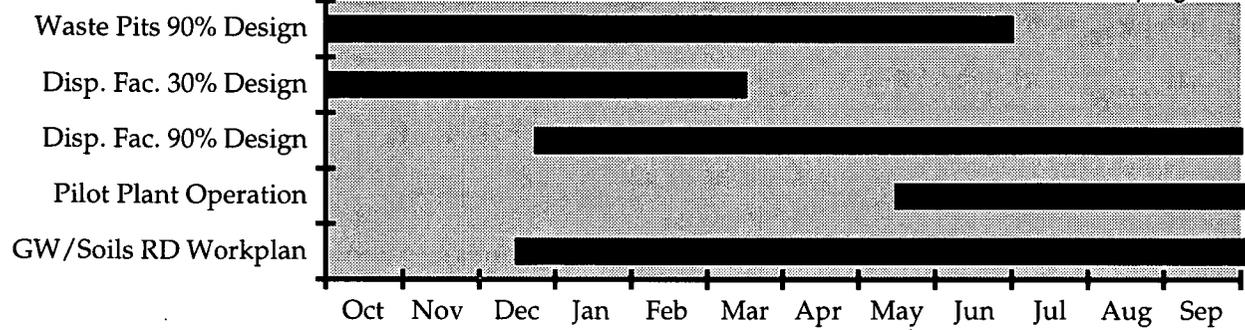


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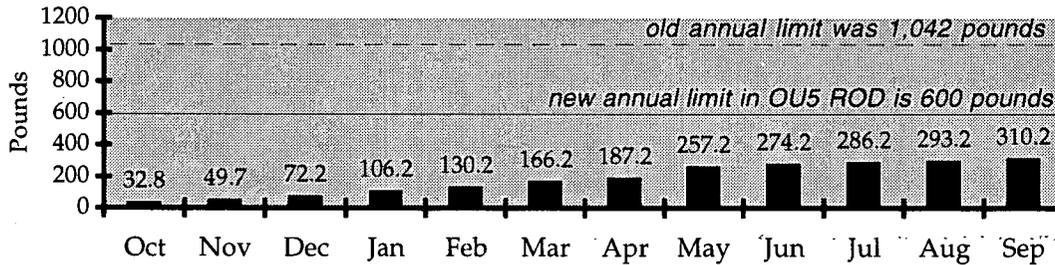
Fiscal Year 1996 Final

by the numbers

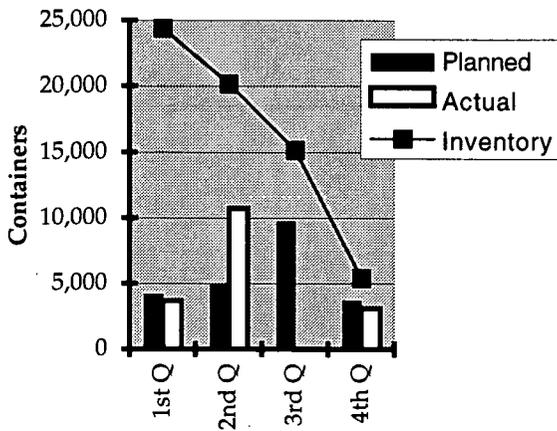
Schedule of Key Fiscal Year 1996 Design Activities



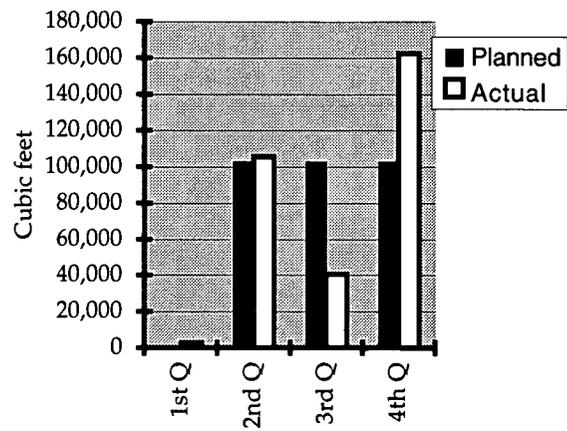
Cumulative Uranium Discharge to the Great Miami River



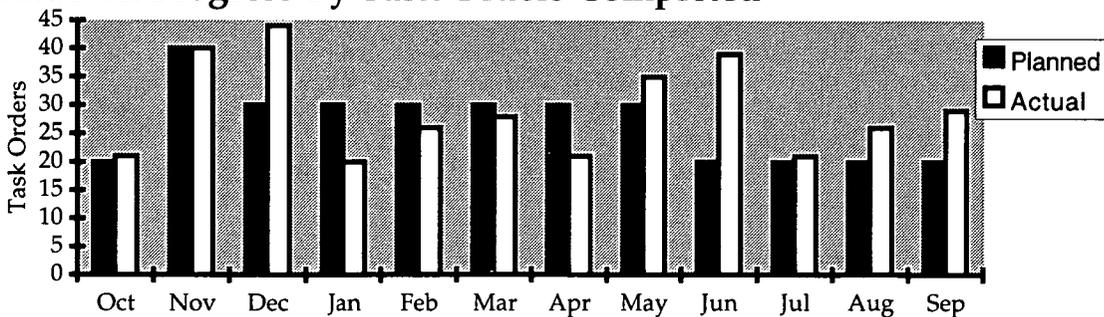
Characterization of Legacy Waste



Off-Site Disposal of Low Level Wastes



Safe Shutdown Progress By Task Orders Completed



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Task Force Meeting and Activities

September 28 Meeting Looks at Vitrification Issues

On December 7, 1994, a Record of Decision was signed to vitrify the waste contained in three on-site silos and send the waste to the Nevada Test Site. Two of these silos contain the K-65 residues left over from processing of ore from the Belgian Congo. The third silo contains metal oxides and other materials associated with site operations.

Immediately following the ROD, work began on a pilot plant to test the vitrification process. In November 1995 it was announced that problems with construction of the plant would result in a 17-month delay. After much frustration and expense, the vitrification pilot plant is finally beginning to show results.

At its September meeting, the Task Force began an in-depth look at whether these results will be positive or negative.

While the melter certainly seems to be making glass (the basic function of vitrification), most of the associated facilities have not performed well.

In addition, DOE has proposed that Silo 3 be taken out of the vitrification path and has proposed cementation instead.

Identified in July and originally proposed for decision in September, the switch of treatment on Silo 3 will have to wait until the total fate of vitrification is determined, most likely in March 1997. Though potentially promising, the Task Force felt that the use of cementation contains too many unknowns for an immediate decision. In addition, the possibility of vitrification being unsuitable for Silo 1 and 2 waste has led the Task Force to believe that these decisions should be made in concert at that time.

The Waste Management Committee is tracking progress on this issue and has requested information from DOE concerning: 1) the effectiveness of vitrification, 2) the legal and administrative ramifications of the change, 3) impact on waste volumes, 4) impact on transportation and disposal risks, 5) acceptability of change to the disposal facility, and 6) review by an independent panel of experts.

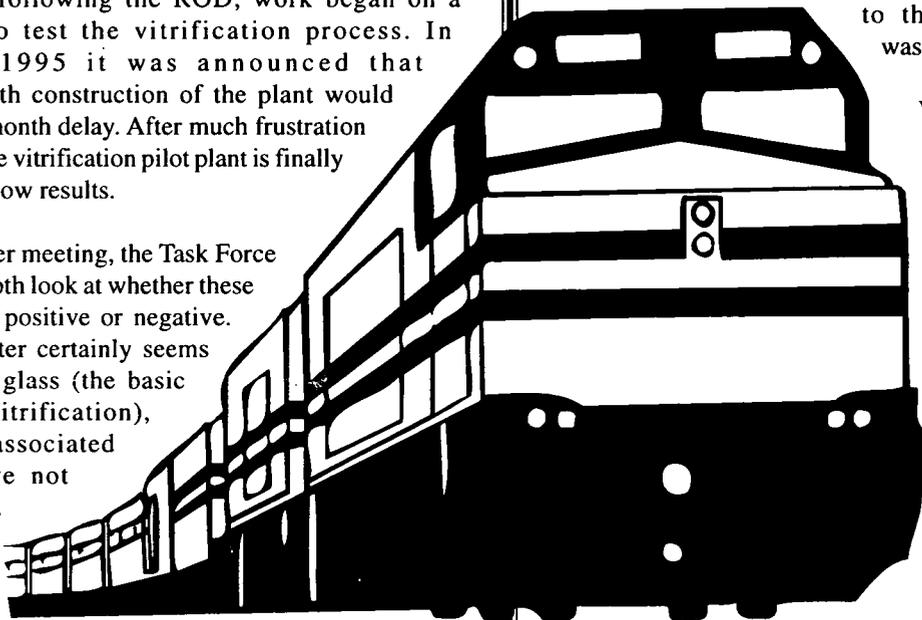
Task Force Visits Disposal Facilities

To gain a greater understanding of the risks and ramifications of off-site disposal, members of the Task Force visited the Envirocare facility in Clive, Utah and the Nevada Test Site. Tours were provided at each site, and the Task Force was able to see first-hand the areas where Fernald waste is to be disposed and the handling and operating practices being used at each site.

Members came away from both visits with the sense that these facilities were well suited to the task of long-term waste disposal.

While at NTS, the Task Force had an opportunity to meet with members of the NTS Citizens Advisory Board, and share ideas and concerns about long-range cleanup issues. One important outcome of these visits was the identification of a potential intermodal transportation option for waste shipments to the Nevada Test Site.

Total transportation by truck to NTS has long been a concern of the Task Force. NTS SSAB members mentioned to Fernald Task Force members that an intermodal transfer facility currently exists in Caliente, Nevada, and that a potential route to NTS exists through Nellis Air Force Base, avoiding the highly populated areas surrounding Las Vegas. Based on the promise of this location and the possibility of other intermodal options, the Task Force has asked DOE to investigate the possibility of using intermodal to NTS. The Transportation Committee expects to receive this report in time for discussion at the November 9 Task Force meeting.



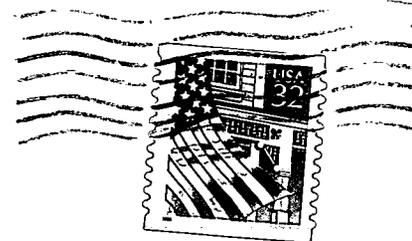
Upcoming Task Force Meetings

November 9, 1996	DOE 10-year plans Inter-modal transportation options Update on Silo 3 and vitrification pilot plant
January 11, 1997	Update on waste pits progress Update on natural resource restoration planning Site traffic volume and management
March 15, 1997	Silos path forward decision Recycling and reuse issues Disposal cell material acceptance requirements
May 10, 1997	Site-wide excavation, grading, and resource restoration plans
July 12, 1997	Proposed approaches to Silo 3 solidification
September 20, 1997	Fiscal year 1998 planning

For more information please call (513) 648-6478.



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