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FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE WEEKLY MAILING OF UPCOMING MEETINGS, DRAFT MINUTES OF 11/9/96 MEETING, FERNALD MONTHLY PROGRESS SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER AND CURRENT NEWSCLIPPINGS

12/06/96

**TASK FORCE TASK FORCE
13
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**FERNALD MONTHLY
PROGRESS SUMMARY
November 1996**

The following represents a summary of major accomplishments at Fernald by Operable Unit. Please contact Terry Hagen at 513-648-5261 or Tisha Patton at 513-648-5277 for any additional information.

OPERABLE UNIT 1

November 1996

- Enforceable Milestones Completed
 - None

- Major Work Initiated/Completed
 - Pursued resolution of outstanding DOE issues on Alternative Remedial Action Subcontracting Approach (ARASA) Request for Proposal (RFP)
 - Pursued resolution of outstanding CSXT issues on Okeana Trestle Branch Line Upgrade

December 1996 (Anticipated)

- Enforceable Milestones Expected to Be Completed
 - Begin resolving comments on OU1 Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP)

- Major Work to be Initiated/Completed
 - Hold Public Workshop on status of OU1; scheduled for December 3, 1996
 - Continue resolving CSXT issues on Okeana Trestle Branch Line upgrade
 - Continue resolving DOE funding and miscellaneous issues on the ARASA RFP
 - Initiate installation of the North Railyard subbase
 - Issue notice to proceed to on-site rail subcontractor

OPERABLE UNIT 2

November 1996

- Enforceable Milestones Completed
 - On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF)
 - None
 - Soil Characterization & Excavation Project (SCEP)
 - None

- Major Work Initiated/Completed
 - OSDF
 - Held Prebid Meeting for potential bidders on the OSDF Phase I Construction Project on November 7, 1996
 - SCEP
 - Completed internal review of the Removal Action Implementation Plan for the Southern Waste Units; this document will be integrated into the submittal of the 90% Design Package for the OU2 Southern Waste Units listed under major SCEP activities for December 1996

- Major Work Initiated/Completed
 - Vitrification Pilot Plant (VITPP)
 - Completed all engineering design and implementation for VITPP modifications necessary to initiate Phase I, Campaign #4
 - Submitted the Phase I, Campaign #2 Interim Test Report to DOE-FEMP on November 12, 1996
 - Performed pump-out of Decant Sump on November 18 and 20, 1996, and transferred contents to the Advanced Waste Water Treatment Facility for treatment; this recurring activity is triggered each time the sump reaches 75% capacity
 - Introduced feed material into the VITPP on November 30, 1996, for initiation of Phase I, Campaign #4 activities
 - Silo 3 Remedial Alternative
 - Attended meeting with members of the Nevada Test Site Community Advisory Board on November 6, 1996, to review draft responses to comments from Nevada stakeholders on the Draft Final Evaluation of Silo 3 Alternatives
 - Issued the Commerce Business Daily announcement for the Silo 3 Residues Project during the week of November 18, 1996, after requesting and receiving comments from stakeholders such as the Agencies, the Fernald Citizens Task Force (FCTF), and Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety & Health (FRESH)
 - Overall OU4 Issues
 - Attended FCTF Full Board meeting on November 9, 1996, to respond to any questions concerning OU4 in general
 - Convened Silos Project Independent Technical Review Team kick-off meeting on November 14 and 15, 1996; the objective of this team is to evaluate and help determine the Silos Project's path forward based on their collective technical expertise
 - Fluor Daniel Fernald and DOE-FEMP personnel met with representatives of the Agencies in Chicago on October 30, 1996, to discuss the Silos Project Path Forward and missed EPA milestones

December 1996 (Anticipated)

- Enforceable Milestones Expected to Be Completed
 - None

(Note that the December 4, 1996, milestones for the Vitrification Pilot Plant Title I Preliminary 30% Design and the Pre-Final 90% Design Criteria Package will not be met.)
- Major Work to be Initiated/Completed
 - Conduct the second meeting of the Silos Project Independent Technical Review Team, scheduled for December 12 and 13, 1996
 - Submit revised Evaluation of Silo 3 Alternatives to DOE-FEMP by December 13, 1996

OPERABLE UNIT 5

November 1996

- Enforceable Milestones Completed
 - Aquifer Restoration Project (ARP)/Advanced Waste Water Treatment (AWWT)
 - Submitted the OU5 Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) for the Aquifer Restoration Project to the Agencies on October 30, 1996 (actually due November 1, 1996); the successful completion of this milestone was previously noted in the October 1996 Monthly Progress Summary
 - SCEP
 - None

- Address any additional comments on the Natural Resource Impact Assessment with resubmittal planned for January 1997
- Continue compilation and assessment of analytical data associated with the ongoing Comparability Study
- Continue ongoing revision of the RAWP for Area 1, Phase I, in response to comments from the Agencies

WASTE MANAGEMENT

November 1996

- Enforceable Milestones Completed
 - None

- Major Work Initiated/Completed
 - Low Level Waste
 - Shipped 426.00 m³ low level waste to Nevada Test Site (NTS)
 - Mixed Waste Treatment Projects
 - Shipped 31.20 m³ mixed waste to the TSCA Incinerator
 - Treated 0.20 m³ mixed waste in the Waste Water Treatment System (WWTS)
 - Chemical Treatment Projects
 - Treated 14.20 m³ in the Neutralization/Precipitation/Deactivation/Stabilization (NPDS) Project
 - Shipped 10.00 m³ in the Hazardous Waste/Recycling Project

December 1996 (Anticipated)

- Enforceable Milestones to Be Completed
 - None

- Major Work to be Initiated/Completed
 - Chemical Treatment Projects
 - Begin drafting Work Plan and obtaining rates for future mixed waste generation for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF) Project
 - Continue treatment activities in the NPDS Project
 - Develop Sampling and Analysis Plans to complete characterization for the Thorium Stabilization Project; the thorium inventory to be characterized has been identified

THORIUM OVERPACK PROJECT UPDATE

All figures year-to-date as of November 30, 1996

- Overpacked 2,127 drums
- Filled 358 Thorium Overpack Containers (TOCs)
- Shipped 338 TOCs

Draft Minutes from the November 9, 1996 Meeting

The Fernald Citizens Task Force met from 8:36 a.m. until 11:25 p.m. on November 9, 1996, at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and open to the public. Time was reserved for public input.

Members Present: John Applegate
 Jim Bierer
 Marvin Clawson
 Lisa Crawford
 Pam Dunn
 Constance Fox
 Darryl Huff
 Guy Guckenberger
 Gene Jablonowski
 Gloria McKinley
 Graham Mitchell
 Jerry Monahan
 Thomas Rentschler
 Robert Tabor
 Thomas Wagner
 Gene Willeke

Members Absent: French Bell
 J. Phillip Hamric
 Warren Strunk

Designated Federal Official Present: Ken Morgan

Task Force Staff Present: Deborah Dunstan
 Crystal Sarno
 Douglas Sarno
 Sue Walpole

About 12 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE, Fluor-Daniel Fernald, and FRESH.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

2. Announcements and New Business

Applegate introduced Glenn Hachey from Weldon Springs, Missouri. Hachey explained that the Weldon Springs Citizens Advisory Board is organized differently than at Fernald. They have seven commissioners, and are much further along in the closure/cleanup of the site. He is here to learn from Fernald and to get some ideas to bring back.

Applegate mentioned two reports of interest to the Task Force, recently completed by the University of Cincinnati: the first assesses known sources of radium, and the second evaluates the removal of radium from vitrified material. Doug Sarno will provide copies to any interested Task Force members upon request.

DOE HQ will provide the site with a monthly report of results from human radium research at Sloan-Kettering. The Sloan-Kettering group has gotten FDA approval for three phases of research: Phase 1 involves a few patients, Phase 2 involves 20 patients, and Phase 3 involves a hundred patients. They have enough radium to get through the entire three phases, which will take place over several years.

Applegate then introduced John Bradburne, CEO of Fluor-Daniel Fernald, to speak on labor relations. Bradburne stated that when FERMCO first came to the site they worked hard to deal with the "corporate veil" which was already in place. Positive changes took place following a hearing with Mr. Dingle, where problems were clearly expressed. When Bradburne came to the site he made sure he had the backing of the corporation to really change things. One of the first things that he did was to hear concerns relating to the accelerated cleanup process. Bradburne also began having weekly meetings with the union leadership, which have been very helpful and very revealing. In addition, he has changed the name of the outplacement department to "Career Development." That department is now providing training for employees who will be leaving as the site moves toward closing down; approximately 80 people have been transferred to other Fluor-Daniel companies.

Applegate introduced Gene Branham, vice president for Fernald Atomic Trades, who has worked at Fernald for 44 years. Branham explained that when FERMCO first received the Fernald contract, labor had anticipated a contractor that would come in and be ready to work. Instead, they got a contractor who did not plan to retain any part of the current work force, except for 50 or so janitors. That was demoralizing to the employees, and as a result labor and management spent the first three and a half years fighting. Branham commented that the major change at Fernald has been in the leadership: Bradburne volunteered to take the responsibility to deal with the situation here at Fernald, and has opened the lines of communication. Labor needs DOE to take the responsibility of ownership -- to insist the contractor not only performs, but performs in compliance. Labor also needs Fluor-Daniel to continue in their current direction, to be decisive and to be swift. Workers themselves have to take a great deal of responsibility and must be motivated to work smarter. Branham feels the first 40 months of the current contract were a waste due to controversy, wasted effort, and many hard feelings. For the last eight months, however, they have been working well with the new leadership both in Fluor-Daniel and in DOE.

Jerry Monahan, speaking for the Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council, said that the building trades have been pleased with their relationship with the site. They educate themselves with a payroll deduction, and are approaching 2 million man-hours without an injury. Monahan stated that the union did not agree with recent newspaper articles. Mr. Gallagher never asked them what their opinion was and what they thought of the project.

3. Committee Reports

Natural and Cultural Resources:

Chair Jim Bierer discussed activities of the Natural and Cultural Resources Committee. The Committee will meet November 14 with the Natural Resources Trustees to discuss restoration principles. The Trustees will be meeting in the Alpha Building all day before the joint meeting. The Trustees meeting is not normally open to the public, but if any Task Force members wish to attend, permission will be requested.

Environmental Monitoring:

Chair Pam Dunn discussed activities of the Environmental Monitoring Committee. This committee will meet again once project-specific monitoring reports become available.

Waste Management:

Chair Gene Willeke discussed activities of the Waste Management Committee. At their last meeting the Committee met with representatives of Fluor-Daniel, DOE, and EPA. The results of that meeting were summarized in a memorandum to Jack Craig (attached). The committee would like as much information provided to the Task Force before March 1, 1997, as possible.

The committee would like for testing to be done on Silo 3 materials, including a detailed analysis on the volume of waste associated with vitrification versus cementation, a detailed analysis for all constituents and compounds in Silo 3 comprising the effectiveness of vitrification and cementation, the risks of transportation if the treatment/stabilization is done offsite, and compliance with waste acceptance criteria. They endorsed the appointment of an independent panel and asked that the panel complete its work before March 1, 1997. The first meeting of the independent panel will occur next week, and the Waste Management committee has been invited to attend and will try to do so. Willeke mentioned that the three month period from January through March 1997 will be very intensive and difficult.

Connie Fox mentioned that she had not heard Willeke talk about cost at all. Willeke said he expects that information to be forthcoming. Sarno explained that they had focused on addressing issues that had not been addressed in the past. Crawford asked if Fluor-Daniel had been resistant to tests, and if they were going to take any materials out of Silo 3. Don Paine confirmed that materials would be taken out. Crawford commented that the turnaround time is approximately four months for the stabilization test and the compound analysis test, and that they should be done now so the public could be apprised of the results. Bierer said there is a possibility that the waste can be treated offsite, but that he has a real safety concern about transportation. Willeke replied they just do not have all the answers to the questions concerning transportation yet. Craig has promised to respond to the committee's memo by Friday, November 15, 1996.

Pam Dunn asked for a copy of the EPA's guidance on the difference between a ROD amendment and an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD). Jack Craig said he would mail it to her home.

Dunn also asked what was wrong with the RI/FS that it cannot be relied upon for cost and other data. Willeke answered that part of the problem is that the information within the RI/FS was scattered throughout the document. Sarno added that all the volume analysis combines the wastes of Silos 1 and 2, and not just Silo 3, so it is not broken out in a way that makes all analysis simple. He further explained that the waste measures for the silos include massive containers due to the high contamination in Silos 1 and 2 (the waste in Silo 3 doesn't have that high level of contamination). Calculating the information for Silo 3 could be done fairly easily, but it has not been done yet. Don Paine said he will try to have all of these answers by December 13, 1996.

It was noted that the current ROD does not call for offsite treatment, so offsite treatment at this time would not be legal. To do so might require a ROD amendment, not an ESD.

Monahan suggested that more questions will be answered once cost comparisons are made, and questioned whether skipping over vitrification would lead to the loss of valuable information. Tom Rentschler asked what the odds were that the vitrification process would work. Don Paine answered that there was no question it would work, but as there were still outstanding questions he was unable to give odds. Willeke added that the work that has been done thus far seems to indicate that building one giant plant is not a good idea, and Paine agreed that they would not build just one. He further explained that glass can be made through vitrification, but he just did not know yet how well it could be made. The Silo 3 consensus statement indicates that the decision on Silo 3 will not be made until the results of the Silos 1 and 2 campaign are known.

Transportation:

Tom Wagner presented an update on the Transportation Committee, which met on October 24 to explore intermodal options, highway improvements, and site traffic model. After evaluating several options, it was apparent to the committee that conventional intermodal transportation to NTS was not practical. The committee looked at risk comparisons between truck only or truck-train transportation, and found that all the risks were within EPA risk acceptance levels (although the risks of the two options are measured differently). The committee feels strongly that the site should maximize its use of rail. As an alternative to conventional intermodal, the committee has asked DOE to explore using the unit trains for OU1 with transfer at Envirocare. Ken Alkema of Envirocare stated that they have the ability to do such transfers.

On October 24 the committee also received a report on planned local upgrades: Route 128 will be resurfaced, and a small bridge south of Ross will be upgraded. New traffic lights will be installed in Miamitown at the intersection of I-74. The committee was concerned not only with the volume of traffic involved in taking waste off the site, but also with construction of the onsite disposal facility. Doug presented a chart showing anticipated truck traffic from all site-related activities (attached). There was also new information concerning the traffic patterns near Fernald: about 126 trucks per day go north on 128 but go out the north access road instead. Several issues were discussed. Guckenberger wondered whether the risk would be reduced if alternate routes were used. Huff believed that alternate routes would increase the amount of miles driven, which would increase the level of risk. Bierer also wondered if the resurfacing on Route 128, with the resulting lane

closings and flag people, would increase the risk. The site did not have any information regarding local traffic volumes. Sarno said the committee would be looking into these issues.

4. DOE 10-year Plan

Jack Craig explained that the original schedule has been changed so that all sites will have more time to allow the public to review and comment on the plans. The final plan is now to be completed in March of 1997. Craig is confident in the Fernald plan, and commented that a strong plan is an important part of getting our share of the DOE budget.

There is the possibility that the 10-year planning process could be affected by the choice of a new Secretary of DOE. Applegate explained that DOE's goal was to see how much of the sites could be cleaned up in 10 years, not to get every site cleaned up in 10 years. For some sites a 10-year cleanup plan would be impossible, but at Fernald it is a reasonable goal, as Fernald was already on an accelerated schedule prior to al Alm's 10-year plan.

5. Public Comment

The question was raised whether the traffic chart prepared by Doug Sarno showed daily or hourly traffic rates; Sarno answered that it showed daily rates.

Another question concerned the sorts of problems anticipated in intermodal transportation. Wagner explained that we are using unit trains that will be cleared to go all the way, and would not be held up in any rail station. Fluor-Daniel, DOE and the Department of Transportation all have crisis teams prepared to respond to any situation. Sarno added that trains are safer than trucks, given the total volume of material to be moved.

A final question was raised on the level of radiation coming from the waste. Applegate answered that there is no high level waste at Fernald.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the November 9, 1996, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Task Force.

John S. Applegate, Chair Date
Fernald Citizens Task Force

Ken Morgan Date
Deputy Designated Federal Official

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December 13, 1996
CINCINNATI ENQUIRER
Front Page
"Disabled girl's supporters make their voices heard"
Cliff Radel

Disabled girl's supporters make their voices heard

When this week began, Christmas at Nikki Johnston's house was going to be sad and silent.

Someone had stolen her voice, the talking computer the 11-year-old has used since cerebral palsy robbed her of the ability to speak. The machine was uninsured. And, her family could not afford to replace it.

But after her story appeared in my Wednesday column, Nikki's mother, Toni Grothaus, and dad, Jeff Chandler, have received dozens of calls from strangers offering money.

"I can't believe this," Toni declared. "The phone has rung non-stop. People have been so kind."

"I'm in shock," Jeff said, "and so grateful. I didn't think people cared like this anymore. Santa has come early."

The couple received so many calls at



CLIFF RADEL

their Cheviot apartment, Jeff had to set up a special fund — the Nikki Fund — with United Cerebral Palsy of Cincinnati.

Based on the calls pouring into Nikki's home and received here at *The Enquirer*, her story has touched many people.

One company has promised to buy her DynaVox computer outright. Employees at other firms have made replacing the computer their personal goal. And many more individuals have reached out to help the little girl with the dark chocolate brown eyes who can only tell her mother she loves her by touching keys on a computer screen.

"I don't have much money," said John Dulley, a downtown shipping clerk. "And I'm not a very sentimental guy. But when I

(Please see RADEL, Page A6)



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Michael Snyder

Nikki Johnston is a happy 11-year-old now that donors have lined up to replace her talking computer.

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Radel: Supporters make voices heard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

read about her brown eyes and how she has to scoot across the floor, it made me cry. I have to send her something."

Susan Franks, a receptionist at Bow-Wow Boutique in Columbia Township, plans to send \$10. "I got that as a tip for helping a guy start his car last Saturday night," she said. "I was going to drop it in the collection plate at church. But this little girl needs it more. She needs to know that not all people are cruel."

Sentient Systems of Pittsburgh makes the DynaVox talking computer. The model Nikki had has been discontinued. A new DynaVox would cost \$7,500 and can be delivered to Nikki in two days. All Sentient needs is the money.

So far, \$1,040 has been raised just from people walking into the Cheviot branch of the Provident Bank, where the Nikki Fund was first set up. Nikki's mom and dad moved the fund Thursday to United Cerebral Palsy of Cincinnati.

Along with individuals, entire work forces took time over the last two days to think about Nikki. Workers launched collection drives at the Gap Distribution Center in

To help

Send donations to: The Nikki Fund, United Cerebral Palsy of Cincinnati, 3601 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati 45229. For information, call: 559-4601. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Erlanger, Saturn dealerships in Springdale and Florence, and the local corporate offices of Arby's Restaurants.

"Geeze, Louise," exclaimed Robert Weeda, Arby's human resources officer who plans to collect money for the Nikki Fund, "her story hit awfully close to home. Her folks are hard-working people. They need help."

On late Thursday afternoon, Fluor Daniel, the company cleaning up Fernald, offered to pick up the entire cost of the computer.

Dan Dilday, a project manager at the plant, read the column about Nikki and "was ticked off that someone would commit such a senseless act. It made it even worse with it being the holiday season."

Nikki's story touched his heart, too. He and his wife are expecting

a child in April. "I thought, that could be us. What would we do: Would people care enough to help us?"

To answer those questions, he went to his bosses and asked what the company could do. Fluor Daniel said it would pay for the whole thing.

So, it looks as if Nikki is going to get her computer — and her voice — back.

That's the power of compassion. And, that's the good news from Nikki's story.

Even better is that if her fund exceeds its goal, the overflow will go to help 12 other kids on a waiting list at United Cerebral Palsy of Cincinnati. These are 12 kids we've never met, 12 kids who have never had their pictures in the paper, 12 kids who need a computer to communicate.

But, the best news from Nikki's story is that all of Cincinnati came through. Rich and poor alike gave the gift of speech to a little girl.

December 12, 1996

Journal News

Front Page

Fernald company sues to recover \$3.5M

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Fernald company sues to recover \$3.5M

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI

The company cleaning up the former Fernald uranium plant filed a lawsuit Wednesday to recover \$3.5 million it claims it paid after a former plant contractor went bankrupt.

Fluor Daniel Fernald Inc. filed the suit in U.S. District Court to recover the money from Security Insurance Company of Hartford Inc., which issued a performance bond for Martech USA Inc.

Martech, based in Anchorage, Alaska, was awarded a contract in 1992 by the U.S. Department of Energy to dismantle one of the silos at Fernald.

Fluor Daniel Fernald received a five-year, \$2.5 billion contract to manage the Fernald cleanup that same year.

(Please see FERNALD, Page A6)

Fernald

(Continued from Page A1)

Fluor Daniel Fernald fired Martech in 1993, alleging the company had failed to do the job in a satisfactory manner and had not paid subcontractors for work that they completed.

Martech filed for bankruptcy later that year.

Fluor Daniel Fernald has sued for the cost of finishing the job and paying off subcontractors as

well as unspecified damages, interest and costs in the lawsuit.

The Fernald Feed Materials Production center processed uranium ore and thorium as part of the nation's nuclear weapons program from 1951 until 1989, when cleanup began.

Steven Berz, attorney for the insurance company, did not immediately return a call left at his office Wednesday seeking comment.