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Fernald Environmental Management Project
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**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

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Major Project, Completion of Safe Shutdown, Finished at Fernald

CINCINNATI, March 16, 1999 -- The Department of Energy and Fluor Daniel Fernald have taken one giant step closer to achieving its mission at the Fernald site by completing one of the site's highest priority programs -- "Safe Shutdown."

Employees at the site have spent the past several years shutting down the former production buildings by removing hazardous material, disconnecting all the utilities, eliminating salvageable equipment, and decontaminating the buildings so they can be safely demolished within the next few years. Completion of this portion of the cleanup is a significant accomplishment in improving the health and safety of Fernald workers and the surrounding communities.

For the next 5 days, you will receive a fact sheet highlighting each of the site's major facilities that have been safely shut down (see attachment). To learn more about the significance of completing Fernald's Safe Shutdown program, members of the press should plan to attend a site tour and recognition ceremony on Monday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m., at the site. The Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson, will serve as the keynote speaker and share his views on the importance of completing this project.

If you plan to attend the ceremony, please arrive at least 15 minutes early for shuttle service to Plant 6, the former Metals Fabrication Plant, where the event will take place. Media will be permitted to take photos and video of the plant and will also be provided with background footage.

See Attachment



Plant 6, Metals Fabrication Plant



Interesting fact:
Work crews used air-powered chisels and jackhammers to remove approximately 82 tons of uranium-contaminated salt from three heat-treating furnaces in the Rolling Mill area of the plant.



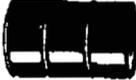
Demolition date:
2002



Function:
Plant 6 was used for major uranium metal fabrication processes, including rolling, machining, heat treating, pickling, scrap metal briquetting, and inspection/packaging of uranium products.



Safe Shutdown:
Began in October, 1997 and ended in March 1999.



Material removed:
Employees removed more than 205,000 pounds of hazardous material.

Fernald Milestone
Completion of Safe Shutdown
Monday, March 22, 1999
11:30 a.m., at the Fernald site

