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**OPERABLE UNIT 1 - WASTE PITS REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT - FACT SHEET - MAY 1996**

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FACT SHEET

# Operable Unit 1

## *Waste Pits Remedial Action Project*

May 1996

### Introduction

Operable Unit 1 is one of five well-defined areas undergoing remediation at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Fernald Environmental Management Project. The operable units were defined, based on their locations or the potential for similar technologies to be used in the ultimate cleanup.

### Operable Unit 1

Operable Unit 1 located in the northwest quadrant of the Fernald site (west of the former Production Area). Covering 37 acres, Operable Unit 1 consists of the following:

- Waste Pits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6;
- the Burn Pit (used for the disposal and burning of waste);
- the Clearwell (a settling basin for surface water runoff);
- miscellaneous structures and facilities such as berms, liners, concrete pads, underground piping, utilities, railroad tracks, fencing; and
- soil within the Operable Unit 1 boundary.

Paddys Run, an intermittent tributary of the Great Miami River, runs along the west side of Fernald property between Operable Unit 1 and the site boundary.

### Remedial Design

On Oct. 24, 1995, Operable Unit 1 Preliminary Design Packages I and II, the first remedial design deliverables, were submitted to U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA and were made available at the Public Environmental Information Center.

In response to comments received from U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA on Dec. 14 and Dec. 22, 1995, respectively, a response-to-comments document was submitted to the EPAs on Jan. 19, 1996. Additional comments were received from Ohio EPA on Feb. 20 and were responded to by letter on March 5. On March 13, U.S. EPA approved Operable Unit 1 Preliminary Design Packages I.

On March 20, Operable Unit 1 Pre-Final Design Packages I and II were submitted to U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA for review. These packages reflect additional detail and changes made during design and support activities subsequent to the submittal of the preliminary design deliverables.

For example, the pre-final packages include the final results of the Dewatering, Excavation, Evaluation Program (DEEP), both in terms of a final report documenting DEEP and a design which reflects the knowledge and experience gained through the DEEP investigations. In addition, the pre-final design packages reflect changes to address comments received from U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA during their review of the preliminary design packages.

Submitted with the pre-final design packages was an addendum to the Operable Unit 1 Remedial Design Work Plan.

The purpose of the Remedial Design Work Plan addendum is to present the design plan changes resulting from DOE's decision to pursue an Alternative Remedial Action Subcontracting Approach (ARASA) for the remediation of the Operable Unit 1 waste pits, as discussed later in this fact sheet. This addendum provides an explanation of ARASA and describes its impact on the current Operable Unit 1 design. Specifically, this addendum includes:

- 1) A definition of ARASA;
- 2) Integration of ARASA and the design reflected in the design documents discussed above;
- 3) DOE and ARASA subcontractor responsibilities and remedial design/remedial action deliverables; and
- 4) Agency review and subsequent finalization of ARASA deliverables.

Comments on both the pre-final design packages I and II and the addendum to the remedial design work plan are expected from U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA by May 20. These documents are also available at the Public Environmental Information Center. A comment-response package will be developed to address U.S. EPA's and Ohio EPA's comments on these documents of the Operable Unit 1 waste pits.

## Operable Unit 1 Remediation

Key components of the Operable Unit 1 remediation process include:

- Excavation of the waste;
- Preparation and processing of materials from the waste pits to produce a feed material amenable for further handling (e.g., in the dryer);
- Thermal drying;
- Off-gas treatment by a system designed to remove, to acceptable levels, contaminants which might be present in emissions from the drying process prior to discharge to the atmosphere;
- Rail shipment, the planned transportation mode, to a permitted commercial disposal facility; and
- Disposal at the permitted commercial disposal facility. (This facility has not yet been selected. Until the selection, the remedial design will continue to reflect the use of the Envirocare disposal site, located in Clive, Utah, as the representative permitted commercial disposal facility.)

*The Operable Unit 1 waste pits range in size from that of a baseball diamond to a football field and vary in depth from 13 to 30 feet. More than 700,000 cubic yards of contaminated materials are estimated to be associated with the cleanup of the waste pits.*

**Operable Unit 1****Waste Pits Remedial Action Project****Alternative Remedial Action  
Subcontracting Approach (ARASA)**

To reduce cleanup costs associated with the remediation of Operable Unit 1, DOE has approved an Alternative Remedial Action Subcontracting Approach (ARASA). A request for proposal to hire a subcontractor is being developed and is expected to be submitted to U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA for review by July 1, 1996.

Under ARASA, the subcontractor ultimately will be responsible for excavating and processing the waste materials and loading the processed waste into railcars for shipment. FERMCO will be responsible for shipping and disposal activities and will oversee all operations of the Operable Unit 1 remediation process.

Various remedial design and remedial action planning documents will be prepared by the ARASA subcontractor for review by regulators. The public will be notified as these documents become available for public inspection. In addition, stakeholders will continue to be kept informed about the Operable Unit 1 cleanup process and activities as they develop.

**Site Preparation Activities**

Included with the Operable Unit 1 design packages was documentation associated with site improvements necessary to prepare the Operable Unit 1 waste pits area for construction and operation of remediation facilities. These improvements, which are necessary under any concept (including ARASA), were initiated April 1, 1996.

These activities include drainage pipe modifications, construction of a retaining wall, installation of erosion control; and site clearing and grading for construction of the waste processing facility; as well as activities required to construct the stormwater management system that will support Operable Unit 1 remediation.

Initiation of these activities demonstrates Operable Unit 1 has begun substantial continuous, on-site remedial action (in accordance with CERCLA) within 15 months of signing the record of decision (by June 1, 1996).

**For More Information**

*Contact the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC), located at 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio, 45030 (phone: 513-738-0164).*

*For specific questions regarding Operable Unit 1, contact: Dave Lojek, DOE Fernald Area Office Operable Unit 1 branch chief, 513-648-3127.*