

564

6-710.¹~~2~~

**FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY/FEBRUARY
1997 ISSUE**

04
02/01/97

TASK FORCE PUBLIC
6
NEWSLETTER



Newsletter

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

Volume 2, No. 1

January/February 1997

From the Chair:

As we complete another year of operation at Fernald we can look ahead to several important challenges. Contrary to expectations, 1996 was a very eventful year for the site. All of the site's Records of Decision are now final; however, continued budget cuts and uncertainty about the use of vitrification for the K-65 silos threaten our ambitious remediation schedule. The Task Force's main job for 1997 will be to work constructively with DOE to develop a path forward that makes the most effective use of limited resources to shift expenses away from landlord and overhead costs to real progress on remediation. The blueprint for clean-up is in place; we must now make sure that it is implemented safely, promptly, and cost-effectively.

John Applegate

INSIDE

Committee Reports	2
Task Force Looks at Labor Issues	3
Task Force Requests Information on Silos Design	3
SSAB Meeting	3
Monitoring Committee Takes on Recycling	3
Task Force Tours Site Natural Resource Areas	4
Task Force Approves 1997 Workplan	4
Task Force Studies Transportation Issues	4
Fernald Daily Truck Traffic Chart	5
Upcoming Events	6

Committee Reports

Monitoring and Recycling

Areas of Involvement:

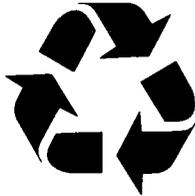
- ❖ Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan (IEMP)
- ❖ Project monitoring and completion criteria
- ❖ Recycling and reuse of materials

Recent Activities:

- ❖ Track progress on monitoring programs

Upcoming Activities:

- ❖ Will review project-specific monitoring plans as they become available
- ❖ January 9 meeting to review site recycling protocol



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:

- ❖ **Saturday, November 9:** Toured site natural resources
- ❖ **Thursday, November 14:** Met with Natural Resource Trustees to discuss restoration principles

Upcoming Activities:

- ❖ Meet with natural resources 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
- ❖ Other on-site waste handling and disposal issues

Recent Activities:

- ❖ Attended November and December meetings of independent review panel on silos

Upcoming Activities:

- ❖ Work with independent review panel on silo decisions
- ❖ Provide input to silo decisions as directed by Task Force
- ❖ Get involved in issues regarding material acceptance for on-site disposal facility

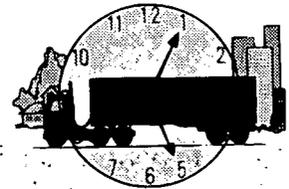
Transportation

Areas of Involvement:

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

Recent Activities:

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



Upcoming Activities:

- ❖ Continue exploring intermodal options and highway safety issues

000002

Task Force Looks at Labor Issues

At the Task Force meeting on November 9, John Bradburne, CEO of Fluor-Daniel Fernald, Gene Branham, Vice President for the Fernald Atomic Trades, and Jerry Monahan, Task Force member and General Secretary of the Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council, spoke positively of the changes which have taken place in the last eight months at Fernald in employee/management relations. One major improvement is the establishment of a new formal work planning process whereby the employees who will do the actual work are brought in to review the scope of work. The final process is clearly defined only after their input is received.

Bradburne has also begun holding weekly meetings with employee leadership, and has revamped the "Career Development" department to provide training for employees who will be leaving as the site moves toward completion.



SSAB Meeting

DOE held a meeting of SSAB chairs and federal coordinators in St. Louis on January 23, 1997. Topics included updates on various nationwide programs such as 10-year plans, and ways that SSABs could work together. We look forward to working with other SSABs on several important multisite and intersite issues, such as technology development and waste transportation.

Task Force Requests Information on Silos Design

The Task Force Waste Management Committee has asked DOE for more information on the proposed stabilization of Silo 3 materials, so they might offer a more informed and meaningful input to the final decision. Specifically, DOE has been asked to:

1. Identify the administrative and legal requirements associated with changing the Silo 3 treatment from vitrification to stabilization.
2. Provide as much information as possible on the potential effectiveness of cementation on the Silo 3 material.
3. Provide a detailed analysis on the volume of waste associated with vitrification versus cementation.
4. Provide a detailed analysis for all constituents and compounds in Silo 3 comparing the effectiveness of vitrification and cementation, the risks of transportation, and compliance with waste acceptance criteria.
5. Provide written verification that the receiving facility is permitted to receive this waste, that the waste meets all legal requirements for transportation and disposal, and that local stakeholders at the receiving facility understand the changes being made.
6. Appoint an independent review panel to review the proposed changes, which will complete its work prior to the March 1, 1997 deadline.

Monitoring Committee Takes on Recycling

In order to create a better distribution of work among committees, the Monitoring Committee has assumed responsibility for issues relating to recycling and reuse of contaminated materials. The committee will meet on January 9 to review and evaluate the draft site protocol for recycling.

000003

Task Force Tours Site Natural Resource Areas

The steadily falling snow and unseasonable cold didn't stop the majority of Task Force members from taking a walking tour of the Fernald site immediately following their meeting on Saturday, November 9. The focus of the tour was post-remediation plans for the site's natural resources areas.

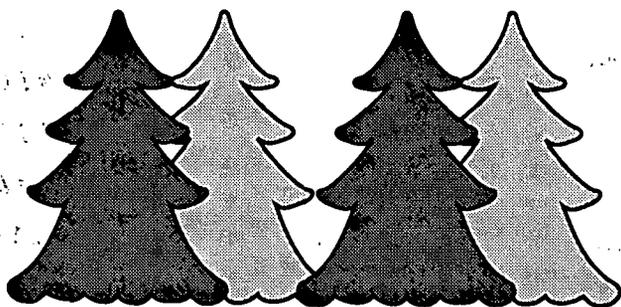
After receiving their security badges, the Task Force climbed into two large vans and drove past the flyash piles and southern pine groves to the banks of Paddy's Run Creek, where tour guides described seasonal water flows and the plant and animal life of the riparian corridor.



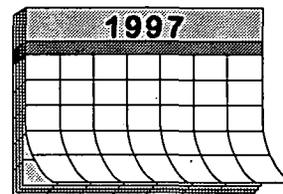
The next stop was the train trestle leading into Fernald, where the Task Force viewed an area of Paddy's Run that is home to the Sloan's crayfish and a potential habitat of the Indiana bat, both of which are endangered species.

Plans are underway to relocate the significant population of Sloan's crayfish upstream of a drainage outflow pipe located beneath the trestle in an attempt to eliminate the stress on this population being caused by this outflow. This trestle is the only rail entrance to the site and will be the site of all rail waste shipments.

The final stop of the tour was the northern woodlot and wetlands. The Task Force reviewed the state of the pine forests which are suffering from overcrowding and blight. These forests and wetlands are home to the large populations of deer present on the site.



Task Force Approves 1997 Workplan



At its January meeting the Task Force approved a 1997 Workplan which summarizes the issues that the Task Force will focus on this year, and the actions that it expects to take. The areas of primary focus will be Operable Unit 4 (the silos) and the overall project's cost and scheduling. The Task Force hopes to make recommendations on vitrification, Silo 3, overhead cost reduction, reengineering, and subcontracting issues. Other concerns for 1997, most of which carry over from last year, include: design of the on-site disposal facility, waste transportation, environmental monitoring, natural resources, recycling and reuse, DOE's 10-year plan, radium extraction, and economic development. These will be addressed by recommendations, informal comments and information requests, and active monitoring, as seems most appropriate.

Task Force Studies Transportation Issues

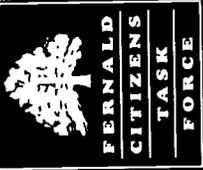
Transportation safety was one of the main topics of discussion at the November 9 meeting of the Fernald Citizens Task Force.

A chart graphing the anticipated site truck traffic through Ross and Miamitown over the next several years is shown on the facing page. This chart shows all Fernald-related truck traffic on Route 128, including both full and empty trucks. The majority of truck traffic is scheduled to travel south on Route 128, and the Task Force raised the issue of the equity of higher volumes of traffic through Miamitown versus the possible increased risk of longer, alternate northern routes. The question of additional risks associated with the scheduled resurfacing and upgrading of Route 128, with its resulting lane closings and traffic changes, will also be looked at by the Transportation Committee.

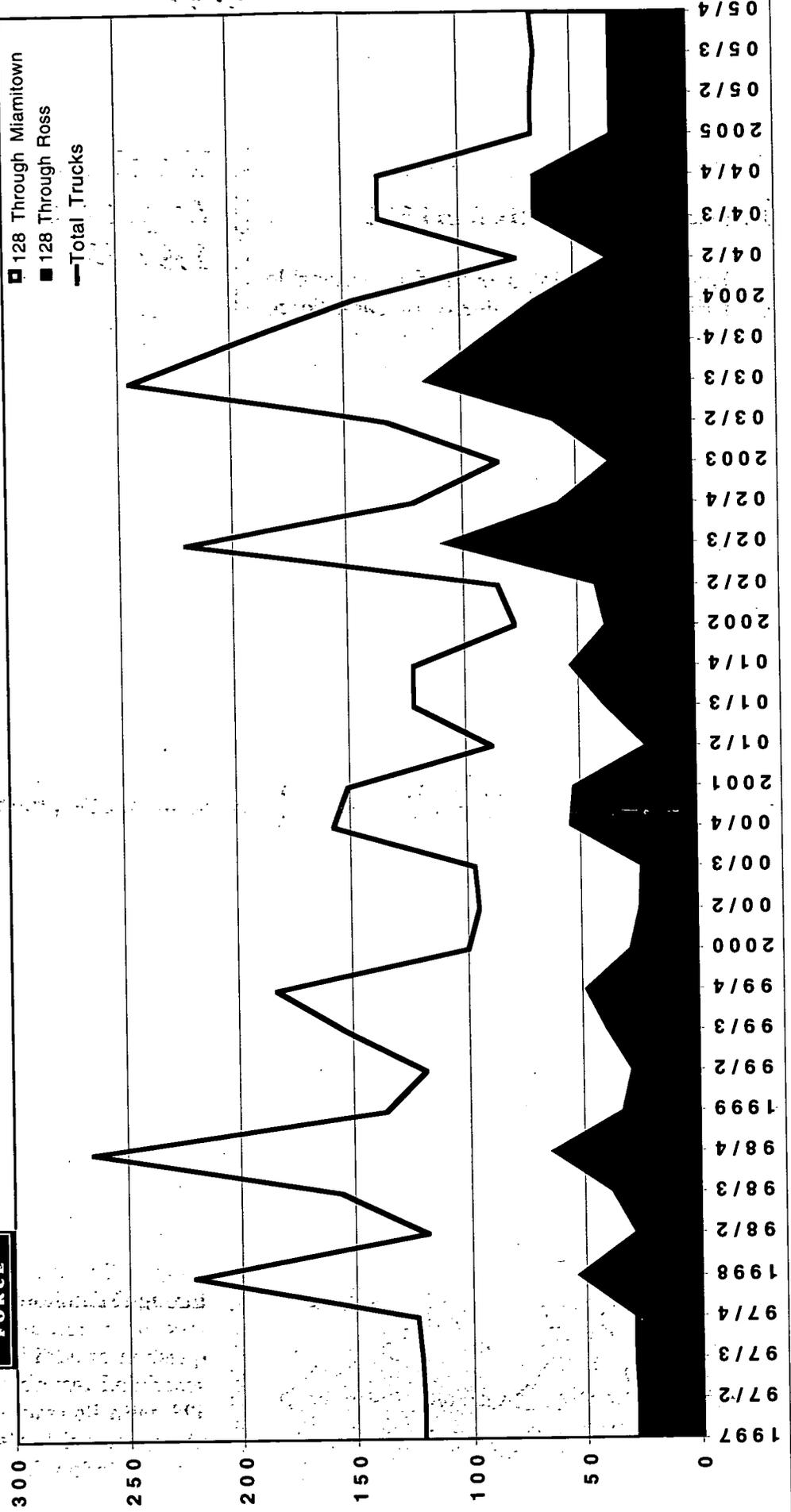
000004

Statistics

That Shape the Site



Fernald Daily Truck Traffic By Quarter
 Preliminary Data: November 9, 1996





UPCOMING EVENTS

TASK FORCE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

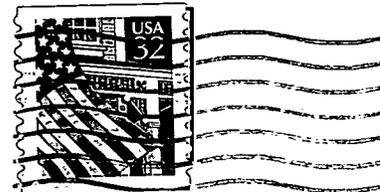
Waste Management	February 5	7:00 p.m.	Uno Building
Transportation	February 6	7:00 p.m.	Uno Building
Silos Independent Panel	February 11-13		Alpha Building
Full Task Force Meeting	March 15	8:30 a.m.	Alpha Building
Full Task Force Meeting	May 10	8:30 a.m.	Alpha Building

For more information please call 513-648-6478

This newsletter is published bi-monthly to provide an overview of the activities of the Fernald Citizens Task Force. The Task Force is an official Department of Energy Site Specific Advisory Board and chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Task Force provides advice and recommendations on all aspects of the remediation of the Fernald site, and is comprised of 15 volunteer members from the greater Cincinnati community and four ex officio members representing the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry. Additional information on the Task Force can be obtained by calling the Task Force office at (513) 648-6478.



Fernald Citizens Task Force
P.O. Box 544
Ross, Ohio 45061



PEIC
Fluor Daniel Fernald
P.O. Box 538704
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704

78

000006

