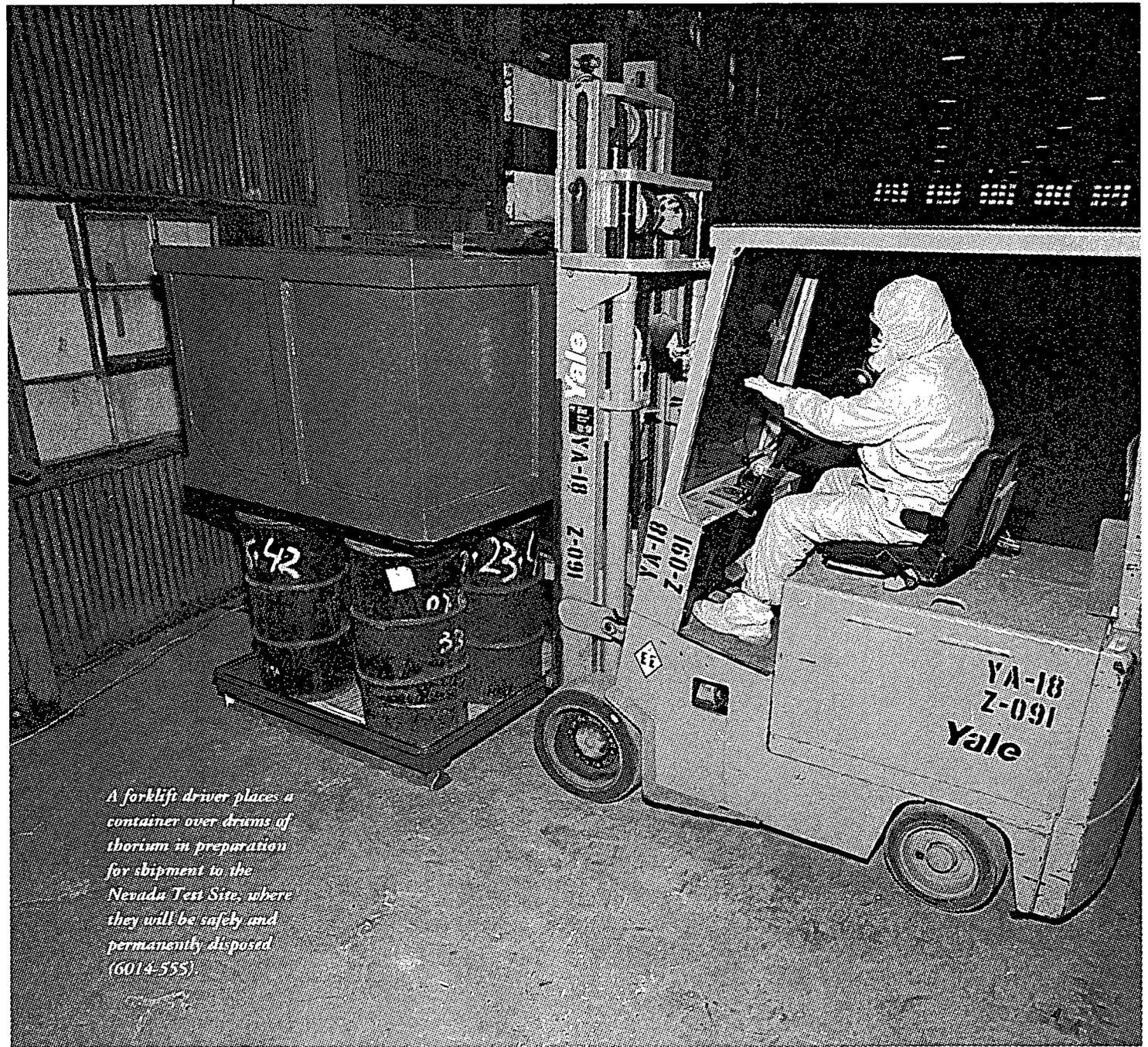


# fernald Report

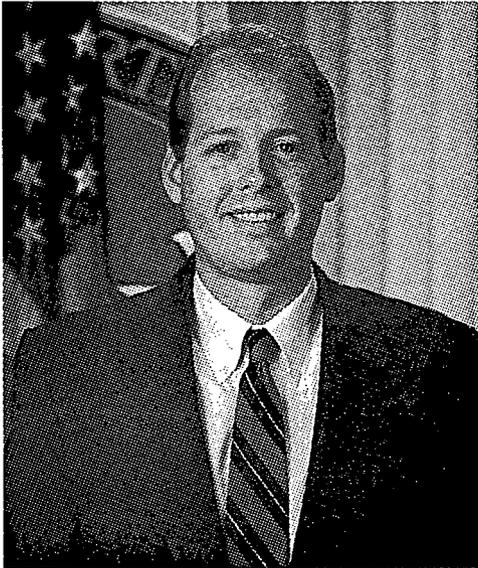
MAY 1997



*A forklift driver places a container over drums of thorium in preparation for shipment to the Nevada Test Site, where they will be safely and permanently disposed (6014-555).*

## Risk Reduced, Time Saved During Thorium Overpack Project

I'm extremely pleased to announce the Thorium Overpacking Project at the FEMP has been safely completed ahead of schedule and under budget, thanks to the efforts of many individuals and organizations that contributed to the success of the project -- including, but not limited to, the Fernald Atomic Trades & Labor Council (FAT&LC), the Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council and the International Guards Union of America.



The unions worked closely with project managers throughout the tedious process of overpacking approximately 5,600 deteriorated drums of radioactive thorium. Our goal was to improve the work processes and minimize worker exposure to thorium. The two-year operation, targeted for completion in April 1998, was completed 11 months ahead of schedule. Most of the overpacked containers already have been shipped off site for safe, permanent disposal, since repackaging and shipping activities occurred simultaneously throughout the project.

### **Worker Input Enhances Safety, Saves \$400,000**

Overall we realized a safer project, a shortened schedule and a significant cost savings for taxpayers. DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald achieved an external exposure rate of less than half the original estimate by implementing numerous productivity improvements suggested by workers. Early completion of the Thorium Overpack Project saves more than \$400,000. It also frees two large buildings which were used

for the Thorium Overpacking Project, making them available for other waste stabilization projects or early dismantling.

### **Equipment and Know-How Will be Transferred to Other DOE Site**

We intend to transfer the robotic forklift and other equipment used during this project -- as well as the technical know-how -- to another DOE site, as deemed appropriate. A videotape describing the operation and a news flyer have been prepared for distribution throughout the DOE complex. The video and flyer are also available at the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC), 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Road, Harrison, OH (phone: 513-738-0164).

I applaud the diligent efforts of the entire Thorium Overpacking Project Team for taking a difficult task and turning it into a huge success. It truly was an outstanding team effort.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Craig". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

*Jack Craig, Director  
DOE-FEMP Office*

## DOE Awards \$150,100 Start-Up Grant to Fernald Community Reuse Organization

On April 30, DOE awarded a one-year, \$150,100 grant to the Fernald Community Reuse Organization (CRO) to support start-up functions, including retaining professional consultant services to help the group organize, plan its economic development and public involvement strategies, develop performance measures, and establish its office within the community. The grant is effective May 1 through April 30, 1998.

"DOE is pleased to award the start-up grant to the Fernald Community Reuse Organization," said DOE-FEMP Director Jack Craig. "As Fernald cleanup progresses, the group will play a key role in determining reuse potential for Fernald's property and resources and developing strategies to offset the economic impact of Fernald's downsizing to our work force and communities."

Earlier this month, the CRO became a nonprofit corporation under the state of Ohio — a prerequisite for receiving the start-up grant from DOE. The group is currently applying to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for exemption from federal income tax under IRS Section 501(C)(3).

"The CRO is composed of a dedicated group of citizens who are committed to having a positive impact on the Fernald transition process," said CRO Chair David McWilliams. "The award of the start-up grant will provide the membership with additional resources to help us begin to translate our plans and vision into tangible, practical results."

Since DOE convened the Fernald CRO in August 1996, the 19-member group has focused on defining its mission, establishing a path forward and committee structure, and completing the incorporation and start-up grant application process. The Fernald CRO's primary focus areas are: reuse of Fernald land, equipment and resources; economic transition, including Fernald work force issues; and public involvement.

*"The award of the start-up grant will provide the membership with additional resources to help us begin to translate our plans and vision into tangible and practical results."*

*CRO Chair David McWilliams*

## New CRO Member Appointed

Morgan Township resident Karl Dillhoff will serve a three-year term as a CRO member, replacing former member Bob Copeland, who resigned in January. Dillhoff is a former Morgan Township Trustee and is currently employed at WKRC-TV, Channel 12.

For more information on the Fernald CRO, please call or write to:

Fernald Community Reuse Organization,  
P.O. Box 38  
Ross, OH 45061  
513-648-4168.

To access the Fernald CRO's Internet Web page, go to the "Stakeholders" section of the FEMP Web site (<http://www.fernalld.gov>).



### CRO Grant Award

*From left, Dr. David McWilliams, CRO chair, and Mike Dermer, DOE Ohio Field Office, shake hands after signing the \$150,100 start-up grant for the Fernald CRO. CRO member Ken Moore and DOE-FEMP Director Jack Craig observe. DOE convened the CRO in August 1996 to provide recommendations on social and economic development issues resulting from downsizing at the FEMP (6577-6).*

## **Soils, Water, Disposal Facility Subjects at May 27 Public Workshop**

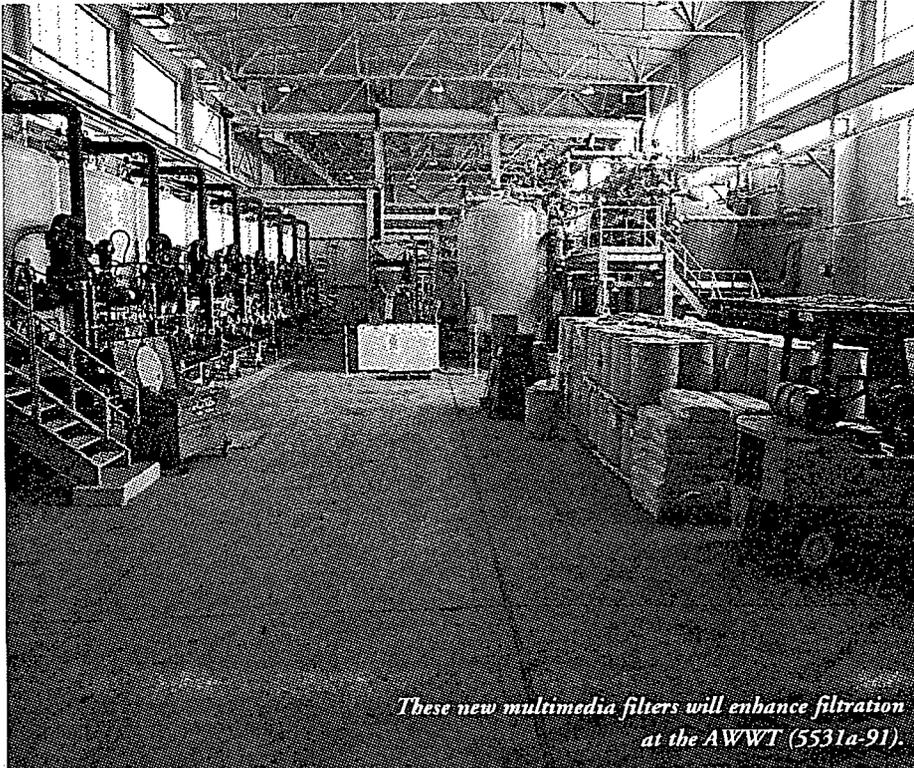
On May 27, DOE will hold a public workshop at the Plantation, 9660 Dry Fork Road, Harrison, to discuss progress and issues regarding the FEMP soils, water and On-Site Disposal Facility. For more information, please call DOE-FEMP Public Information Officer Gary Stegner, 513-648-3153, or visit the "Stakeholders" section of the FEMP Web site (<http://www.fernald.gov>).

## **Native American Remains to be Buried on FEMP Property**

On May 25, Native American remains found in 1994 during routine cultural resource surveys to support the Public Water Supply Project will be buried on FEMP property. All parties involved agreed the remains should be buried on FEMP property to ensure long-term protectiveness. The remains are currently in DOE's possession.

DOE is completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation requirements for the project. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was originally available for public review in November 1995, pursuant to the NEPA public involvement requirement. Since then, DOE has held numerous discussions with key stakeholders regarding the Native American remains.

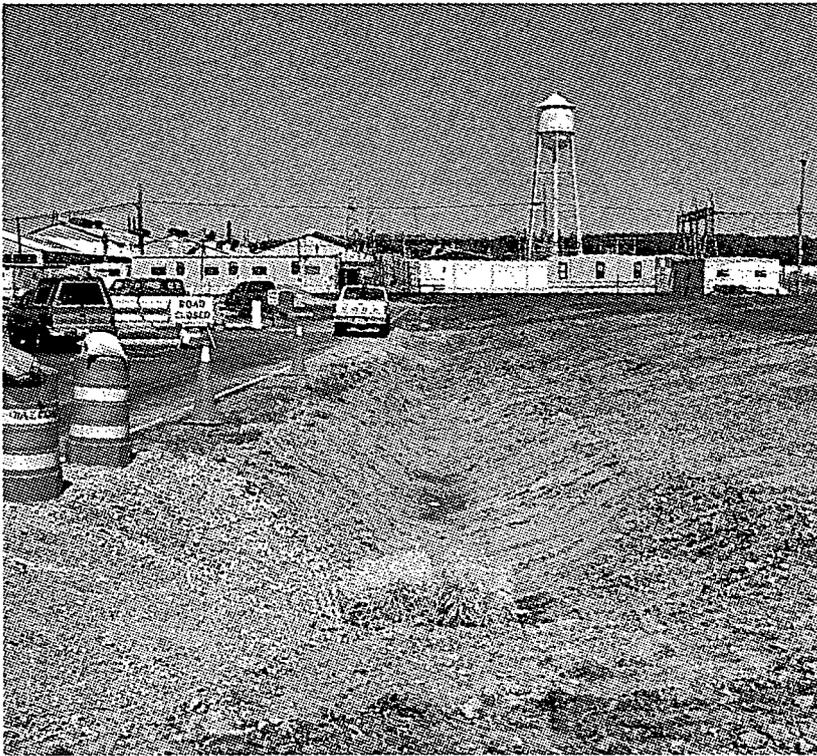
On March 14, the EA was finalized, and the DOE Ohio Field Office signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), identifying on-property reburial as the selected path forward. The EA and FONSI were sent to key stakeholders, the Native American tribes and groups involved and are available at the Public Environmental Information Center, 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Road, Harrison, OH (phone: 513-738-0164). Any questions regarding this process should be directed to DOE-FEMP Public Information Officer Gary Stegner, 513-648-3153.



*These new multimedia filters will enhance filtration at the AWWT (5531a-91).*

## **FEMP Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility Being Expanded**

The FEMP's Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWWT) Facility is being expanded to increase its treatment capacity from approximately 1,100 gallons of water per minute to approximately 2,600 gallons per minute. This expansion will comply with the Operable Unit 5 record of decision commitment to attain the 20 parts per billion total uranium discharge limitation criterion to the river by Jan. 1, 1998. The project is expected to be completed in February 1998. The AWWT is dedicated to treating extracted groundwater.



*This is a view of the east parking lot after Stormwater Runoff Diversion Project construction was completed (6557-11).*

## Stormwater Runoff Diversion To Maximize AWWT Capacity

To maximize the AWWT's capacity and performance, nonprocess water streams from the FEMP parking lots are being diverted from the FEMP's wastewater treatment systems to Paddys Run. This diversion will allow 12.6 million additional gallons of contaminated wastewater to be treated by the AWWT each year.

Currently, stormwater from the FEMP parking lots merges with more-potentially contaminated streams from the FEMP's former production area. The noncontaminated streams from the parking lots take up AWWT capacity which can be utilized for contaminated streams. FEMP Environmental Monitoring personnel will monitor the stormwater runoff regularly.

## Draft Final Document Available for Public Comment

DOE has revised the *Decision Methodology for Fernald Scrap Metal Disposition Alternatives* to simplify application of the methodology for future decontamination and dismantlement projects and to reflect stakeholder comments. Renamed the *Draft Final Decision Methodology for Fernald Material Disposition Alternatives*, the document is now available in the Public Environmental Information Center, 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Road, Harrison, OH, 513-738-0164.

### Submit oral or written comments on the revised methodology to:

Gary Stegner  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Fernald Environmental Management Project  
P.O. Box 538705, Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705  
(phone: 513-648-3153).

*The public can also submit comments by accessing the document in the "Stakeholders" section of the FEMP Internet Web site (<http://www.ferald.gov>).*



*Fernald Community Involvement Team members Don Goetz and Norma Creek dig a hole, where a tree is to be placed (6573-41).*

## FEMP Volunteers Spruce Up Miami Whitewater Forest Soccer Complex

On April 26, as part of the Adopt-A-Park effort, 51 FEMP employees, their family members and friends helped spruce up the Miami Whitewater Park Soccer Complex, located outside Miamitown on State Route 128. Because the soccer complex is newly constructed, there were many natural beautification tasks awaiting the FEMP volunteers. By the end of the day, they had planted 122 trees and plants and mulched 5,000 square feet of landscaping beds.

Among the FEMP volunteers was Tracy Shepherd and Gwen Knox, who work in the Facilities Closure and Demolition Project (FC&DP). Both Shepherd and Knox are five-time Adopt-A-Park volunteers. "It's fun. It's a good time to be with your coworkers and accomplish something and give back to the community," Shepherd said.

Also a participant in the local Big Sister program, Knox brought her "little sister" Saeda Wilson, who volunteered to help. "It's something we can do together and that actually matters to us," Knox said.

Amy Hurrell, FC&DP Division, brought her daughter Shelby, 4, to help with the Adopt-A-Park effort. Hurrell said Shelby passes the soccer complex every day on her way to day care. "When she'll drive by here with her dad or somebody, she can say, 'Hey, I helped plant those trees.'"

Shelby said the part she liked best was "finding pretty rocks."

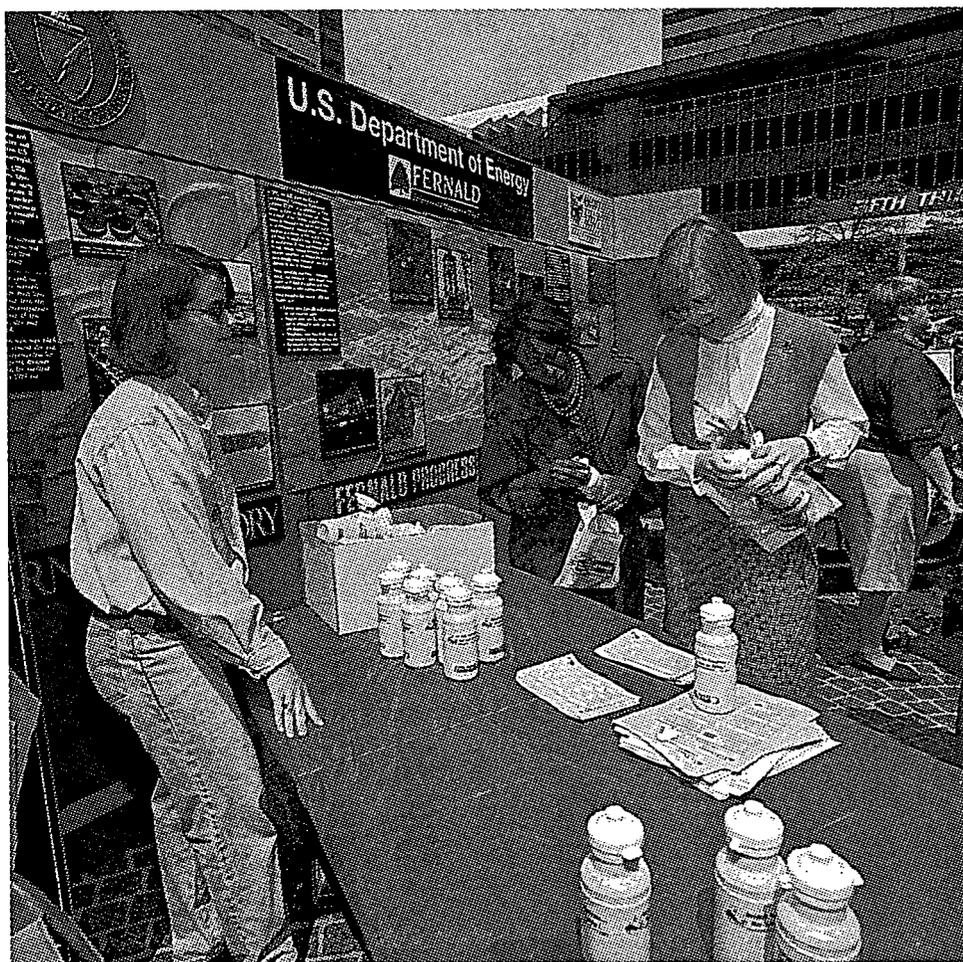
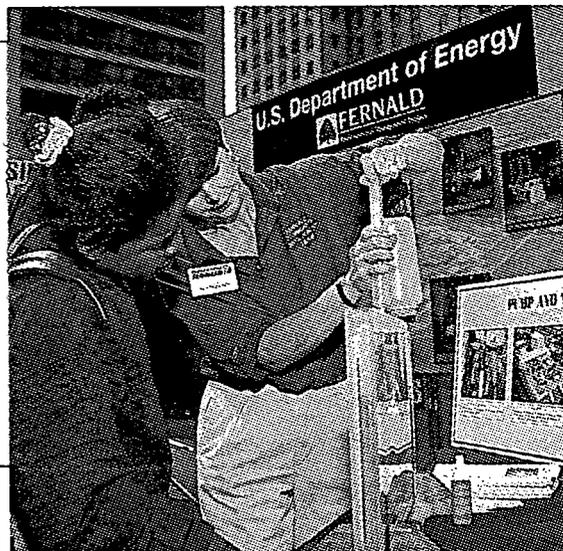
Kathy Fritts, Oversight and Program Integration Division, led the FEMP's spring Adopt-A-Park volunteer effort. "The park is close to my home; it's right up my alley," Fritts said.

Complimenting the FEMP volunteers, Al Gross, a Miami Whitewater Park worker, said, "It's hard to believe people will come out and donate their time. It's really made a big difference down here."

## FEMP Participates in Earth Day Celebration

On April 22, the 27th anniversary of Earth Day, Cincinnati celebrated the event on Fountain Square, downtown. During the celebration and its theme "Changing Perceptions," environmental groups, government agencies, businesses and citizens of all ages actively promoted the beauty and quality of life in the area. The FEMP participated in the event by providing an interactive display which explained the history, progress and future of the site; the Aquifer Restoration Project; and the site's recycling, waste minimization and pollution prevention initiatives.

*Right: Fluor Daniel Fernald team member Sue Walpole coordinated the FEMP's participation in Earth Day festivities at Fountain Square. Here she simulates how water migrates through several layers in the ground, as it does before reaching the Great Miami Aquifer (6571-9).*



*FEMP Recycling Team member Alisa Rhodes hands out water bottles to people who visit the FEMP Earth Day display at Fountain Square (6571-9).*

## FEMP Programs Make Difference in Lives of Local Youth

This month, the Clinton Administration announced an initiative to improve the lives of at least two million of America's poor children by the end of 2000. Federal agencies have been asked to review their policies and programs affecting young children, based on the following objectives: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult, such as a mentor, tutor or coach; safe places and structured activities during nonschool hours to learn and grow marketable skills through effective education; a healthy start; and an opportunity to give back to the community. Though the school year ends and summer begins, planning ways for FEMP programs and resources to benefit area students is a year 'round effort.

### Education Outreach Is Year 'Round Effort

Since 1992, FEMP education outreach programs have reached thousands of teachers and students, increasing public awareness, knowledge and understanding of the environmental restoration and remediation activities conducted at the site. The goal is to empower all citizens to become science-literate participants in the FEMP decision-making process.

Three FEMP education programs put employee volunteers in touch with students during the school year. Partnership In Education is an after-school science enrichment program the FEMP sponsors with two local schools. Environmental Explorers helps youth gain practical experience in a career, special interest or skill related to the FEMP cleanup. Through Junior Achievement, volunteers go to classrooms to educate and inspire students to value free enterprise, understand business and economics and become work-force-ready. The FEMP also recently established education/business partnerships with Northwest High School and Covedale Elementary School.

*Below: David Broach, Fluor Daniel Fernald Quality Assurance and Training Department, shows members of the Fernald Environmental Science Explorers Post the proper technique to remove personal protective equipment (6581-4).*



### STEPS Leads Toward Developing Work Force for the Future

New projects aimed at developing marketable skills for a future work force are underway. These programs are part of the FEMP's new Successful Teaming for Educational Partnerships in Science (STEPS) Program. New programs under this initiative include: school-to-work programs; school/business partnerships; updating equipment, providing teacher development, and supporting new curriculum initiatives to help Ross Local School District and Southwest School District students achieve high science proficiency skills and scores; shadowing programs; and career days.

### Corporate Giving Yields High Returns

Through a corporate giving program, the FEMP supports Lighthouse Youth Services, which are available to young people during nonschool hours, and the YMCA Scholarship Fund. The FEMP also participates in after-school enrichment programs that bring students together for education beyond classroom lessons. FEMP personnel are also involved in an effort to establish a new YMCA within a 5-mile radius of Fernald.

For more information about FEMP community service and education outreach programs, visit the "Stakeholders" section of the FEMP Web site (<http://www.fernalld.gov>), or call DOE-FEMP Public Information Director Gary Stegner, 513-648-3153.

## Students Explore Careers at Fernald Post

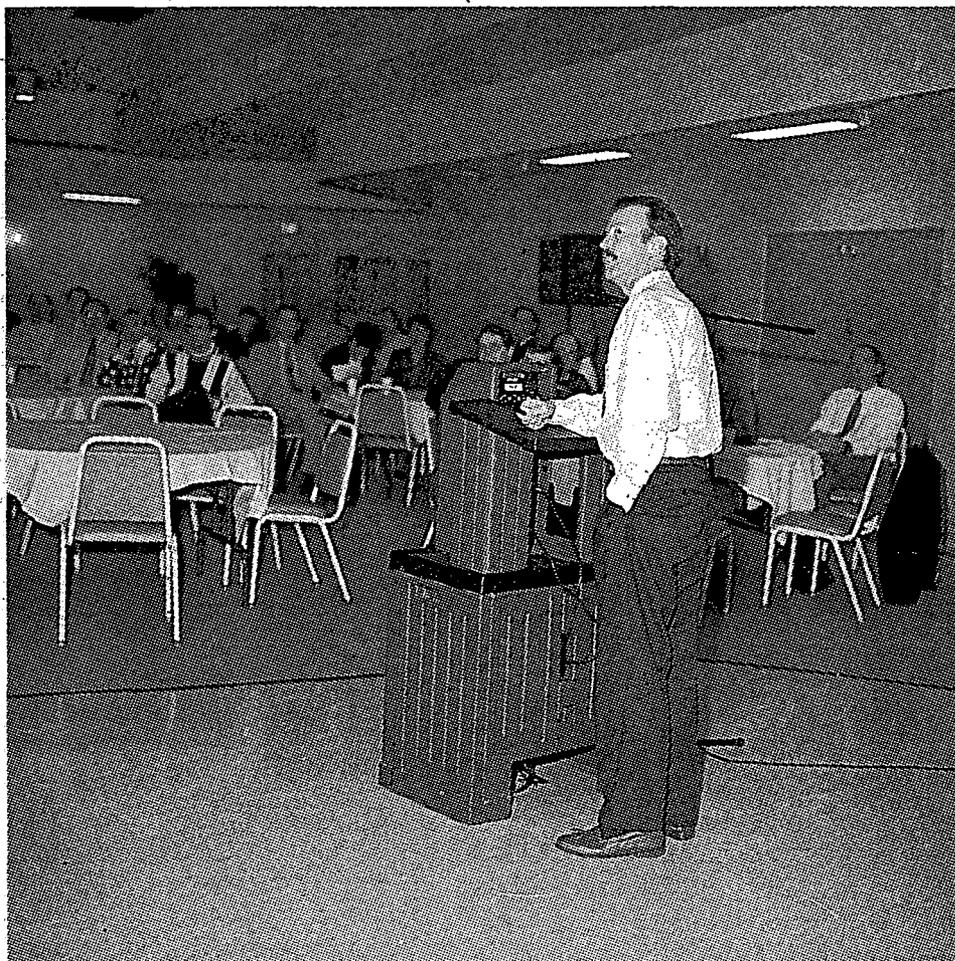
"What do you want to be when you grow up?" As members of the Fernald Environmental Careers Explorer Post, 24 area students wrestled with that question. For the first time, an Environmental Explorers Post was established at the FEMP to involve young men and women in gaining practical experience in careers, special interests, or skills related to the activities taking place at the FEMP.

Throughout the school year, students met with various FEMP employees and explored careers in fields such as chemistry, geology, archeology, nuclear science and computers. The students ranged in ages from 14 to 18, and they represented six local high schools: Ross, Harrison, Fairfield, Princeton, Lakota, and Talawanda. Although females are historically under represented in this field of study, there were more females than males in the Fernald Environmental Explorer Post. The FEMP will sponsor a new group of students in its explorer post next fall.

## DOE Holds Community Meeting to Update Stakeholders

Eighty people attended the DOE community meeting on April 15 at the Plantation. During the meeting, DOE Director Jack Craig gave a brief update on the report recently released by the General Accounting Office and the path forward for the FEMP Silos Project.

Representatives from U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, the Fernald Citizens Task Force, the Fernald Community Reuse Organization and FRESH gave updates. After the presentations and updates, time was allotted for the public to ask questions or make comments. A transcript of the meeting is available at the Public Environmental Information Center, 513-738-0164.



*At the April 15 community meeting, DOE Associate Director Johnny Reising gave a presentation on the cleanup progress that has occurred at the FEMP during the past six months (6566-3).*

## Task Force to Help Determine Silos Project Path Forward

On Saturday, May 10, the Fernald Citizens Task Force held its regular bimonthly meeting, discussing budget and schedule issues pertaining to FEMP, as well as aspects of the Silos Project path forward. The DOE-FEMP has specifically requested the task force to assist in evaluating options for the Silos Project cleanup. The task force's Waste Management Committee has already begun defining its role in helping DOE and the community to determine the path forward for the Silos Project cleanup.



*The future of the Vitrification Pilot Plant (above) and vitrification technology at the FEMP are being considered (6385-415).*

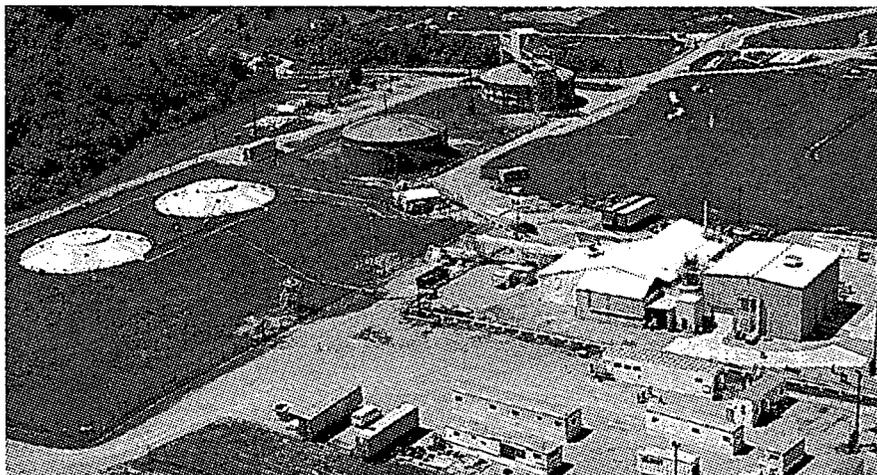
## Public Workshop Focuses on Silo 3

On May 14, approximately 70 people attended DOE's public workshop on the Silo 3 remediation path forward.

Fluor Daniel Fernald Director of Strategic Planning Terry Hagen presented the proposed public involvement and decision-making process for the remediation of Silo 3. He said DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald want work hand-in-hand with stakeholders to identify the best treatment technology/performance criteria for Silo 3.

Hagen said the FEMP will identify and screen stabilization technologies focusing on implementability, effectiveness, and cost issues. Once the alternatives are narrowed, additional discussions and public workshops will focus on educating people in more detail about the selected technologies.

Hagen presented the Silo 3 Record of Decision (ROD) modification process, proposing that the FEMP implement an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) Process. If a ROD modification process is necessary, public comment periods will be conducted, and DOE will respond in writing to comments before finalizing an ESD and draft Request for Proposal.



*During the next few months, DOE will hold a series of workshops to discuss the remediation of Silos 1 and 2, with the white domes, and Silo 3.*

Fluor Daniel Fernald Silos Project Manager Don Paine explained the technology and screening factors examined during the selection process, as well as the advantages and disadvantages associated with each alternative. He also identified the proposed technologies DOE and Fluor Daniel hope to carry forward for detailed evaluation:

- Cement Stabilization/Solidification,
- Polymer (Micro) Encapsulation,
- Sulfur/Polymer Encapsulation.

## Next Silos Project Workshop Is On June 16

DOE will hold the next Silos Project public workshop on June 16 at 7 p.m. The location will be announced in post cards; on the FEMP's Community Access Line 513-648-6272; and in "Public Involvement Calender" in the "Stakeholders" section of the FEMP Web page <http://www.fernald.gov>). The workshop transcript and meeting handouts are available at the PEIC, 10845 Hamilton Cleves Highway; 513-738-0164.

femp waste  
**Shipping Report**

The volume, in cubic feet (cf), of low-level radioactive waste shipped to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) for April 1997 was 56,420 (external). As of April 25, 1997, the FEMP had shipped 180,140 cf (external) of low-level radioactive waste to NTS for fiscal year (FY) 1997.

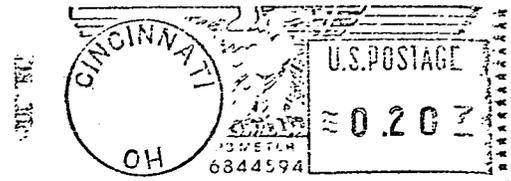
Low-level radioactive waste volume reduction includes approximately 3,109 containers of legacy low-level uranium residue and 3,991 containers of thorium oxalates/hydroxides identified in *FY 1996 Inventory Reduction Plan for Legacy Wastes at the FEMP*. During fiscal year 1997, efforts are being directed toward reducing legacy uranium residue and asbestos inventories and the thorium oxalate/hydroxide inventory in Building 65.

*The volume of low-level waste materials per waste stream shipped to NTS in April 1997 follows:*

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>External Volume (cf)</b>
Process Area Scrap	14,918
Thorium	19,128
Residues	12,204
Contaminated Trash	2,522
Construction	4,047
Stabilized Mixed Waste	2,800

*The volume of low-level waste materials per waste stream shipped to NTS in FY 1997 (as of April 25, 1997) follows:*

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>External Volume (cf)</b>
Process Area Scrap	16,027
Thorium	85,572
Residues	55,238
Contaminated Trash	10,089
Construction	8,174
Stabilized Mixed Waste	5,040



**Fernald Report**

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