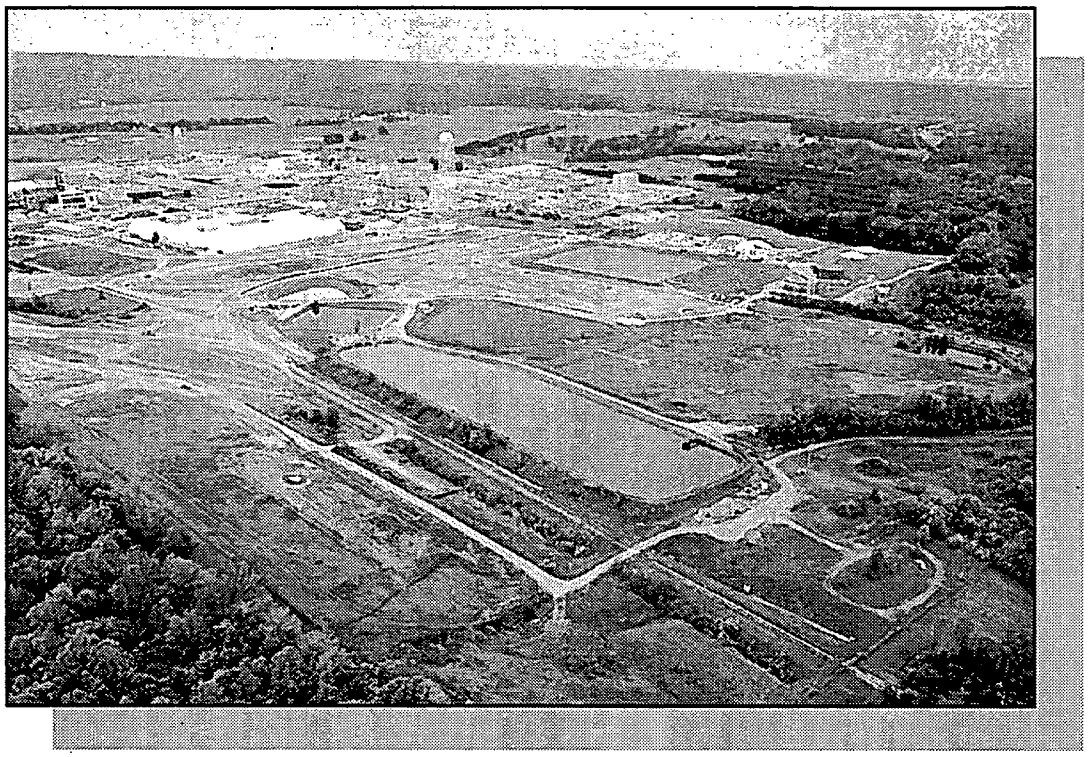
Fact Sheet

Fernald Waste Pits Remedial Action Project



Fernald's six waste pits range in size from one to five acres (a football field is about one acre) and vary in depth from 10 feet to 40 feet. About a million tons of contaminated soils and waste materials will be treated for disposal (6600-35).

Description

The Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP) at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Fernald Environmental Management Project is part of Operable Unit 1 (OU1), one of five areas designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as requiring remediation. Located in the northwest portion of the site, OU1 is a 37-acre area containing six waste pits, burn pit, the Clearwell, miscellaneous structures, facilities and soil. Waste pit materials are low-level radioactive wastes derived from the refining and metallurgical processing of uranium ore concentrates and thorium over a 37-year period.

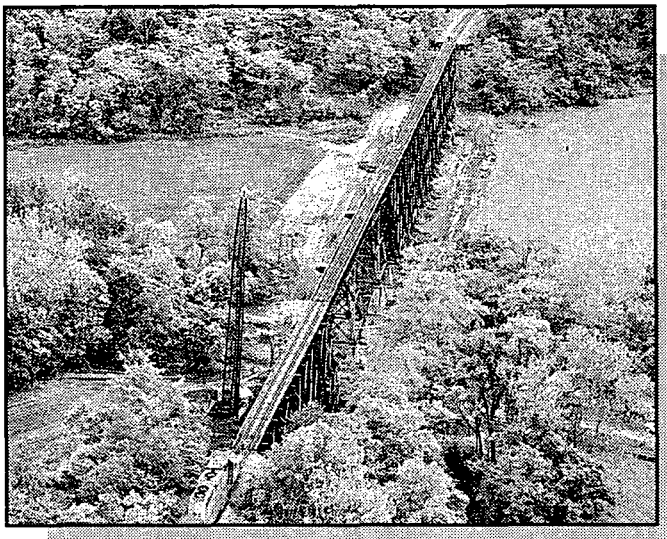
Cleanup Plan

On March 1, 1995—after extensive public participation—the DOE and the EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD) identifying the selected remedial action for OU1. This document also acknowledges and responds to stakeholders' comments about various cleanup alternatives considered during the review period. The selected cleanup remedy includes the following activities:

1) Excavation of wastes from the pits, including any residual contaminated soils beneath;
2) Preparation of the wastes, such as sorting,crushing,shredding;
3) Treatment by thermal drying, if needed, to meet the disposal facility's requirements;

4) Blending to achieve a uniform product and then placement into railcars;
5) Rail transportation from the Fernald site; and
6) Disposal at an off-site facility in accordance with the ROD.

The EPA requires that DOE begin operations, such as the loading of waste, no later than March 1999, and complete operations, including decontamination and dismantling (D&D), by May 2005.



In preparation for safe transport of WPRAP wastes, Fernald upgraded the Okeana Trestle and other trestles along the transportation route (6600-95).

Fluor Daniel Fernald, the cleanup contractor, is accountable to DOE for ensuring off-site transportation and disposal of the waste at the chosen facility. To complete the first four activities, Fluor Daniel Fernald awarded a $122-million, eight-year subcontract to International Technology (IT) Corporation in October 1997. The subcontract is structured to place more performance responsibility on the subcontractor, so IT must finance its own construction and capital investment expenses up-front. Fluor Daniel Fernald will pay IT on a per ton basis for treated wastes safely loaded into the railcars, ready for transportation to the disposal facility.

The responsibilities of IT also include: design and construction of the remediation (treatment) facilities; facility testing, operations and maintenance; above-ground D&D of the treatment facilities; sampling and analysis; and preparation of regulatory documentation.

Representatives from the Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council and the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council are included on the cleanup team. Under their labor agreements with Fluor Daniel Fernald, they will provide the manpower for waste excavation, construction, treatment, and railcar loading operations.

Located along the northwest boundary of the Fernald site, Shandon Yard is the switch yard which joins Fernald's rail line to the CSX branch line (6803-16).

For More Information...

More information about this and other Fernald cleanup projects is available in the Public Environmental Information Center at 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway (Delta Building), or on Fernald's Web site address: www.fernald.gov. Stakeholders can also learn about cleanup plans and progress at Fernald's monthly Cleanup Progress Briefings held on the second Tuesday of each month.

For specific questions about WPRAP activities, call Dave Lojek, DOE-Fernald project manager at (513) 648-3127, or send an e-mail to: dave_lojek@fernald.gov.

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