fernald Report

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March 2000

message from
Jack Craig

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Fernald Hosts DOE Summit

Last Month the Fernald Environmental Management Project hosted the 17th Ohio Field Office Summit. The meeting is held every quarter and includes representatives from Miamisburg, West Valley, Columbus, Ashtabula and Fernald to discuss cleanup progress at each site and review programs for cutting costs and reducing schedule. Of particular interest at this meeting was the deployment of technologies at each of the field office sites. Ohio Field Office Manager Susan Brechbill is a firm believer in using technology to improve the safety and efficiency of our work during active remediation and for long-term monitoring once a site has been closed. The discussions during the meeting focused on the deployments of groundwater re-injection, oxygen-gasoline torch, personal ice-cooled suits and real-time soil monitoring. These technologies have all been used at Fernald to improve worker safety and increase productivity. The torch and the cool suit have also been deployed throughout DOE and commercially. Long-term monitoring technologies are being developed for the On-Site Disposal Facility. Here at Fernald, data-collection and interpretation instruments will need to be working long after the cleanup is complete to monitor air around the cell and the leachate that is collected beneath the facility. Stakeholders including members of our Site Technology Coordination Group and the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board have played a key role in identifying technology needs and deployment opportunities.

Next month, Fernald has been asked to display its technology development and deployment successes during an exhibition in our nation's Capitol. Technology exhibits will be placed and staffed by Fernald and Ohio Field Office representatives in Senate and House office buildings to show the practical application of these technologies to Fernald's environmental restoration activities.

Jack Craig
Director, DOE-Fernald

On the cover: *A shear begins demolition of the old 750,000 gallon water storage tank that was once used for storage of the site's processed water. A total of 73 structures have been demolished since 1994 (7310-d105).*

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Silos Project Update

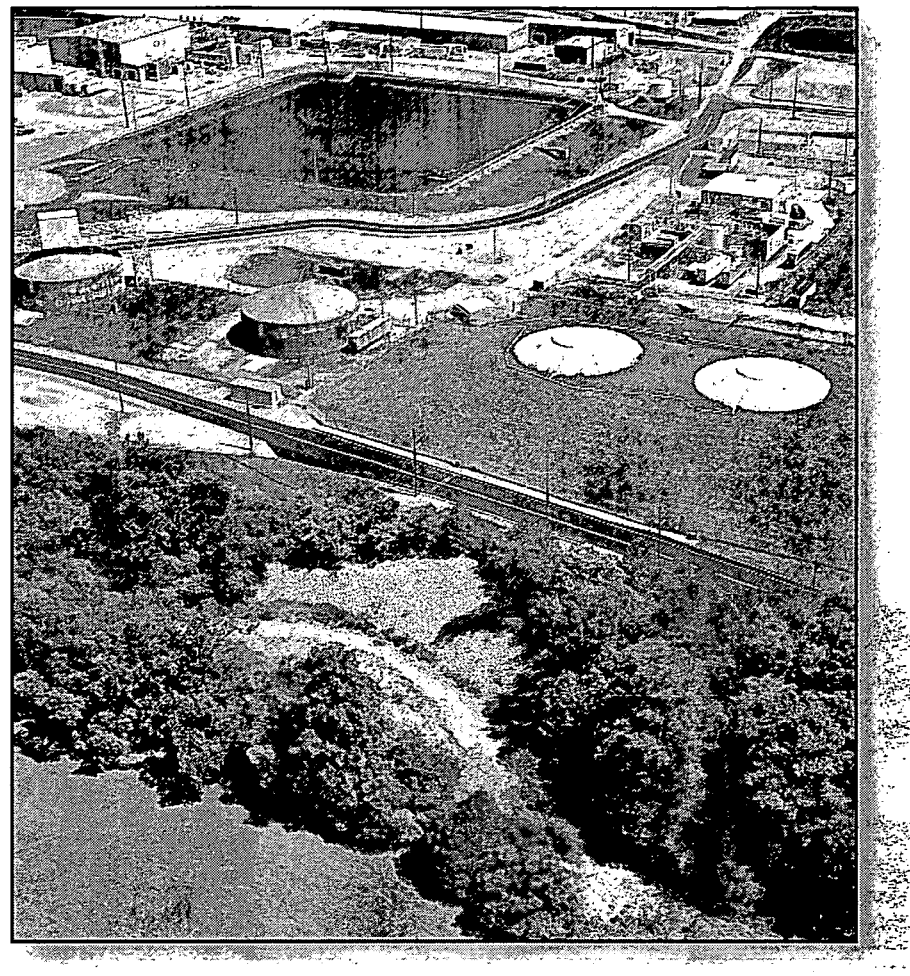
As the Silos Project prepares for field mobilization and cleanup, regular consultation with stakeholders and regulators becomes even more important. Recently, several documents and plans associated with the Silos Project have been submitted to Fernald's regulators, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ohio EPA for review and approval.

On Dec. 21, 1999, the draft *Revised Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan (FS/PP) for remediation of Silos 1 and 2* was submitted to the regulators. Initial comments have already been addressed. After the U.S. EPA's Remedy Review Board meets in mid-March, any final comments will be addressed and the draft final version of the document will be ready for release. The formal public comment period will last 45 days and feature public hearings locally and near the Nevada Test Site, where treated Silos 1 and 2 materials could be disposed.

On Dec. 29, 1999, the Remedial Design Package for the Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project was submitted to the regulators. The regulators are being asked to review, comment and approve the Site Preparation portion of this package in advance of the rest of the document. This early approval should enable the contractor, Foster Wheeler Environmental, to mobilize in the field for Site Preparation activities in the spring of 2000.

On March 2, 2000, the Site Preparation Package for Silo 3 was submitted for review and comment. Early review and approval of this package should allow the contractor, Rocky Mountain Remediation Services, to begin work in early summer.

Copies of the Silos documents are available in the Public Environmental Information Center, 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio, 513-648-7480.

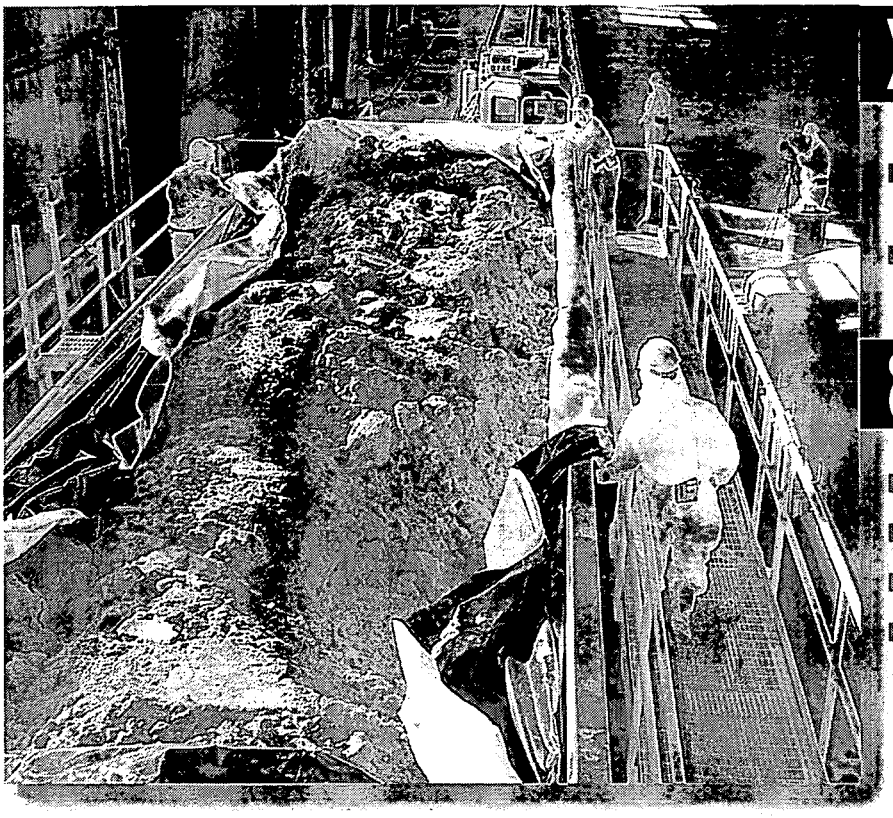


Above: An aerial view of Fernald's Silos Project (7213-140).

DOE issues Draft Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Department of Energy (DOE) plans to award a cost-plus-incentive-fee (CPIF) completion contract for environmental remediation and closure of the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). The objective of the procurement is to accelerate completion of the remediation, restoration and closure of the FEMP through both self-performance and the use of competitive subcontracting. The DOE issued the draft RFP on March 3, 2000 and hosted a tour of the site on March 21 for potential bidders. Further information on the draft RFP is available on the FEMP Source Evaluation Board (SEB) Web site at www.ohio.doe.gov/fernald. A copy of the draft RFP is available for review at the Public Environmental Information Center, 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio, 513-648-7480.

Cleanup **Progress** Update



Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP)

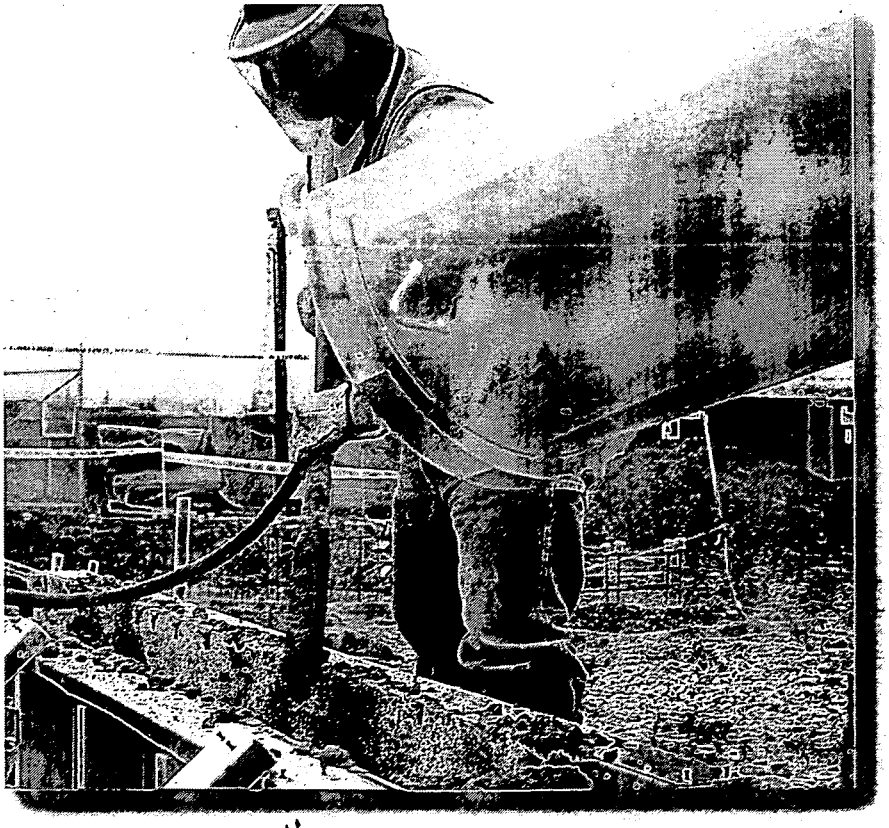
- Shipped train 19 to Envirocare of Utah (see Fernald Shipments section for details)
- Processed 6,623 tons of waste through two dryers

On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF)

- Resumed waste placement activities
- Initiated a study on the north entrance road
- Finalized the Borrow Area Strategy Report
- Completed final design on the Leachate Transmission System

Above:
Team members secure a disposable liner over a load prior to placing the lid on the railcar. The disposal liner is a barrier between the railcar and the pit material and aids in emptying the load (6944-d1029).

Right:
A laborer pours concrete for the OSDF wheelwashing unit. The unit is being enhanced to remove soil from tires prior to entering the Haul Road (6319-d2353).



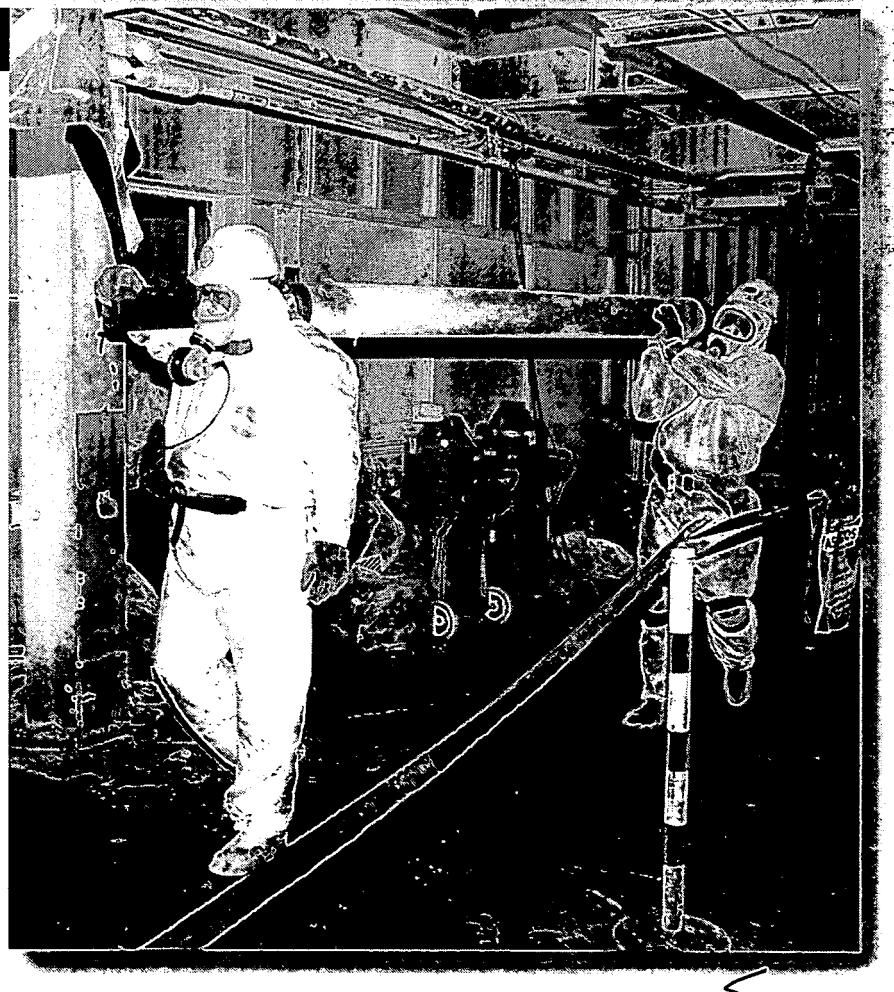
Demolition Projects

Decontamination & Dismantlement (D&D)

- Plant 5 Complex —
  - Continued asbestos abatement and interior transite removal in Plant 5
  - Began structural steel dismantlement and equipment removal in Building 5D
- Plant 6 Complex —
  - Completed the perched water protection
  - Continued utility installation and set-up of the wastewater collection system
- Maintenance/Tank Farm Complex —
  - Completed demolition of the Old Process Water Storage Tank

Silos Project

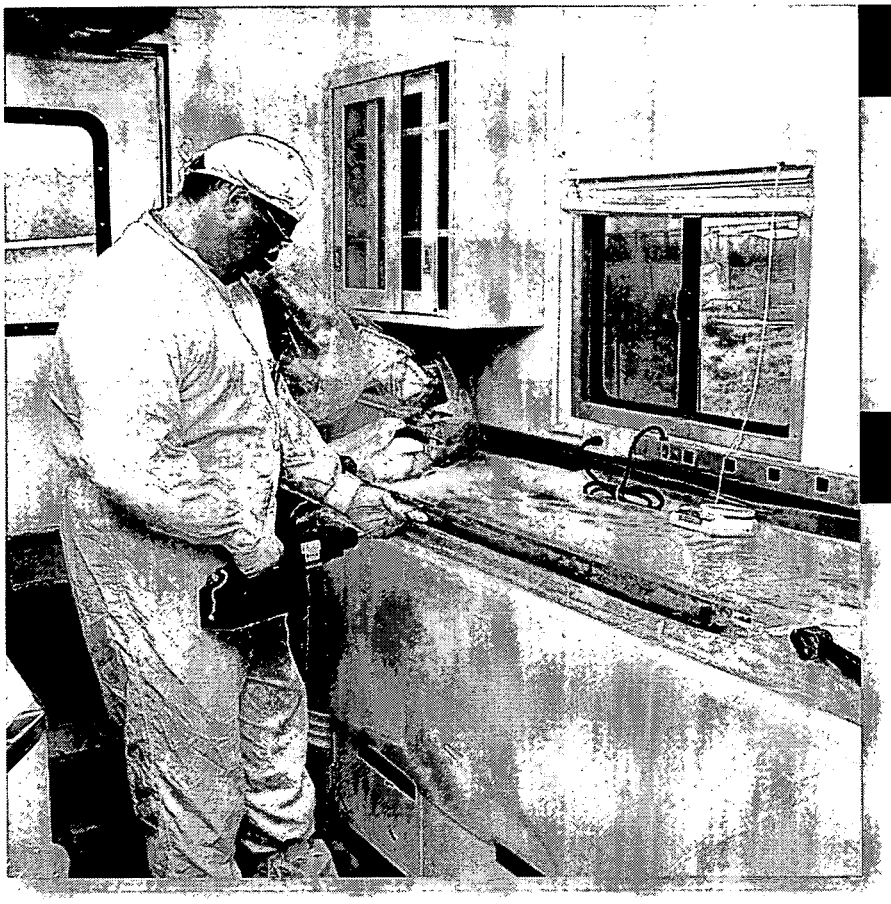
- Published *Commerce Business Daily* notice requesting expressions of interest in future Request for Proposal for Silos 1 and 2 Full-Scale Remediation Facility
- Prepared responses to comments from regulators on draft *Revised Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan (FS/PP) for Silos 1 and 2* and submitted revisions to regulators
- Conducted regulator and stakeholder briefings on Preliminary Design for Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project
- Submitted Silo 3 Project Site Preparation Package to regulators



Above: Workers transfer effluent water from the Plant 5 demolition project to the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility for processing (6401-d380).

Right: Asbestos workers transport a section of piping. The workers will wrap the pipe in plastic prior to final disposition (6401-d374).

Cleanup **Progress** Update



Aquifer Restoration/ Wastewater Project

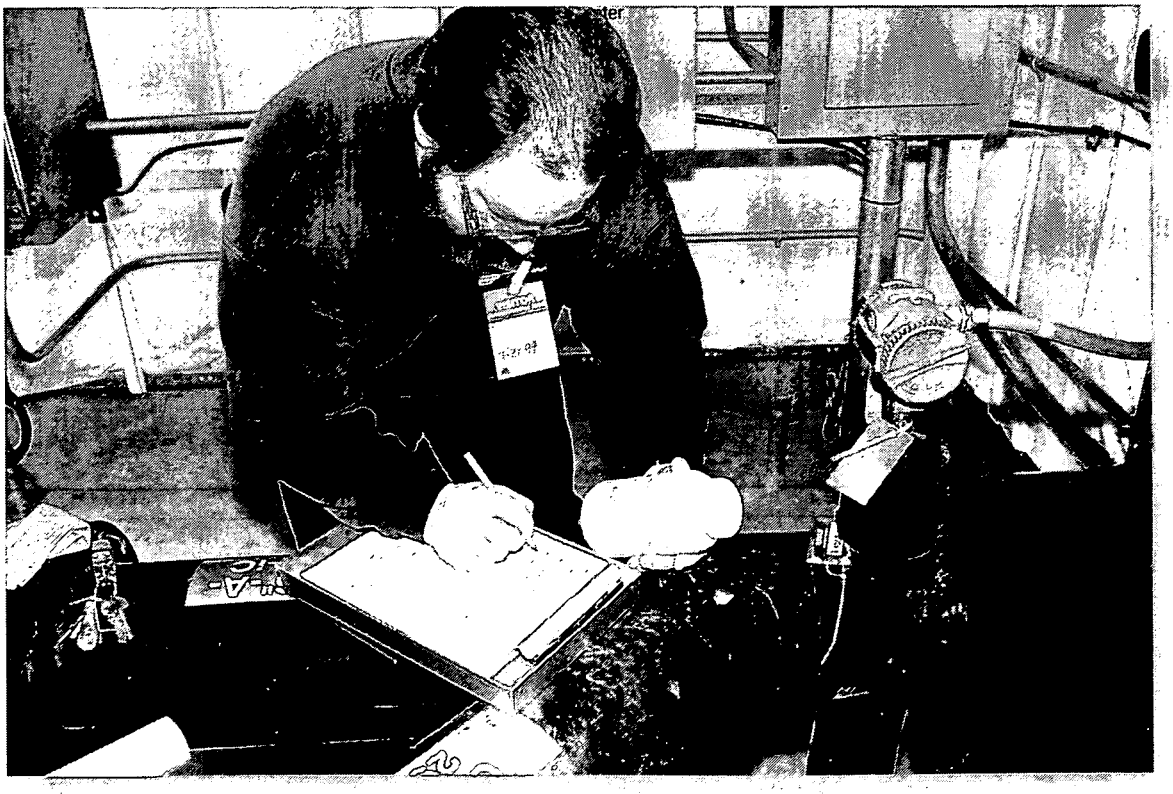
- Completed construction on the Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWWT) groundwater reroute project and the AWWT backwash reroute project
- Began operating two additional groundwater extraction wells

Soil Characterization and Excavation Project

- Resumed excavation of soil from the South Field
- EPA approved certification of Area 2 Phase III Part 1
- Conducting electromagnetic surveying and ground penetrating radar in Area 2 Phase I and Phase II
- Began earthwork and planting in Area 8 Phase II

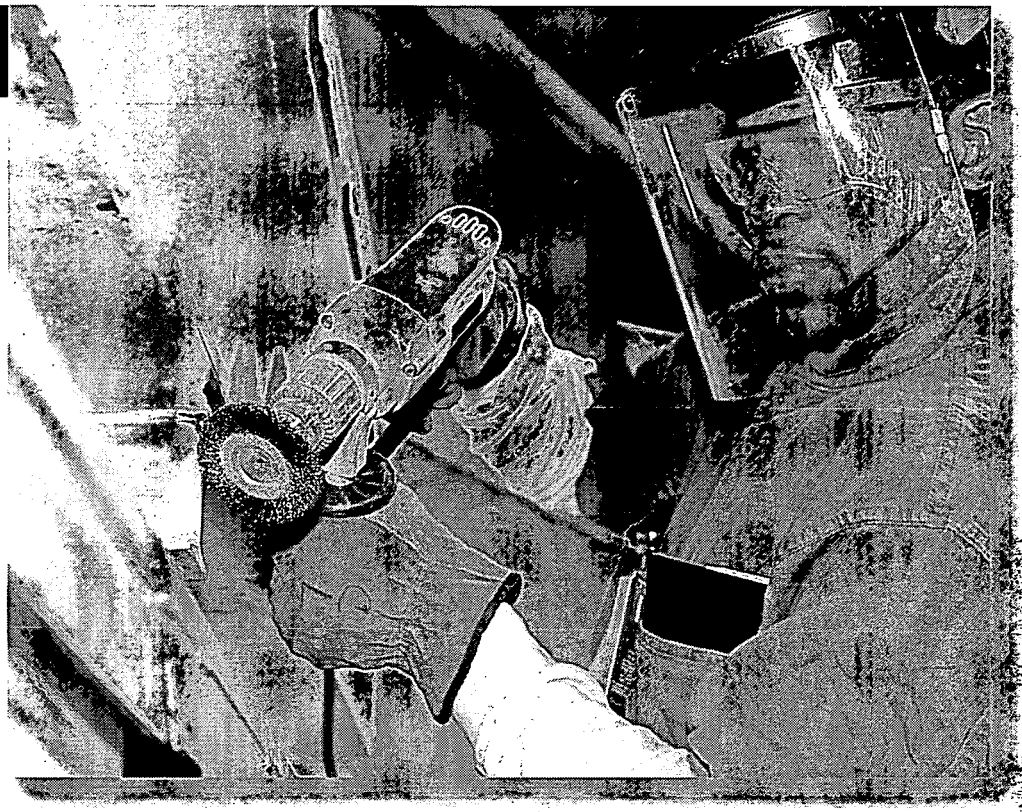
Top:
Soil sampling technician Bob Minges uses a photo ionizer detector to screen a soil sample for the presence of volatile organic chemicals (7298-d12).

Right:
Mike Stott, a sampling technician completes paperwork associated with a water sample. The paperwork is a critical step in the chain of custody and control for all water samples generated at the site (6860-d65).



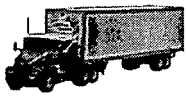
Waste Management Projects

- Nuclear Materials Disposition —
  - Completed overpacking of uranium cores and placement on wooden pallets



Right:
A team member grinds down an area of a half-high box prior to packaging. This will help prepare the container for future shipments (7315-d02).

Fernald Shipments — February-2000

Contents / Destination	Shipment Mode	No. of Shipments	Monthly Total	FY00 Total
Low-Level Waste (Nevada Test Site)		5	6,755 cu. ft.	6,755 cu. ft.
Liquid Mixed Waste - Toxic Substance Control Act Incinerator at Oak Ridge		0	0 gal.	0 gal.
Nuclear product/materials (Portsmouth)		0	0	1,455,393 net lbs. or 583.5 metric tons uranium
Waste Pits Project (Envirocare of Utah, Inc.)		1 unit train (60 railcars)	6,338 tons	59,701 tons (556 railcars)

Graphics # 5949

Soil excavation activities

During the winter shutdown months, surveying, mapping, sampling and certification of soils continued. By the end of February, 310 acres have been certified as meeting final cleanup levels.

Earthwork and construction activities have begun in the northwestern corner of the site along Paddys Run Road. Work included installing a gravel access road, developing a material handling area, vegetation planting, and slightly altering drainage patterns in preparation for ecological restoration of the area in the spring.

In March, debris from rolloff boxes in the transfer area was placed in Cell 3 of the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF) and excavation of contaminated soil and placement of the soil in the OSDF from the South Field area began. Approximately 70 cubic yards will be taken from the South Field.

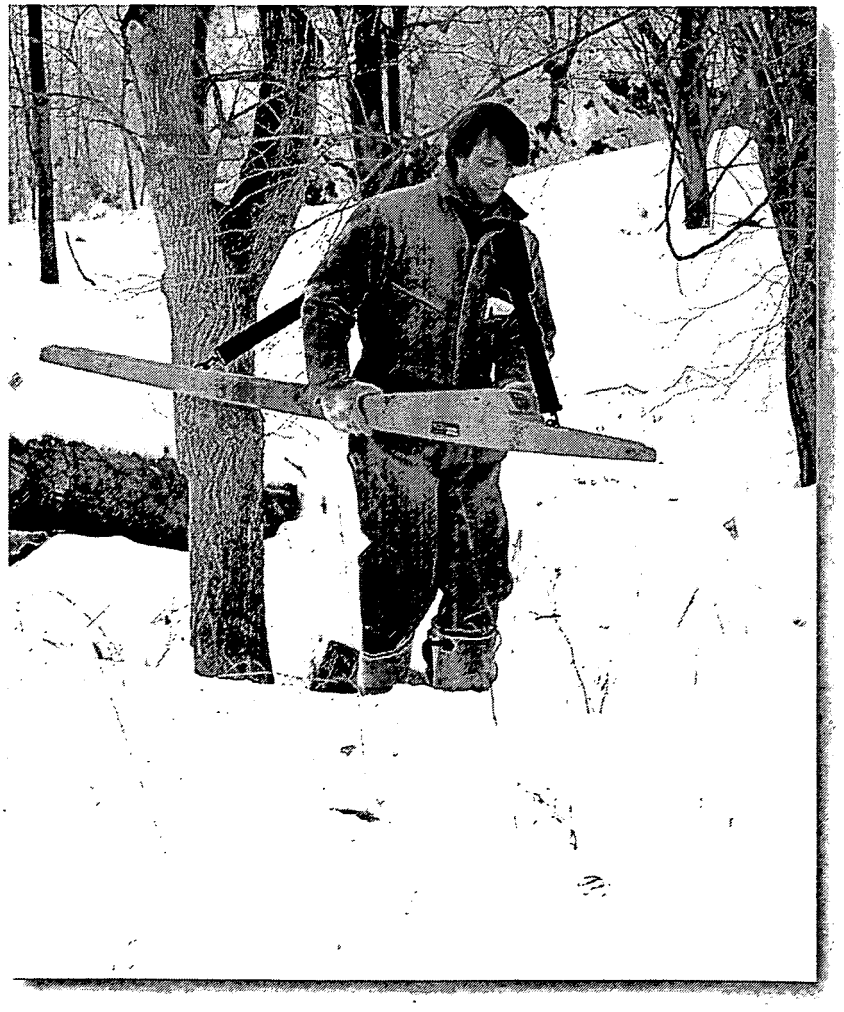
Left: A major natural resource restoration project is beginning in the northwest corner of the site. The project will include planting more than 1,700 trees and shrubs and designing of several wetlands and ponds (7213-121).

Technology aid detects underground objects

Geophysical testing is somewhat like using a metal detector only with a more technical application. Electromagnetic (EM) surveying and ground penetrating radar (GPR) are two exploration tools widely used to support environmental investigations of contaminated sites.

In part of the Southern Waste Units, field exploration surveys are being conducted using the EM and GPR to locate suspected areas of buried materials and underground utilities. Both units are proving to be effective tools for conducting subsurface soil investigations when used in combination with conventional site exploration tools. For example, depths of five feet to 35 feet can be "seen" with EM instrumentation. EM scanning has been used to locate buried reinforced concrete, 55-gallon drums and other metallic targets.

Right: Despite the snowy conditions Dave Grumman uses a surveying instrument to scan an area suspected of containing buried foreign materials. Historical knowledge, analysis and aerial photo interpretation are used in combination with EM to provide a better picture of subsurface features (7298-d08).



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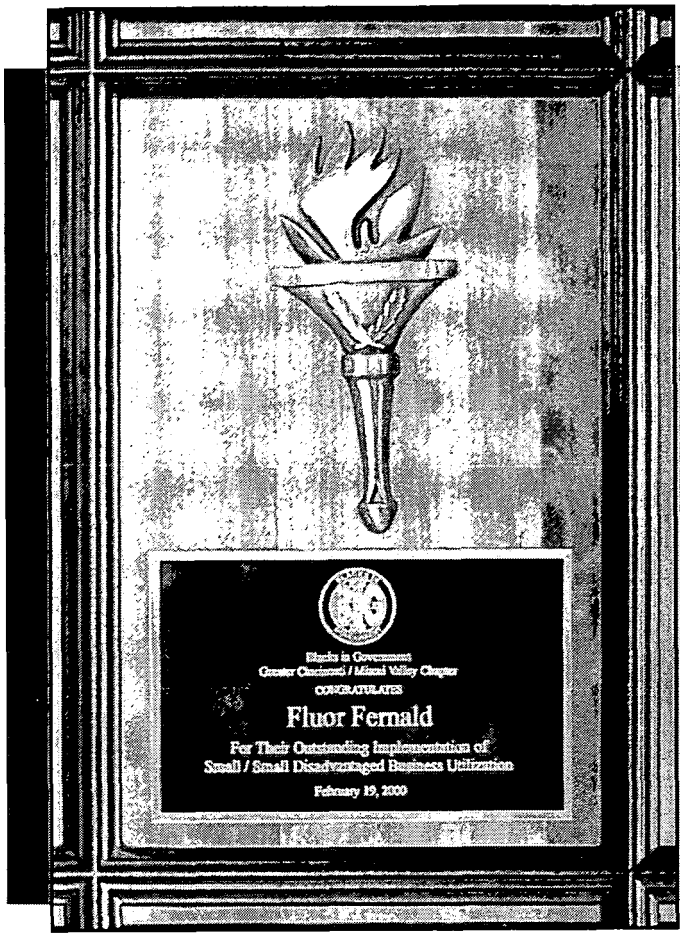


Fluor Fernald wins BIG

The Greater Cincinnati Miami Valley Chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) recently recognized Fluor Fernald, Inc. for its outstanding implementation of the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Program.

Fluor Fernald has exceeded its small and disadvantaged subcontracting goals every fiscal year since 1994.

John Bradburne, president and CEO of Fluor Fernald, said "Helping small and disadvantaged businesses succeed is the right thing to do not only for this project but for the economic impact that it has on our entire community."

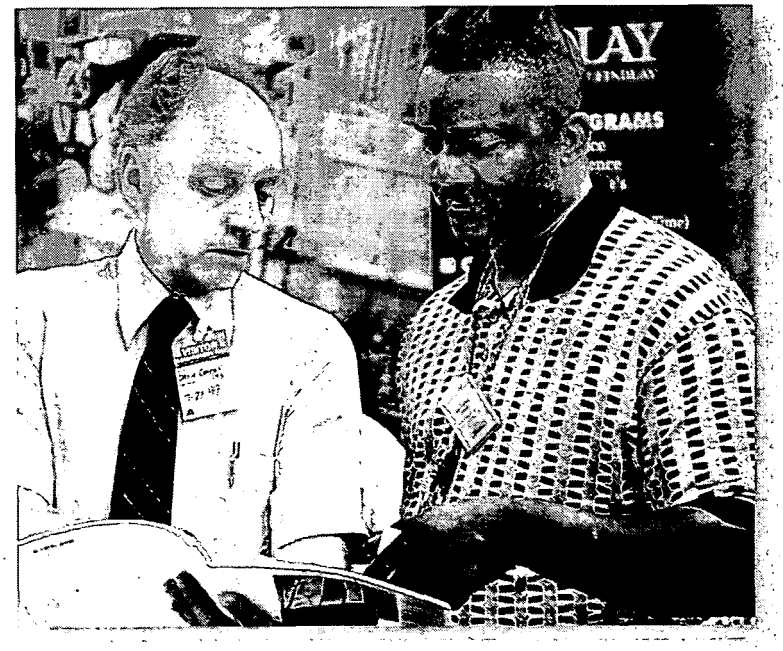
Fluor Fernald has been recognized in the past for its Mentor Protégé Program and as corporation of the year by the U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Minority Business Opportunity Committee, and the Cincinnati and Dayton Minority Supplier Development Council.

Workforce Development has regional voice

John Bradburne, president and CEO of Fluor Fernald, was recently appointed to the Southwestern Ohio Regional Workforce Policy Board. He will serve as a business representative to Butler County. The 26-member Board will coordinate the workforce development policy throughout Butler, Clermont, Warren, and Hamilton Counties, and the City of Cincinnati.

The federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 that was sponsored by Ohio Senator Mike DeWine required the designation of local workforce areas and the appointment of local Workforce Investment Boards to guide the development of workforce development plans and monitor their performance.

Bradburne and other board members will work to develop and submit a plan to Governor Taft by July 2000. The most positive feature of this Board is the ability of local elected officials, business leaders, educators, labor and consumers to focus and develop partnerships with other counties and cities to create regional solutions to local workforce development needs.



Above: A local area college representative assists a team member at a recent Fernald education fair. Fernald offers a tuition reimbursement program to help prepare team members in life after Fernald (7182-d10).

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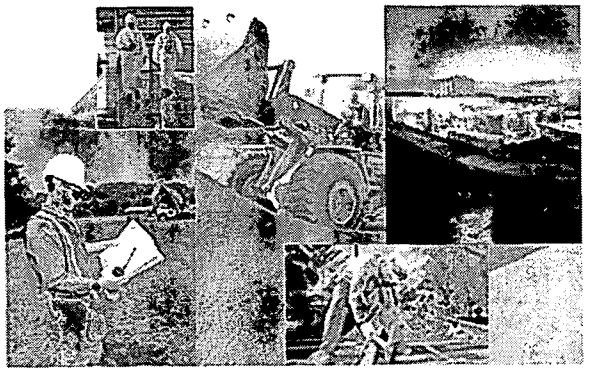
Fernald
Environmental Management Project



New Fernald Web site offers a tour of the cleanup

With more people turning to the Internet as a primary source of news and information, Fernald has updated its Web site (www.fernald.gov), with an emphasis on visual images of Fernald cleanup.

"Our goals were to simplify the Web site so stakeholders could access information quicker and easier, and include more photos and visual images of the cleanup projects," said Gary Stegner, DOE-FEMP Public Affairs Officer. Some of the enhancements include:

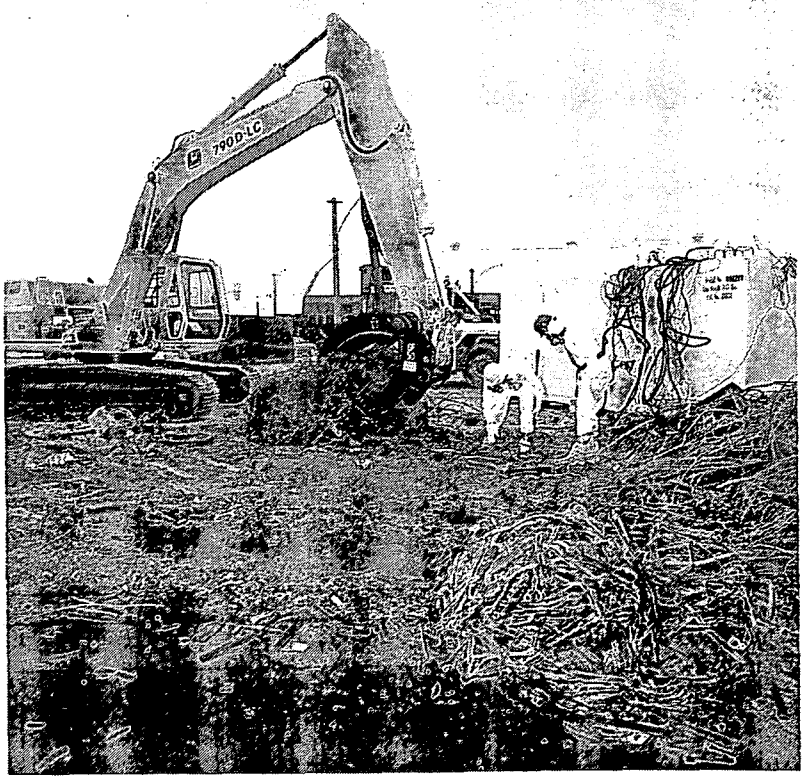
- photo/video tours of cleanup field work;
- a new Cultural Resources section, including current archaeological discoveries;
- off-site rail and truck transportation plans.

Fernald team wins DOE award

A copper recycling project that saved Fernald millions of dollars landed the Department of Energy's (DOE) 2000 Pollution Prevention Award. The DOE field offices in Ohio and Oak Ridge, Fluor Fernald and an Oak Ridge company worked together to develop an innovative recycling alternative for 1,340 tons of contaminated copper wire and windings. The program saved millions of dollars in disposal and cleanup costs and led to the establishment of a permanent metals treatment facility.

The copper wire was transferred to the East Tennessee Technology Park for decontamination and recycling by Decon and Recovery Services of Oak Ridge, Tenn. This collaborative project brought significant waste reduction and cost-savings benefit to the Fernald project. According to the proposal that was submitted for this award, the estimated quantity of waste for burial was 120,000 cubic feet. Under this recycle alternative, the quantity of waste was reduced to 8,000 cubic feet, saving Fernald $1.5 million in disposal costs and preserving valuable space at the Nevada Test Site. The Fernald site was also able to complete its copper remediation task six months earlier than scheduled.

This award also puts the Fernald site in the running for the prestigious "Closing the Circle White House Award" which recognizes federal employees and their facilities for efforts that significantly impact the environment.



Above: A dedicated team eliminated the copper pile six months ahead of schedule (5472-2).

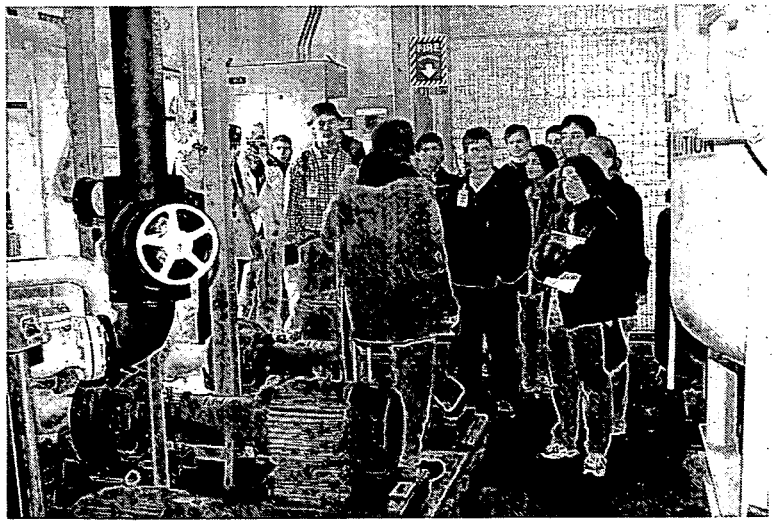
Recent Tours

The DOE Ohio Field Office Summit was held at Fernald in February. The two-day meeting allowed DOE and site contractor representatives to discuss several issues including safety, funding and long-term stewardship. Managing contractors from each of the five DOE sites gave project status reports.

Left: Representatives from Fernald, West Valley, Ashtabula, Miamisburg and Columbus attended the summit. The moderator was Susan Brechbill, Manager of the DOE Ohio Field Office (6810-d315).

Todd Ward, Governor Taft's Regional Economic Development representative, took a tour of Fernald. Ward has a particular interest in the workforce development program and the Community Reuse Organization.

Right: Dennis Carr (right), Fluor Fernald executive vice-president and Todd Ward discuss the strategy of the accelerated cleanup being conducted at Fernald (6810-d318).



Team member Cathy Glassmeyer takes students from Anderson High School on a tour of the South Plume Interim Treatment site. The class is part of a five school consortium studying aspects of Fernald's history and cleanup *(6810-d313).*

New documents added to the Public Environmental Information Center

The following information was added to the Public Reading Room, Administrative Record files and Post Record of Decision files at DOE's Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC):

- Waste Pits Remedial Action Project
  - OEPA Letter: Stockpile Amendment to Waste Pits Remedial Action Project Excavation Plan
- Soil Characterization & Excavation Project
  - USEPA Letter: Approval of the Construction Quality Assurance On-Site Disposal Facility Phase II Cell 3
  - OEPA Letter: Approval of the Permanent Leachate Transmission System
  - USEPA Letter: Area 8, Phase II Natural Resource Restoration
  - Project Specific Plan for Area 1, Phase II Certified for Reuse Areas, Trap Range, Sector 2C and Sector 3 Certification Sampling Revision 2
- Demolition Projects
  - USEPA Letter: Approval of the Extension Request for Maintenance/Tank Farm Complex Decontamination and Dismantlement
- Silos Project
  - OEPA Letter: Approval of the Revised Silos 1 & 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval Deliverables
  - USEPA Letter: Silo 3 Project Site Preparation Package
- Aquifer Restoration Project
  - September 1999 Operating Report for the Re-Injection Demonstration
  - USEPA Letter: Enhanced Permanent Leachate Transmission System
- Miscellaneous
  - USEPA Letter: Approval of the FEMP Master Plan for Public Use

Note: This does not represent the complete list of new documents added to the PEIC for the month of February. Contact the PEIC, 513-648-7480 for a complete list of new documents.

Fernald Report
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