fernald Report

Inside

- New Deputy in town
- 78 and counting
- That's really "cool"

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April 2000

message from
Susan Brechbill

-- 2951

Jack Craig named Ohio Field Office Technical Deputy Manager

Since I was the one who promoted him, I didn't want to put Jack in the awkward position of announcing his new role so I will do it myself. Jack has done an outstanding job at the Fernald Environmental Management Project over the past eleven years. He has moved up the ranks as a project manager. As many of you know he was heavily involved with the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. The results of that work helped shape the direction we are now following during the cleanup.

In 1995 Jack's hard work, experience and leadership ability were recognized as he was named DOE Director at Fernald. Under Jack's direction we have been able to accelerate the Fernald cleanup by developing a 10-year project completion baseline. We have established an effective public involvement program in which our stakeholders play a significant role in making decisions associated with the cleanup. He and his staff have worked tirelessly to raise the level of safety awareness and safety performance. The timing of which was especially critical since Fernald was just entering the heart of project remediation. In fact, earlier this year Fernald was recognized for reaching Integrated Safety Management status well ahead of Secretary Richardson's September 2000 deadline. Under Jack's direction Fernald is now pursuing Voluntary Protection Program status, which recognizes a site's overall safety program as being among the best in the industry.

It is clear that under Jack's leadership the Fernald Environmental Management Project has been taking the right steps toward a safe and efficient site cleanup. As the Technical Deputy Manager for the Ohio Field Office, which oversees Miamisburg, West Valley, Columbus and Ashtabula as well as Fernald, all will benefit from Jack's understanding of the issues and ability to execute plans. Jack will be responsible for managing the day-to-day technical operations for my office including directing, managing, and implementing waste management operations and environmental restoration and cleanup activities related to radioactive, hazardous and mixed waste.

Some stakeholders have expressed a concern about the possibility of losing Jack, and the impact that might have on Fernald. Let me assure you that he will still play a critical role at Fernald though his new position will require more travel to the Ohio Field Office in Miamisburg. What I am doing reflects what you have known for quite some time, Jack is a valuable asset to the Department. We need to make sure that good people are in key leadership roles. I look forward to Jack's expanded role on the Ohio Field Office Team.

Susan Brechbill
Manager, Ohio Field Office

On the cover: Two Fluor Fernald laborers plant one of the more than 1,700 trees and shrubs that are being placed in the northwest corner of t site as part of natural resource restoration (7321-d25).

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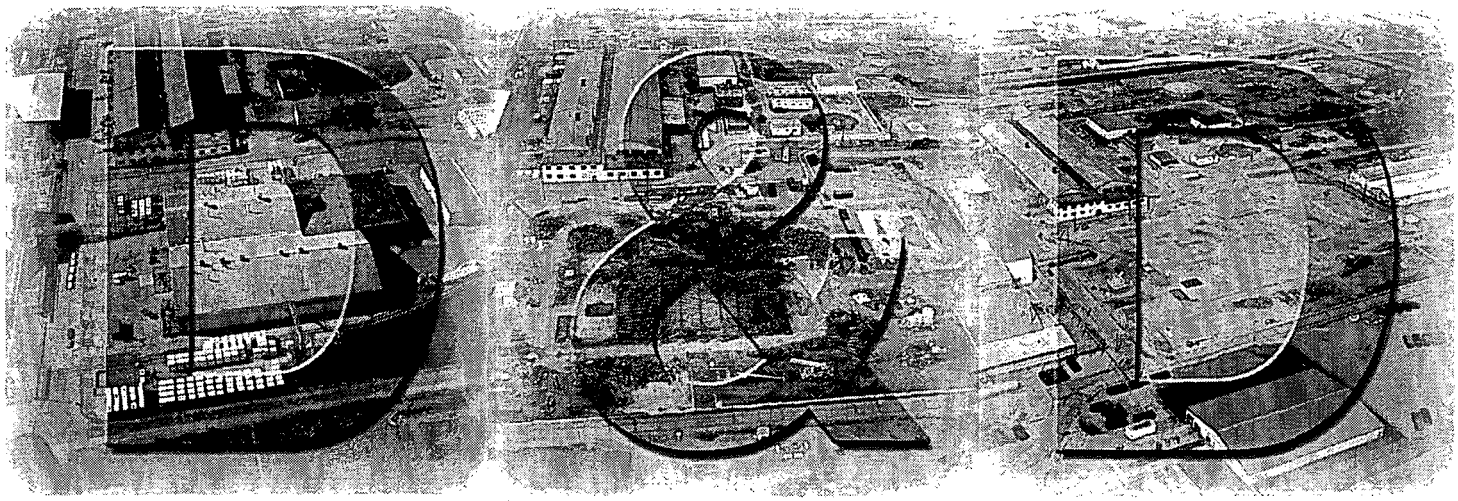

Decontamination and Dismantlement

When Fernald completed its uranium production mission in 1989, many production facilities, including process lines and equipment, still contained quantities of raw, intermediate and finished uranium products. In 1996, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy signed a Record of Decision to decontaminate and dismantle (D&D) former production facilities.

When the site began meaningful D&D work in 1994, there were more than 200 identified structures that needed to be taken down. Since then, 78 of the structures have been demolished. Of the 78 structures that have been removed, 16 were dismantled in 1999 and one in 2000. Every time a facility comes down at Fernald, it not only changes the look of the site, but is also a visible demonstration of progress being made.

In an ongoing effort to dismantle the site's major structures, Fluor Fernald awarded two significant contracts in 1999. The first contract was awarded to MACTEC, Inc. for the demolition of Plant 5, the former Metals Production Plant. The second was for Plant 6, the former Metals Fabrication Plant which was awarded to NSC, Inc. In addition to the major contracts, there were five task order assignments awarded to the local labor support group for the site's smaller demolition activities.

While some contracts were just being awarded in 1999, other major projects were coming to an end including the Thorium/Plant 9 Complex and the Maintenance Building/Tank Farm Complex project.

The Decontamination and Dismantlement Project will help ensure the site achieves its site closure goal by clearing the site so other projects can complete their cleanup missions.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Fernald Public Site Tour:
Tuesday, May 9, 2000 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
The tour will include all major cleanup projects with special emphasis on the Silos Project and ecological restoration. For more information or to register, call 513-648-5883 or email: jeannie.foster@fernald.gov

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Cleanup **Progress** Update

Above: A view of the Cell 2 catchment area. Bales have been placed around the cell to control sedimentation and prevent erosion (6319-d2370).

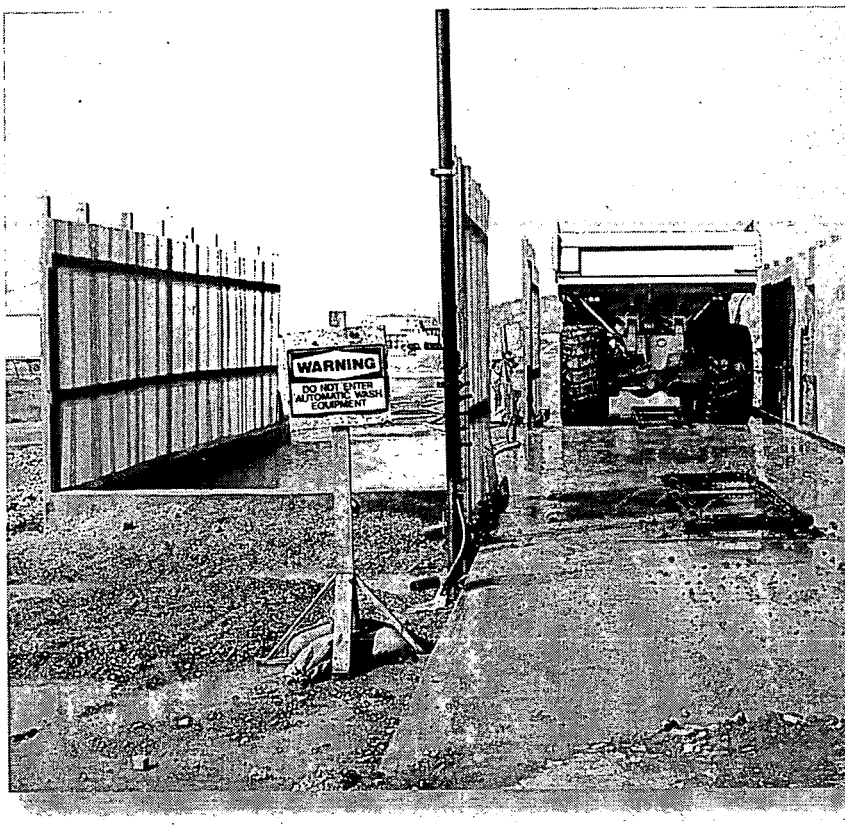
Right: An articulating dump truck prepares to leave the north wheel washing area. Prior to entering the area, the truck placed a load of soil in the cell. The trucks are required to return to the Haul Road free of dirt and debris (6319-d2372).

Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP)

- ☐ Shipped train 20 to Envirocare of Utah (see Fernald Shipments section for details)
- ☐ Loaded 70,000 tons of material into railcars from Pit 3

On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF)

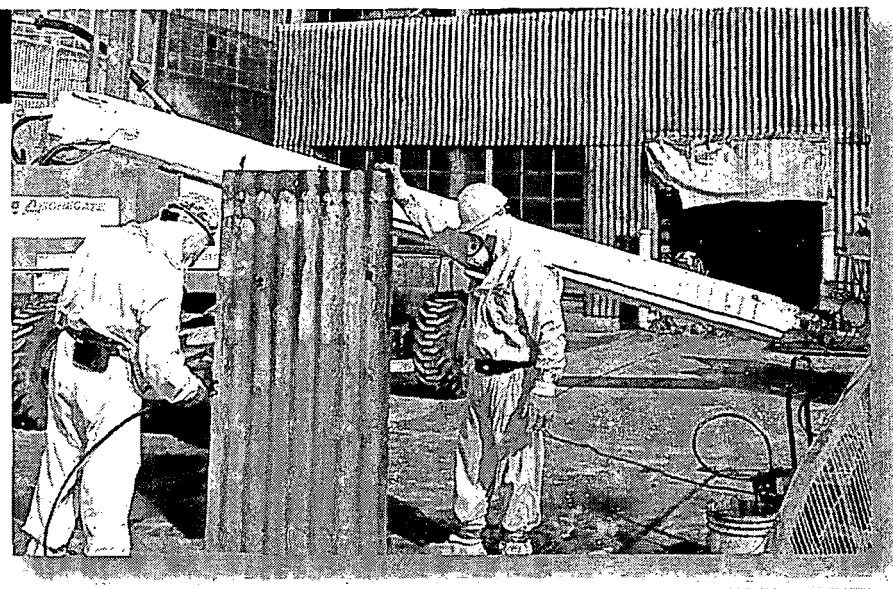
- ☐ Received approval from OEPA and conditional approval from USEPA on the *Borrow Area Strategy Report*
- ☐ As of March 30, 2000, contents of 91 roll-off boxes have been placed in the OSDF



Demolition Projects

Decontamination & Dismantlement (D&D)

- Plant 5 Complex —
  - ◇ Continued asbestos abatement and interior transite removal in Plant 5
  - ◇ Completed removal of equipment and systems in parts of Building 5A
- Plant 6 Complex —
  - ◇ Continued initial mobilization activities for plant demolition, including installation of trailers, washdown areas and fences, vestibules and lights



Silos Project

- Received U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA approval of *Revised Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan (FS/PP) for Silos 1 and 2*; placed copies of documents in public reading rooms locally and in Nevada Test Site area, and published Notices of Availability in newspapers in both locations
- Incorporated regulator comments on Site Preparation portion of *Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project Remedial Design Package*, and subsequently prepared stand-alone *Site Preparation Package*
- Submitted Silo 3 Project *Site Preparation Package* to regulators; conducted follow-up briefing for regulatory personnel

Above: MACTEC workers spray an encapsulant on a transite panel that was removed from Plant 5. The purpose of the encapsulant is to eliminate the spread of asbestos fibers (6401-d416).

Right: Jerry Riehle, a Wise Services pipefitter cuts a domestic water line for future trailer tie-in at the Vitrification plant (7325-d20).

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Cleanup **Progress** Update

Aquifer Restoration/ Wastewater Project

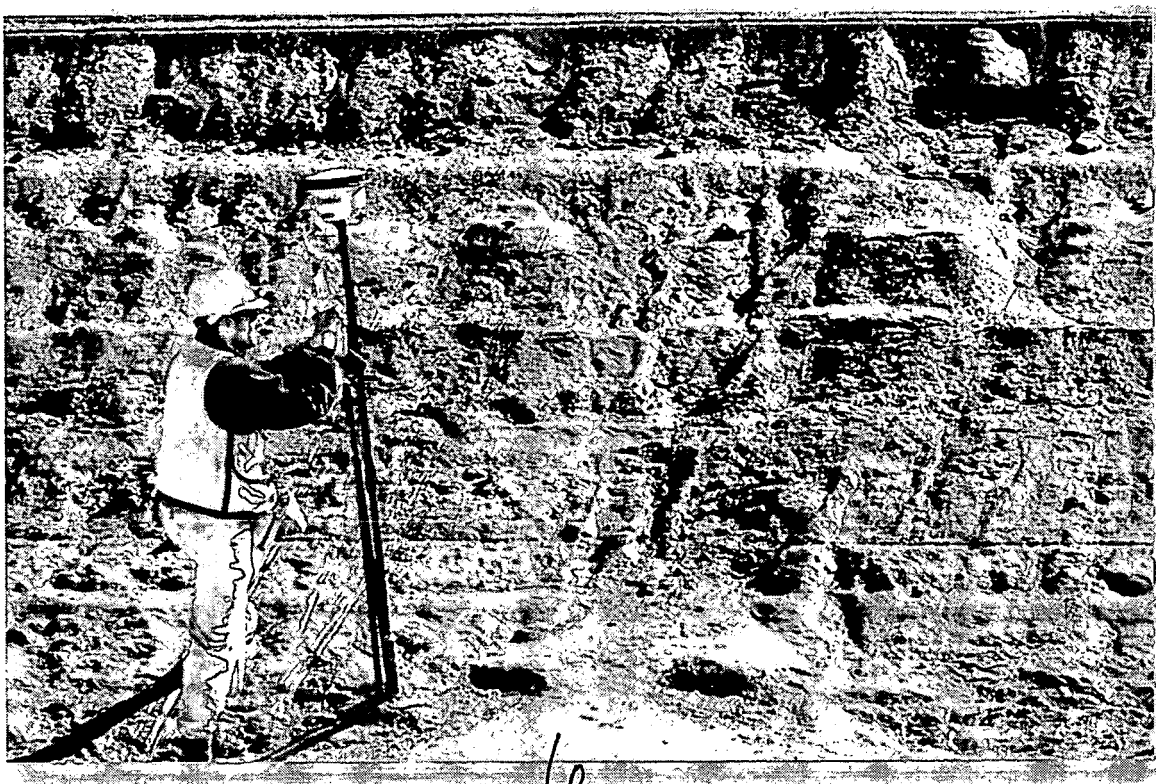
- ☐ Submitted the *Draft Re-Injection Demonstration Test Report* to DOE for review
- ☐ As part of the Groundwater Restoration Program, pre-design geo-probe sampling is complete in the Plant 6 area and continues in the Waste Storage Area

Soil Characterization and Excavation Project

- ☐ The electromagnetic and ground penetrating radar surveys have been completed in the Area 2 Phase I and Phase II (Southern Waste Units)
- ☐ Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of material was excavated
- ☐ 600 large trees have been planted in Area 8 Phase II (northwestern corner of site, east of Paddys Run Road); earthwork in the area has been completed

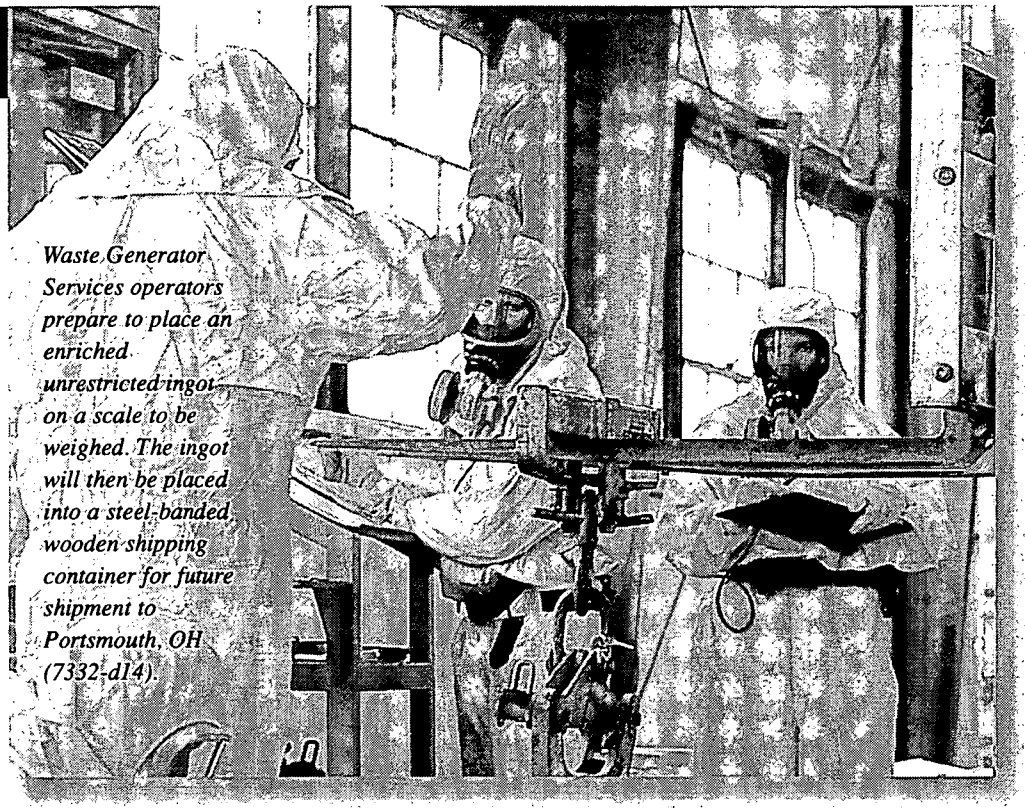
Top: Two Fluor Fernald team members watch as a track hoe prepares to load impacted soil from the Southern Waste Units. The soil will then be transported by truck for placement in the OSDF (6734-d1113).

Right: A land surveying technician uses a global positioning system to verify accurate design excavation depths have been reached at the Sewage Treatment Plant (7298-d40).



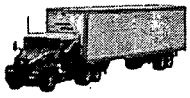
Waste Generator Services

- Thorium Legacy Waste Project —
  - Conducted Standard Startup Review for anticipated shipment of Thoria Gel to the Nevada Test Site; preliminary results indicate four pre-start findings to address prior to shipment
- Nuclear Materials Disposition —
  - Began metals repackaging effort in Building 56; 18 of 710 derbies and 23 of 25 ingots have been repackaged into steel banded wooden containers for shipment to Portsmouth, Ohio



Waste Generator Services operators prepare to place an enriched unrestricted ingot on a scale to be weighed. The ingot will then be placed into a steel-banded wooden shipping container for future shipment to Portsmouth, OH (7332-d14).

Fernald Shipments — March 2000

Contents / Destination	Shipment Mode	No. of Shipments	Monthly Total	FY00 Total
Low-Level Waste (Nevada Test Site)		9	18,914 cu. ft.	25,669 cu. ft.
Liquid Mixed Waste - Toxic Substance Control Act Incinerator at Oak Ridge		0	0 gal.	0 gal.
Nuclear product/materials (Portsmouth)		24	740,544 net lbs. or 336 metric tons uranium	2,195,937 net lbs. or 919.5 metric tons uranium
Waste Pits Project (Envirocare of Utah, Inc.)		1 unit train (60 railcars)	6,454 tons	66,155 tons (616 railcars)

Graphics # 5949

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Public Use of Fernald

Now that the Department of Energy (DOE) has determined that the majority of the 1,050 acre Fernald site will be dedicated to natural resource restoration, the next step is to decide how the general public will be permitted to use the property.

Over the next year, DOE and local citizens' groups will hold a series of public forums to determine the future public use of Fernald. "Public use" refers to activities the general public will be permitted to perform on Fernald property once cleanup and restoration activities are complete. "Certain factors must be considered during the decision process, such as access points to the site, access controls, infrastructure and facilities to support public use, as well as prohibited activities," explains Gary Stegner, DOE-FEMP Public Affairs Officer. "DOE will work with the local communities to determine the most appropriate public use of the site once our work at Fernald is complete."

During an April public forum, DOE outlined the upcoming public involvement process and introduced responsible parties and decision makers. In May, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB)will lead a public dialogue on this issue. Other local groups, including the Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health, the Fernald Community Reuse Organization and the Fernald Living History Project are working with the FCAB to seek input from stakeholders.

Based on public feedback and recommendations, DOE will outline its conceptual public use scenario in the *Draft Master Plan for Public Use*, and issue the plan for public review later this year. DOE's goal is to complete the plan by early 2001.

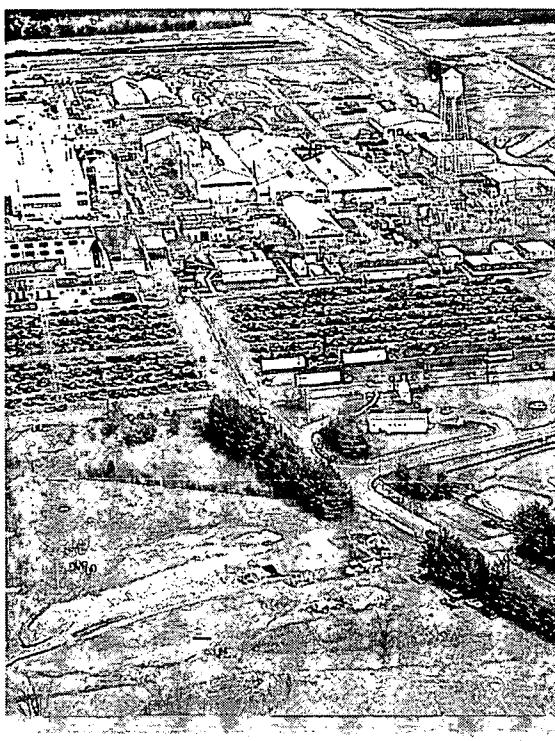
Top: Once cleanup is complete, over 900 acres of Fernald property will be dedicated to natural resource restoration and ecological research projects (7166-d02).

Traffic Impact Study to be conducted

DOE will be conducting a Traffic Impact Study over the next two months to evaluate the feasibility and potential impacts associated with accelerating closure of the North Entrance Road off Route 126. Under the current site remediation schedule, a portion of the road must be removed prior to February 2002 to accommodate construction of Cell 5 of the On-Site Disposal Facility. Current planning provides for reestablishing the road farther to the south and maintaining it to 2006. However, if it proves feasible to accelerate closure of the North Entrance Road, the construction of the new southern portion of the road would be eliminated and would also provide a significant cost savings.

DOE expects the study to be completed this spring or early summer and will present the results of the study to stakeholders. Based on the results of the study and stakeholder input, a path forward on the North Entrance Road will be determined.

Below: The Traffic Impact Study will evaluate current and projected traffic counts and patterns and look at accessibility issues, connected with using only the South Entrance Road for all non-construction traffic beginning in 2002 (7021-100).



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Fernald Shares "Cool" Technology

Fernald is sharing the benefits of the Personal Ice Cooling System or cool suit with the University of Findlay's Environmental Resource Training Center (ERTC). In a collaborative effort, DOE's Environmental Management Office of Science and Technology and Fernald's Technology Programs have facilitated a technology transfer of ten coolsuits to Findlay, a leading institution for educating and training personnel working in the environmental remediation field. The ERTC trains around 9,000 workers annually, including personnel from the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, local fire departments, private industry and university students.

The cool suits are individual temperature-control systems worn under protective equipment. The suits feature flexible tubing systems through which water circulates to keep workers' body temperatures at normal levels. Use of the suits increase worker productivity by extending the time workers can effectively work in extremely warm conditions.

Above: The cool suit reduces heat stress and is worn as an undergarment beneath protective coveralls (6429-352).

Silos 1 and 2 treatment discussed at April public hearing

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) held a formal public hearing on April 25, to discuss DOE's *Revised Proposed Plan for Remedial Actions at Operable Unit 4 (Silos 1 and 2)*. The Revised Proposed Plan explains the alternatives being considered and the preferred proposed action.

The preferred alternative for Operable Unit 4 remedial actions consists of removal, treatment (stabilization) and off-site disposal of the contents of Silos 1 and 2. DOE, Fluor Fernald, Inc., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Ohio EPA have encouraged public participation in decisions regarding the Silos Project. Representatives from each organization were present to address questions and concerns.

During the hearing, a brief video was presented that featured:

- ◇ The background of Operable Unit 4 (Silos 1 and 2)
- ◇ The remedial action alternatives being considered
- ◇ Basis for selecting the preferred alternative

More detailed information regarding Operable Unit 4 is available at the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC), located in the Delta Building, 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio. Please call 513-648-7480 for PEIC hours.

A second public hearing will take place May 3 at 4:30 p.m. in Nevada. The public comment period will end on May 18, 2000. Questions should be directed to Gary Stegner, DOE-FEMP Public Affairs Officer, 513-648-3153.

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Fluor Fernald to pursue DOE VPP Star Status

The Department of Energy's Voluntary Protection Program (DOE VPP) promotes and recognizes superior performance in the field of safety and health. There are three levels of participation in the VPP program. STAR participants meet all DOE VPP requirements, while MERIT participants have demonstrated the potential to achieve STAR status.

Fluor Fernald recently announced its decision to pursue the STAR status. Seeking recognition for the site's safety and health program, maximizing worker morale, reducing worker compensation costs, gaining pride and recognition as a leader in worker safety and health protection, improving labor management relations, and increasing community and DOE recognition and interaction are all benefits of DOE VPP.

U.S. Department of Energy

VPP

STAR SITE

Local Brownfield Remediation Project receives help

The Fernald site has agreed to assist the city of Hamilton as part of a Brownfield Remediation Project. Currently Hamilton is pursuing a Workforce Development Grant through the U.S. EPA. Fernald has committed to help with this effort by demonstrating the concrete scabbler, insulation cleanup vacuum, oxy-gas torch and personal protective cool suit.

The EPA initiated the grant to assist communities in taking advantage of jobs created by the assessment and cleanup operations of brownfields, which are abandoned and under-utilized commercial or industrial sites that are often contaminated. Experts have proven that brownfields are potential resources for community economic revitalization and that communities can achieve sustainable development and reduce urban sprawl by redeveloping these sites. The City of Hamilton Economic Development Agency has begun to target local sites that have the potential for remediation and redevelopment.

Left: The oxy-gas torch is now being used at Fernald due to its faster cutting ability, improved cost and safety over the original acetylene torch (6429-206).

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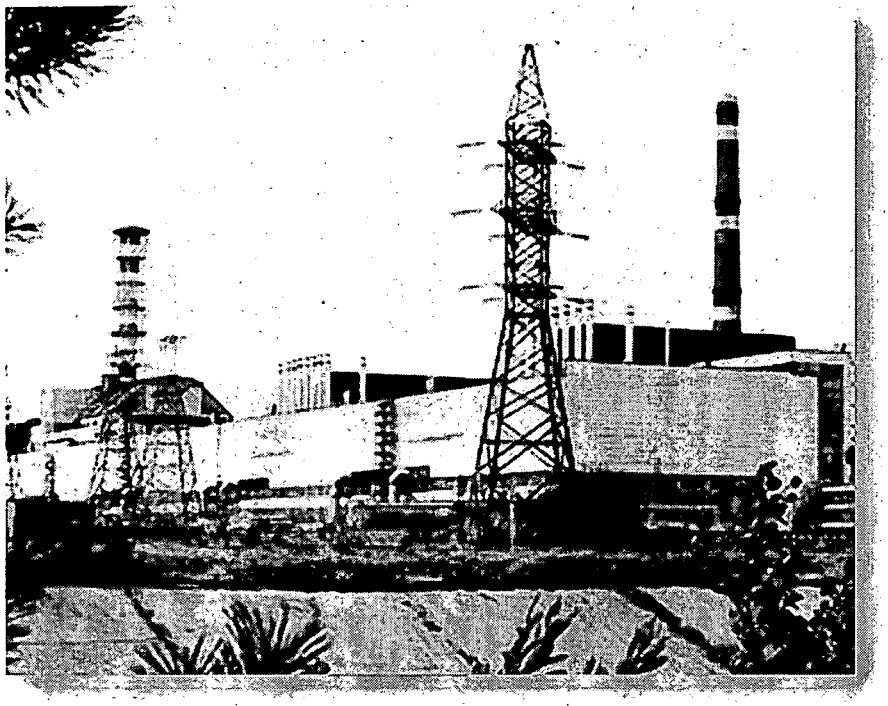

Left: A view of the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant prior to the nuclear disaster. A number of studies have been carried out since the Chernobyl accident, and correlation of the data will be held for use in the future (7338-1).

Miles apart with similar interests

Ken Morgan, DOE Director of Public Affairs, for the Ohio Field Office took a trip to Russia in March to participate in a seminar on Russia's public policy business and public involvement. He served as a presenter at the seminar to discuss the DOE's responsibility for emergency preparedness.

Morgan met with Russian government officials, the Assistant Minister and EMERCOM, Russias emergency management agency. The agenda at the seminar included: studying health effects, past and present health studies and environmental remediation.

"The problems that the Russians face are much more significant than ours," stated Morgan. "The social environment is more complex, they're strapped for resources and they have a long history of problems." The Russians were very interested in seeing how the DOE engages citizens in the decision making process. "After my trip to Russia, our problems look manageable," said Morgan. "I'm very proud to be an American."

Feedback's the key

In an effort to promote one-on-one communication between Fernald personnel and representatives of local community groups, DOE and Fluor Fernald initiated the Fernald Envoy Program. The program began in 1994 and remains very active.

The intent of the program is to improve communication. Envoys meet regularly to listen to stakeholders' ideas, suggestions, concerns and questions and then carry the feedback to the projects. "The Envoy Program allows our stakeholders to put a human face on Fernald, which then increases the responsiveness to get issues resolved," said Ken Morgan, DOE Director of Public Affairs, Ohio Field Office.

The program has 29 active envoys, who were selected, based on their interests, leadership qualities and willingness to spend personal time communicating to stakeholder groups. Fernald's Envoy Program serves a large and diverse stakeholder base encompassing 33 community groups. Fernald's program has been recognized nationally as an innovative means of facilitating communication between site decision-makers and stakeholders.

Above: Steve Wentzel, the Envoy to Fernald's local fire departments, keeps communication lines open with Dan Young, chief of Ross Township Emergency Medical Services (7270-d08).

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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
- ◇ USEPA Letter: Operable Unit 1 Waste Pit Excavation Plan Amendment

☐ Soil & Disposal Facility Project
- ◇ Implementation Plan for Area 2, Phase III Part Two Soil and Disposal Facility Project
- ◇ Project Specific Plan for the Area 2, Phase I Precertification Real-Time Scan
- ◇ Calibration Report for the Mobile Sodium Iodide System Known as the Gator

☐ Silos Project
- ◇ Fernald Silo 3 Project Site Preparation Package
- ◇ Revised Feasibility Study Report for Silos 1 and 2 - Draft
- ◇ Revised Proposed Plan for Remedial Actions at Silos 1 and 2 - Draft

☐ Aquifer Restoration Project
- ◇ OEPA Letter: September 1999 Re-Injection Demonstration Report

☐ Miscellaneous
- ◇ 1999 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Annual Report for the Fernald Environmental Management Project
- ◇ Consolidated Consent Agreement / Federal Facility Compliance Agreement / Federal Facility Agreement / Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study / Consent Decree Monthly Report for the Period of February 1, 2000, Through February 29, 2000
- ◇ Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Discharge Monitoring Reports – Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) – NPDES Permit Number 1IO00004*ED

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

Fernald Report
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