

# fernald Report

- "Closing the Circle"
- The wall's down!
- You decide –  
Future of Fernald

June 2000



message from  
**Jack Craig**

## White House applauds Fernald recycling program

**D**uring a ceremony at the White House this month representatives of the Fernald Environmental Management Project received the "Closing the Circle" Award for an innovative project that enabled the site to recycle tons of contaminated copper salvaged from old production equipment.



The DOE Ohio and Oak Ridge field offices and Decon and Recovery Services out of Oak Ridge, Tennessee partnered with Fernald to transfer over 1,300 tons of scrap metal that was otherwise destined for disposal at the Nevada Test Site. In all, 120,000 cubic feet of material was transferred to Oak Ridge during the project with only 8,000 cubic feet remaining as waste after treatment. The project saved approximately \$1.5 million in disposal costs and avoided the use of valuable disposal space in Nevada.

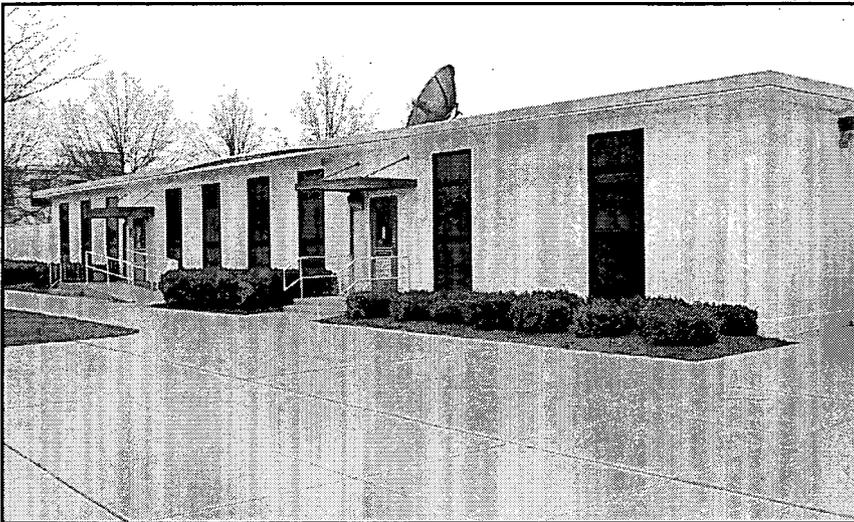
Fernald became eligible for this White House award by winning DOE's Pollution Prevention Award last year.

In our operations we frequently talk about empowerment, adding value and reducing waste. I was extremely pleased to see that by listening to our workers and pursuing opportunities we were able to increase the effectiveness and improve the quality of our overall project. This project was a classic example of how our team members at Fernald realize that it is within their purview to seek, identify and implement better ways to do business. It is these ideas that

are enabling us to save time and money from our original cleanup schedule. I am proud of our workforce and those who are willing to step off of the path in an effort to find a better and safer way to execute our cleanup mission.

  
 Jack Craig  
 Director, DOE-Fernald

*On the cover: Fernald stakeholders register at the May 24, Future of Fernald Workshop. The workshop allowed stakeholders to provide input and ideas for the future use of Fernald's property (7391-d05).*



## The wall came tumbling down

**B**eginning in late May, you may have noticed some very visible changes to the administrative area of the Fernald site. Wise Services, Inc. and team members from the Fernald Atomic Trades & Labor Council (FAT&LC) began decontamination and dismantlement (D&D) activities on the Security Building (28A), former Inspector General (IG)/Industrial Relations (IR) Building (28B), Main Gate Guard Post (28N) and associated structures.

The concrete wall connecting the Administration Building to the former Industrial Relations Building and separating the site parking lot from the administrative side of the site, has been taken down. A new site egress has been established in place of the wall to facilitate travel through the area. "D&D of this area clearly indicates that we're making progress in the overall scope of the site's remediation. The majority of D&D in the past has been in the former production area, which may not have been readily visible to our stakeholders," said Johnny Reising, DOE-FEMP Associate Director.

Personnel originally located in the Security Building have been relocated to a trailer east of the site badging office. Wise Services is currently working inside of 28B removing carpet, drywall, ceiling tile and other interior materials which have deteriorated since the building's closure last year. D&D activities for 28A, 28B and 28N are expected to be complete in mid-October.

When the site began meaningful D&D work in 1994, there were more than 200 structures identified for demolition. Since then, 80 of the structures have been demolished.



*Top: A view of Building 28B which at one time served as the site's communication center (7349-d07).*

*Bottom: A back-hoe removes concrete debris from the wall east of Building 28B. A new egress has been constructed in place of the wall to allow site access (7349-d37).*

# Cleanup **Progress** Update



## Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP)

- Shipped trains 22 and 23 to Envirocare of Utah (see Fernald Shipments section for details)
- Continued excavating Waste Pits 1, 2 and 3

## On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF)

- Placed over 37,000 cubic yards of soil and debris in the OSDF
- Awarded the contract to install the Enhanced Permanent Leachate Transmission System (EPLTS) to The Staver Group
- Issued Notice to Proceed and began field construction work on the EPLTS

*Above:*  
A track-hoe loads material from Pit 1...  
The material will be placed into railcars for future shipment to Envirocare (6944-d1114).

*Right:*  
An Operating Engineer prepares to move transite to its final disposal area in the OSDF (6319-d2464).



## Demolition Projects

### Decontamination & Dismantlement (D&D)

- Plant 5 Complex —
  - ◆ Began structural demolition of Building 55A
  - ◆ Began D&D of Building 4B
  - ◆ Completed demolition of Building 55B
- Plant 6 Complex —
  - ◆ Initiated interior equipment dismantlement in Building 70
- Building 28A, 28B and 28N —
  - ◆ Dismantled and removed existing concrete wall between 28B and the Administration Building
  - ◆ Constructed new egress east of the Administration Building



## Silos Project

- Submitted the Remedial Design Package for the Silo 3 Project to USEPA and OEPA for review and approval
- Received USEPA and OEPA approval of the site preparation for Silos 1 and 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval (AWR) Project.
- Closed the public comment period for the *Revised Proposed Plan for Silos 1 and 2* and drafted the Record of Decision amendment and Responsiveness Summary addressing all public comments.



*Above right: Asbestos workers place a glove bag on process piping in preparation for asbestos abatement (6639-d374).*

*Right: Two subcontractor employees look on as a shear dismantles Building 55A, which once recycled product for reuse (6401-d487).*

# Cleanup **Progress** Update



*Top:*  
Tom Schneider, Fernald Project Manager for the Ohio EPA assists Ross Middle School students in transplanting seedlings in the Wetlands area as part of Fernald's Educational Outreach Program (7389-d08).

*Right:*  
A radiological technician monitors the tires of a truck that has just placed soil in the OSDF prior to entering a clean area to eliminate the spread of any contamination (6734-d1151).



## Aquifer Restoration/ Wastewater Project

- Completed geoprobing in the Waste Storage Area and near the Pilot Plant Drainage ditch
- Submitted the *Draft Final Re-Injection Demonstration Report* to the Ohio EPA and USEPA
- Submitted the monthly *NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report* to the Ohio EPA

## Soil Characterization and Excavation Project

- Stabilized four additional cubic yards of soil in the Trap Range
- Completed earthwork and spring planting in Area 8 Phase II

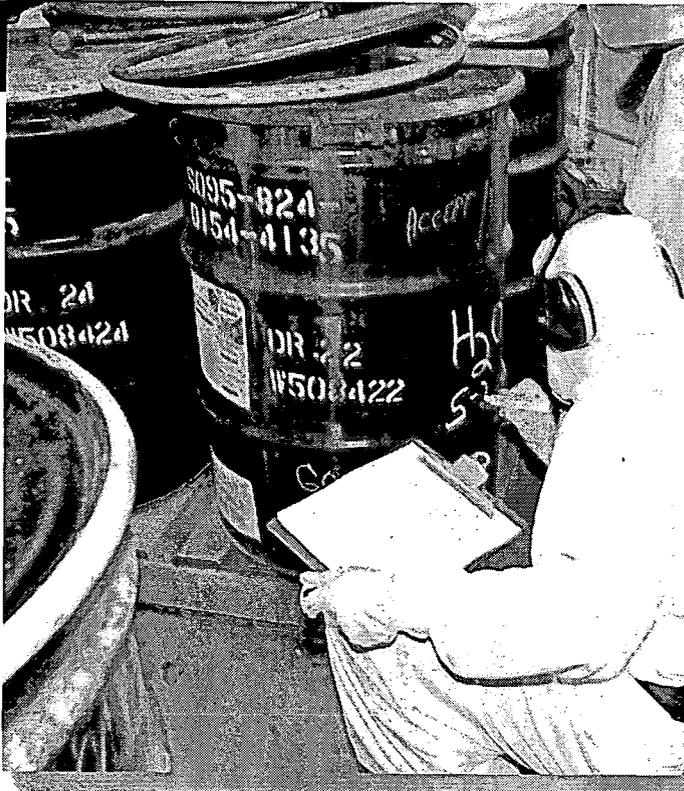
## Waste Generator Services

### ■ Thorium Legacy Waste Project —

- ◆ Completed all Standard Startup Review pre-start findings and began shipments of thoria gel to Nevada Test Site

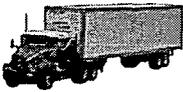
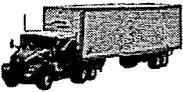
### ■ Nuclear Materials Disposition —

- ◆ Continued shipments to Portsmouth, Ohio; 1,424.9 metric tons uranium shipped in FY00 as of May 31, equaling 69% of site's goal of 2,080



Left:  
A Waste Generator Services operator prepares a drum that contains compounds prior to shipment to Portsmouth, OH (7368-d04).

## Fernald Shipments — April-2000

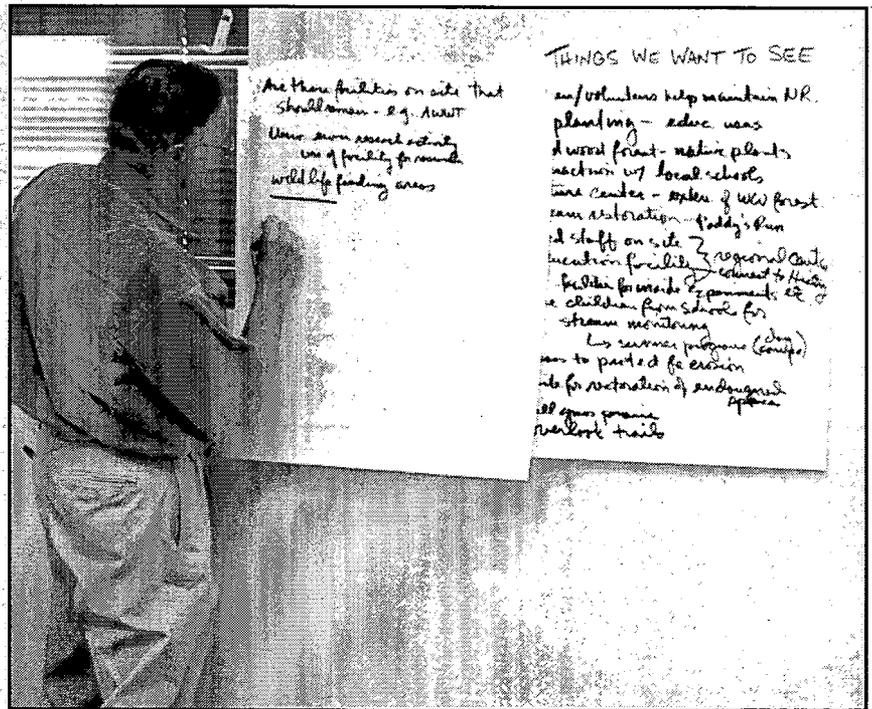
Contents / Destination	Shipment Mode	No. of Shipments	Monthly Total	FY00 Total
<b>Low-Level Waste</b> (Nevada Test Site)		9	14,399 cu. ft.	46,823 cu. ft.
<b>Liquid Mixed Waste</b> - Toxic Substance Control Act Incinerator at Oak Ridge		0	0 gal.	0 gal.
<b>Nuclear product/materials</b> (Portsmouth)		25	628,911 net lbs. or 279 metric tons uranium	3,324,196 net lbs. or 1,424.9 metric tons uranium
<b>Waste Pits Project</b> (Envirocare of Utah, Inc.)		2 unit trains (120 railcars)	12,863 tons	85,471 tons (796 railcars)

## A really good place to start

**O**n May 24, 2000, 90 Fernald stakeholders met at the Crosby Township Senior Center to discuss their vision for the Fernald site after cleanup. Local residents, regulators, environmentalists, area business people and representatives of special interest groups voiced their opinions on future public uses of the site in the subject areas of community development, environmental education, preservation of Cold War/Fernald history, Native American reburial issues and recreation. Additionally, for the first time in Fernald's public involvement history, an electronic bulletin board discussion group, held concurrently with the live workshop, was made available via the Internet to interested stakeholders unable to physically attend the meeting.

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB), along with the Fernald Community Reuse Organization, the Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH), and Fernald Living History, Inc., sponsored and led the workshop. All comments received have been compiled into a report that will be transmitted to the workshop attendees. This report will form the basis for development of a "public use scenario" by the sponsoring organizations, which will ultimately be the focus of another Future of Fernald Workshop to be scheduled in September 2000. Meanwhile, interested members of the public can still provide comments by accessing a special web page at [www.fernaldd.gov/future](http://www.fernaldd.gov/future) or by contacting Tisha Patton, FCAB liaison, at 513-648-5277.

A great deal of planning remains to be done before the Future of Fernald is a reality, but as Lisa Crawford, FRESH president, remarked after the workshop, "This is a really good place to start."



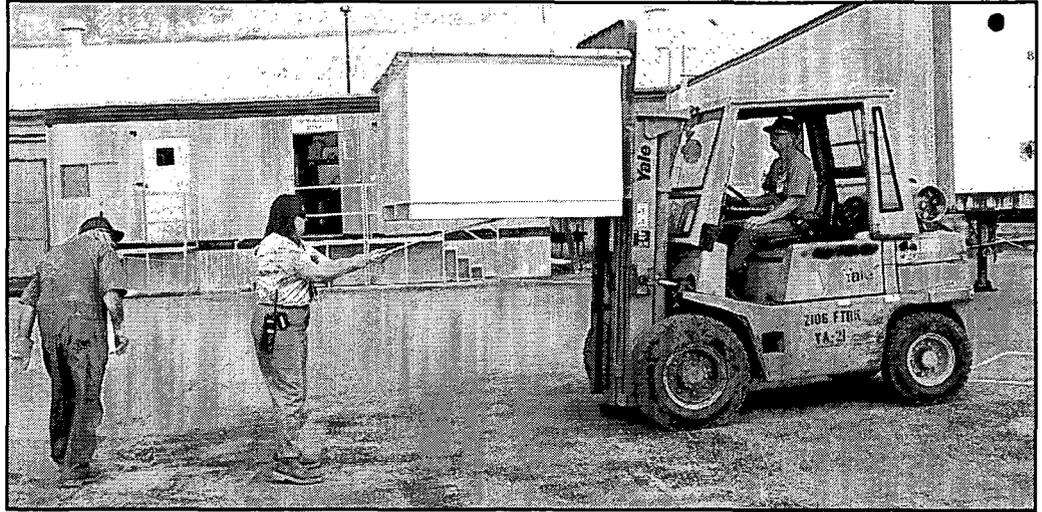
Top: Doug Sarno, consultant for the FCAB, outlines land use decisions made so far at Fernald (7391-d18).

Bottom: Tom Wagner, FCAB vice-chair, facilitates a small group on environmental education at the Future of Fernald Workshop (7391-d30).

## Thoria gel shipments begin

In mid-May, Fernald began shipment of thoria gel to the Nevada Test Site. Thoria gel is a white, solid material that resulted from precipitation of thorium nitrate during Fernald's production years.

After successful completion of a Standard Startup Review, shipping began on May 18. As of June 2, 10 shipments had left Fernald destined for disposal at the Nevada Test Site. The entire campaign was completed on schedule by the end of June.



Above: A radiological control technician conducts a survey on a Thoria gel container prior to shipment (7333-d19).

## VSP 2000 expedites 'Life after Fernald' and saves money



Above: Team members have the opportunity to use a computer at the CDC to inquire about opportunities for employment after Fernald (7028-d4).

Over 50 team members took advantage of Fluor Fernald's Voluntary Separation Program (VSP) 2000 during a 10-week window of opportunity, beginning in February and continuing through May 4. Participation in the program was completely voluntary and targeted full-time Fluor Fernald salaried team members in specified job grades. The Fluor Fernald Leadership Team evaluated each application weighing which could be accepted without compromising the company's ability to complete the required work. Team members who were accepted into the program left Fernald by the end of June with VSP transition benefits. The program was aimed at reducing overhead cost while injecting dollars saved back into the cleanup.

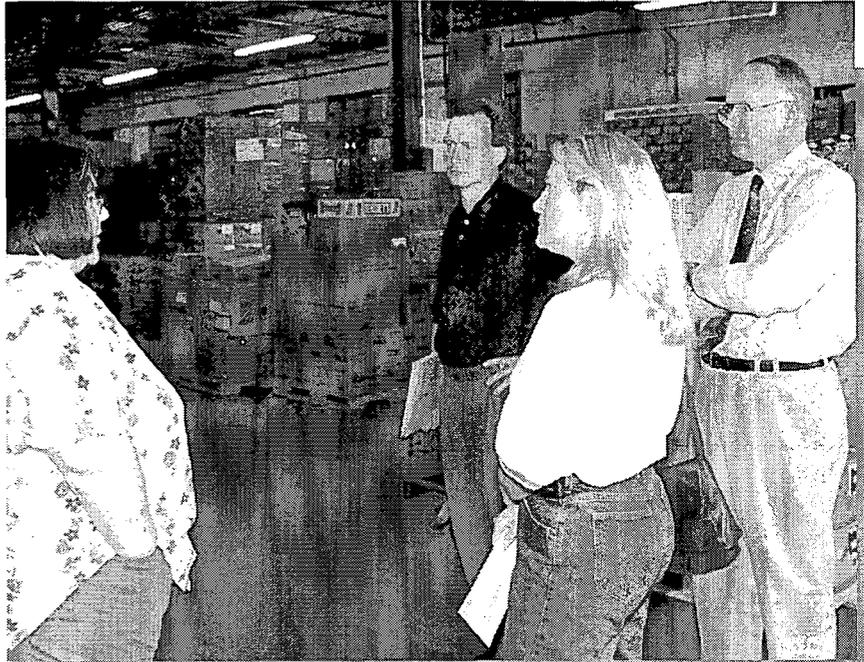
Some team members have been preparing for "Life After Fernald" for many years, while others are just beginning the process. Preparation varies for each team member, but usually includes some type of educational assistance, resume workshop, networking, and extensive job searches.

"It is satisfying to watch our team members leave Fernald employed," said John Merwin, Fluor Fernald Work Force Restructuring director. "We've been trying to get our team members to give serious consideration to 'Life after Fernald,' and this is proof that many have done just that."

## Local food bank benefits from Fernald United Way dollars

Shared Harvest Food Bank in Fairfield is just one of hundreds of local agencies that benefit from Fernald contributions to the United Way. Recently, Pam Taylor, 1999 Fluor Fernald campaign co-chair, had a chance to meet with Tina Osso director of Shared Harvest and Mike Sanders of the Cincinnati United Way. Each year Shared Harvest provides food and basic necessities to 250,000 families in Ohio and Indiana. Their warehouse is full of cereal, canned vegetables, fruit and dry goods provided by local companies and farmers. Each month Shared Harvest dispatches trucks to over 30 counties that in turn provide the food to those in need.

Around the holiday season you may have seen Shared Harvest food bins near the turnstiles, Administration Building or at the Springdale office facility. In addition to seeking food donations Shared Harvest could also use your time. Groups or individuals interested in helping sort or distribute food can contact the food bank at 1-800-352-3663.



Above: (far left) Tina Osso, Shared Harvest director, explains how food is managed and distributed through the Fairfield warehouse to (from left to right) Jeff Wagner and Pam Taylor, Fluor Fernald; and Mike Sanders, United Way. After touring the food bank Taylor presented United Way with checks totaling more than \$30,000 from Fernald and the Fluor Foundation (7373D-4).



## School's Out - Already?

It's not just the teachers, students and parents who reflect on the school year gone by, so do all those team members involved in Fernald's Education Outreach Programs. Since the beginning of the 1999-00 school year these programs have reached 15,000 educators and their students.

This year Fernald sponsored the ninth annual Greater Cincinnati Regional Science Bowl and "Archaeology: Can You Dig It?" a workshop for teachers. Weekly requests were also made for a variety of speakers in the classrooms and through programs like National Engineers Week and Junior Achievement.

Fernald team members also volunteered for the Partnership In Education Program, served as judges for science fairs and represented Fernald at events such as Earth Day, Waterfest and career events. As we take a short break over the summer, it will soon be time to gear up for more exciting programs in September.

Left: Craig Straub, a Fluor Fernald biologist, engages a group of sixth graders interested in science careers from Whitewater Valley Elementary (7124-d72).

## Recent Tours

The annual DOE Public Tour held this year on May 9, drew the largest attendance of any single tour to date. For a number of local residents, this was their first tour of Fernald and they were treated to close-up views of the K-65 Silos and the On-Site Disposal Facility.

Mr. Lyn Walraven of Ross said afterwards, "It was an excellent tour and I really learned a lot. I'm on the Ross Township Life Squad and we are very thankful for all the support we get from Fernald."

*Right: DOE's Johnny Reising (left) welcomes neighbor Bill Knollman. Knollman lives across the road from the Fernald site and likes to keep up on the cleanup progress (7375-07).*

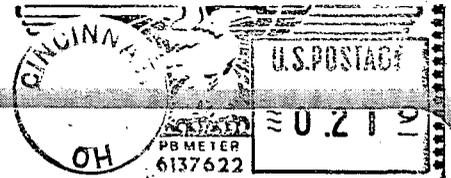


The Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) chose Cincinnati as the location for their 122nd Annual Meeting and Convention. John Bradburne, president and CEO Fluor Fernald, delivered the kick-off speech to the group. The group followed up with a site tour.

*Left: OSPE is made up of several disciplines including mechanical, chemical, civil, and electrical engineering. They are interested in the public's safety, health and welfare and lobby to enhance authority governing such interests (68110-D532).*

## Closure Contract status

On May 19, 2000 the Department of Energy released the *Final Request For Proposal* outlining the specifications for bidding on the contract to manage the closure of the Fernald project. The DOE Source Evaluation Board (SEB) received 200 comments based on the Draft RFP. All of the comments are addressed in the *DOE Response to Comments/Questions*, and a number of the comments were incorporated into the final document. Prospective bidders have until July 14, 2000 to submit their proposals. A contract will be awarded this September. For more information visit the SEB home page (<http://www.ohio.doe.gov/ferald>).



## 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):

- Soil Characterization & Excavation Project
  - ◆ Area 8, Phase II Natural Resource Restoration Design Plan Final
  - ◆ Project Specific Plan for Sampling the Western Section of Removal Action 17 Stockpile for On-Site Disposal Facility Waste Acceptance Criteria Attainment
  - ◆ OEPA Letter: Approval – Certification Design Letter for Area 8, Phase III, South Certification Sampling
  - ◆ OEPA Letter: 90% Enhanced Permanent Leachate Transmission System Design (Dated 05/12/2000)
  - ◆ Revised Final Design Support Plans for the On-Site Disposal Facility May 2000
  - ◆ Certification Design Letter for Area 1, Phase III Final May 2000 (Submitted 05/22/2000)
- Facilities Closure and Demolition Project
  - ◆ Operable Unit 3 Interim Project Completion Report Maintenance/Tank Farm Complex
  - ◆ Decontamination and Dismantlement Project April 2000
  - ◆ OEPA Letter: Amendment to Miscellaneous Small Structures Implementation Plan
- Silos Project
  - ◆ OEPA Letter: Comments: Accelerated Waste Retrieval Preparation Package (Dated 04/28/2000)
  - ◆ Fernald Silo 3 Project Pre-Operational Environmental Control Plan April 2000 Rocky Mountain Remediation Services
  - ◆ USEPA Letter: Approval of Silos 1 and 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project Site Preparation
- Aquifer Restoration Project
  - ◆ November 1999 Operating Report for the Re-Injection Demonstration
  - ◆ December 1999 Operating Report for the Re-Injection Demonstration (Dated 05/10/2000)
- Miscellaneous
  - ◆ 1999 Integrated Site Environmental Report Final Revision 0 May 2000 (Submitted 05/25/2000)
  - ◆ 1999 National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Annual Report Final Revision 0 May 2000
  - ◆ RCRA Part B Permit Application Revision 6.0 May 2000

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



### Fernald Report

Gary Stegner, Public Affairs Officer  
 U.S. Department of Energy  
 Fernald Environmental Management Project  
 P.O. Box 538705, Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705  
 Telephone: 513-648-3153,  
 E-Mail: [gary.stegner@fernald.gov](mailto:gary.stegner@fernald.gov)  
 Fernald Web site: [www.fernald.gov](http://www.fernald.gov)

Diane Rayer  
 P.O. Box 538704, Ms-78  
 Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704