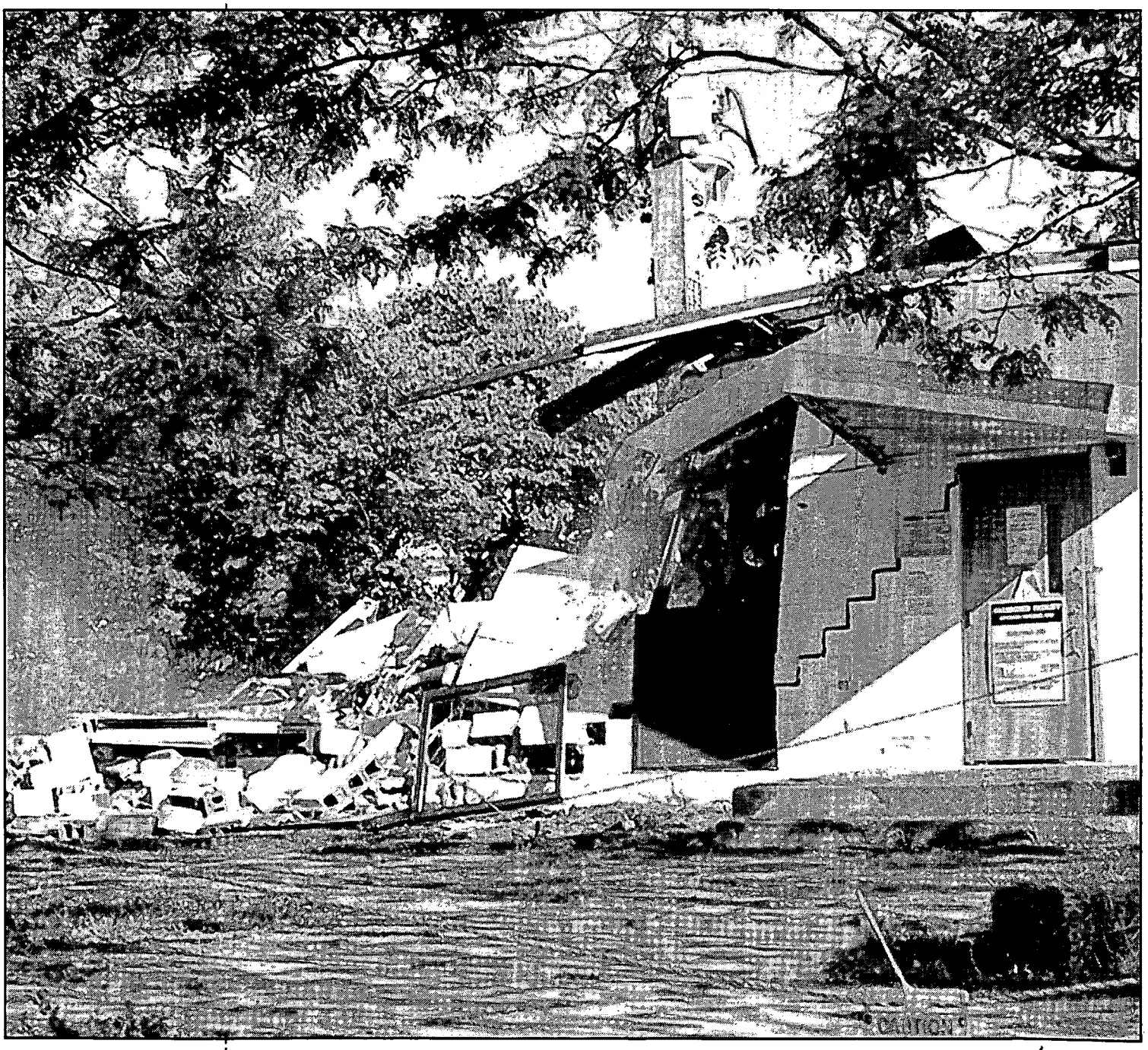
3272

fernald Report

Inside

- Fernald's the first stop for the Secretary's Advisory Board
- Safety's first
- Full to capacity

September 2000



message from
Jack Craig

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Secretary of Energy Advisory Board reviews Fernald public involvement

In August the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's (SEAB) Openness Panel visited Fernald to review and discuss the site's public involvement program. The SEAB's goal was to talk with Fernald managers and stakeholders about the changes in the site's public affairs program over the years and to discuss the current state of public involvement at Fernald. Why was Fernald selected as the first stop for this panel? I think the reason is simple. We have a program that has produced results thanks to the personal commitment of our managers, regulators and stakeholders.

We've come a long way since the mid-1980s when the contentious meetings and local and national media coverage reflected the turmoil that existed at Fernald. We were the first site in the DOE complex to be examined under a Congressional and media microscope.

What we initiated in those early days and what has sustained the progress that we have today is relatively simple. To build trust and public confidence, we have attempted to provide information that is accurate and complete. Our project managers and the people that support them are available to answer questions from the public in a timely manner. As we worked to build direct lines of communication between management and stakeholders, we developed the Fernald Envoy Program to ensure that information goes directly from site management to interested stakeholder groups. Finally, understanding that our neighbors lead busy lives with work, family and outside interests we have tried to provide the information in a variety of mediums to meet the needs of our stakeholders. Our goal is to provide easily understood information in a variety of ways.

We have done our best to bring many of these elements together in our monthly Cleanup Progress Briefings, in which project managers discuss their projects and answer questions. The same holds true for publications like Fernald Report, through which we provide project updates along with information on specific programs and activities. We also continue to provide our Envoys with key project updates to pass along to our stakeholders. Finally, our website is becoming one of our most useful tools for distributing information. We have completely revamped www.fernald.gov and have created dedicated pages to inform stakeholders around the country about different waste shipping campaigns. The site is also a quick source for those interested in learning more about our history, current cleanup status and our future plans.

Building trust and public confidence does not happen overnight. It takes people who are genuinely committed to public involvement. For the past 15 years our stakeholders have shown this commitment. It also takes a commitment from management to ensure that project directors and support organizations continue to send a steady flow of accurate and unfiltered information about the status of Fernald's cleanup. To have credibility with the public we strive to deliver bad news with the same candidness as the good. With these tools, stakeholders and DOE have formed a solid partnership to expedite and sustain the remediation process.

Jack Craig
Director, DOE-Fernald

On the cover: *One last look at Building 28B, the former Industrial Relations/Inspector General Building prior to final demolition (7349-d0147).*

Two Waste Generator Services Programs, WPRAP receive Tri-Star Awards

Bob Schulten, Fluor Fernald Nuclear Materials Disposition project manager, knew his team was on target to win their first Fluor Corporation Safety Tri-Star Award for 100,000 consecutive safe working hours. What he didn't know was that they were well on their way to a second 100,000 safe working hours. "You can rack up a lot of hours and not realize it," Schulten said. "I was a little surprised because we weren't really tracking the numbers. But then I got a call from our safety manager who said we were up to 143,000 safe working hours. If all goes well, the nuclear materials disposition team should reach another 100,000 safe working hours by the end of September. It's a fantastic accomplishment. When you consider that it was one year in the making, that's a huge amount of work."

Waste Storage & Sampling also received a Tri-Star Award – their second in just over a year. Mike Kopp, acting vice-president of the Waste Generator Services division, called the feat "a remarkable achievement considering the team moved an estimated 25,000 containers from several buildings throughout the site to the Plant 1 pad." "This project has been challenged on a number of fronts in terms of performance objectives, and they've really come through," Kopp said.

But the most honors went to the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP) team. The team not only received a Fluor Corp. Safety Tri-Star Award for the most consecutive safe work hours (350,000), they also received two safety awards from IT Corp. The first was the President's Award for 1,000 days without injury or lost time. The second was a quarterly Corporate Safety Award for zero vehicle accidents, recorded injuries or lost time.

Dennis Dalga, WPRAP deputy project manager, said it was a significant accomplishment considering the factors involved. "When you look at the work involved, the time it took to do it and the amount of equipment involved, it was a real achievement," Dalga said.

Skip Dunham, a project engineer for IT Corp., noted that the President's Award alone represented about three years work without injury or lost time. "That's pretty significant for a remediation project because it involves both construction and operations," he said. "It's probably the most complicated operation out here. There's lots of risk for injury because you're doing so many different things. The exposure to potential injury is greater. The complexity of the WPRAP project is probably compatible to anything IT Corp. is currently undertaking. Where other projects involve only IT managers and workers, this project involves multiple groups. Here, it's definitely a team effort," Dunham said.

Cleanup **Progress** Update

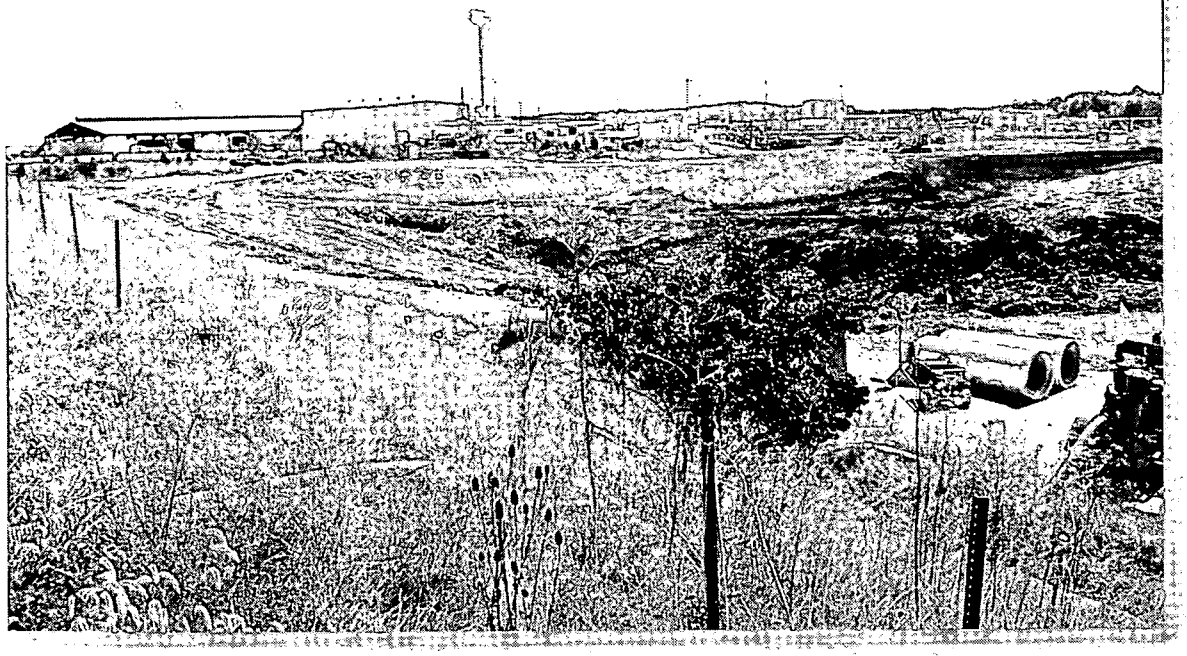
Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP)

- ☐ Shipped trains 27 and 28 to Envirocare of Utah (see Fernald Shipments section for details).
- ☐ Processed 3,170 tons of material through the dryers.

Silos Project

- ☐ Continued site preparation construction activities for Silos 1 and 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project. Completed installation of foundations for the Transfer Tank Area (TTA), Radon Control System (RCS) and Air Handling Buildings, and the exhaust stack and equipment area pads. Initiated preparation of the TTA Tank foundations.
- ☐ Continued site preparation construction activities for the Silo 3 Project. Installed the Gantry foundations and continued preparation and grading of the Interim Storage Area.
- ☐ Conducted a Silos Project status briefing/ issue discussion meeting with OEPA and USEPA.

Above left: Greg Jones, a pipefitter for C-Force performs fusion bonding on a 4-inch domestic PVC water line (7325-d0127).



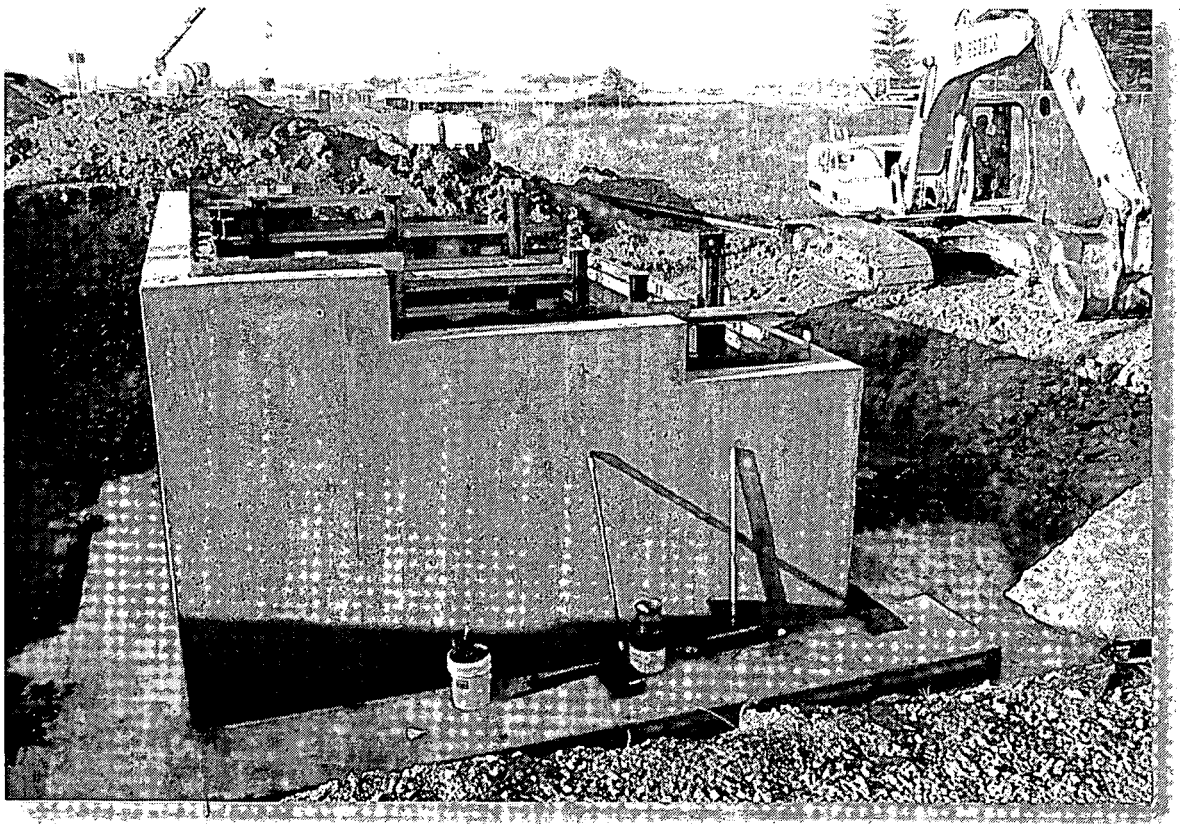
Left: A view of Pit 3 as excavation continues. The pit material is transported to the Material Handling Building seen in the background, for processing (6944-d1232).

Soil and Disposal Facility Project

- Began screening for Cell 1 cap material.
- Conducted a pre-bid meeting and site tour for the *OSDF Cell 1 Cap Request for Proposal.*
- Initiated construction on the OSDF access road.
- Completed certification sampling in Area 1 Phase III and Area 8 Phase III South.
- Met with Hamilton County and Ohio Department of Transportation officials to discuss the recent traffic study recommendations.

Aquifer Restoration/ Wastewater Project

- Installed six observation wells associated with the pump well test.
- Extracted 160 million gallons from the aquifer and treated 106 million gallons of wastewater.



Above: A member of the Waste Acceptance Organization (WAO) removes a trucks manifest. The manifest documents the waste source and is used as documentation for disposition in the OSDF (6319-d2579).

Left: An Operating Engineer backfills around manhole #1 as part of the new leachate system (7399-d0184).

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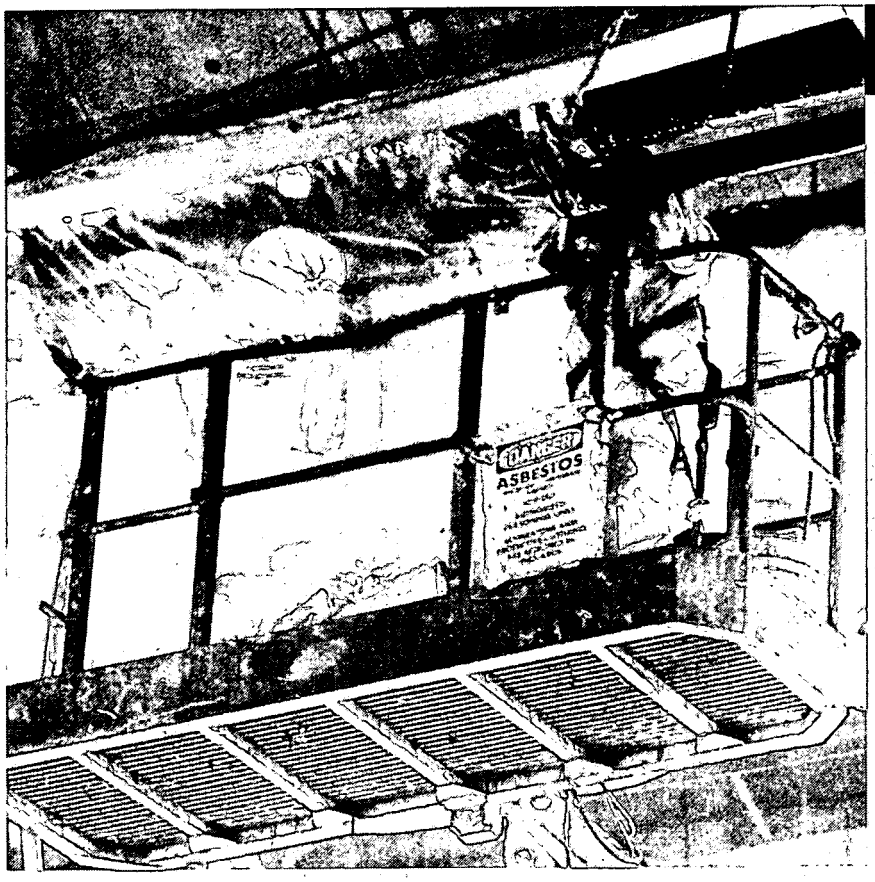
Cleanup **Progress** Update

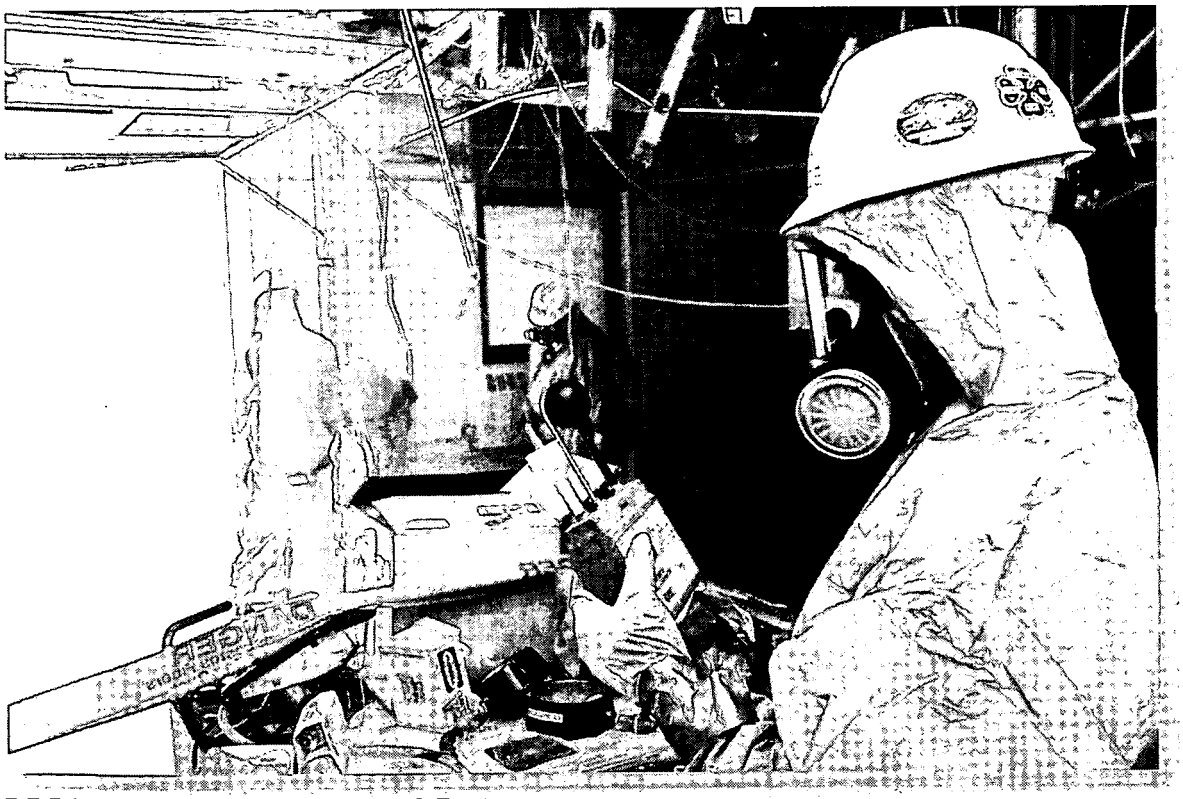


Demolition Projects

Decontamination & Dismantlement (D&D)

- ☐ Plant 5 Complex —
  - ◇ Continued asbestos abatement and equipment removal in Building 5A.
- ☐ Plant 6 Complex—
  - ◇ Continued the removal of interior equipment, asbestos contaminated piping and interior transite inside of Plant 6.
  - ◇ Began interior dismantlement in Area 6F (Salt Oil Heat Treatment Building).
- ☐ Building 28A, 28B and 28N —
  - ◇ Continued removal of asbestos contaminated materials inside 28B.
  - ◇ Continued interior D&D activities in 28B.
  - ◇ Began removal of the asbestos contaminated material floor tile.
  - ◇ Completed redistribution of the parking lot lighting and Honeywell alarms.

- ☐ Facilities Shutdown
  - ◇ Began disconnecting utilities and electrical lines to the General Sump.



Above left: A MACTEC employee continues asbestos containing material abatement in Plant 5 as part of the D&D process (6401-d0592).

Left: Wise laborers remove asbestos floor tiles in Building 28B by heating them with propane torches and scraping with spud bars (7349-d0121).

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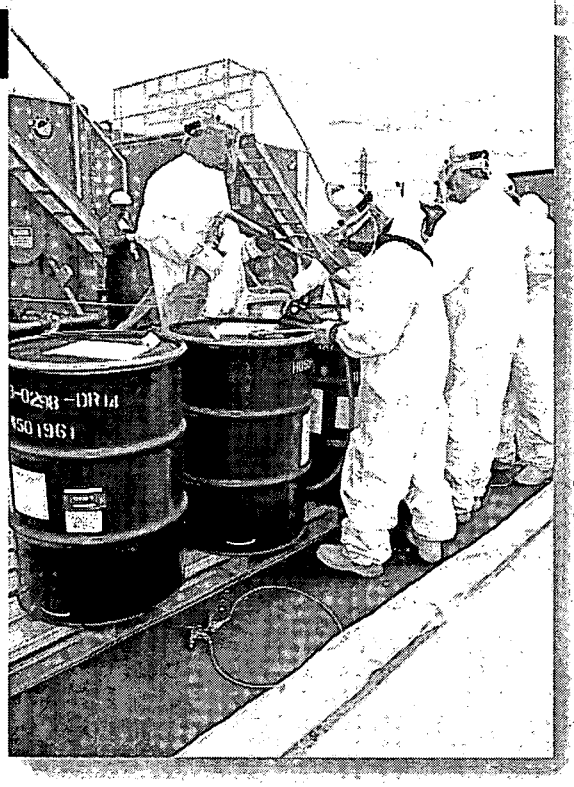
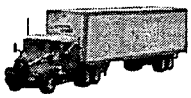
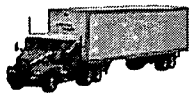
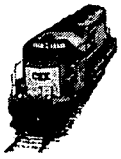
Waste Generator Services

- Thorium Legacy Waste Project —
  - Completed inventory and characterization of 27 boxes of thorium residues in preparation for shipment.
- Nuclear Materials Disposition —
  - Continued shipments to Portsmouth, Ohio; 1,780.6 metric tons uranium shipped in FY00 as of Sept. 1.
- Waste Treatment and Storage—
  - Shipped 13,996 gallons of liquid mixed waste to the Toxic Substance Control Act Incinerator in Oak Ridge, TN.
  - Inspected 66 containers to evaluate hazards related to movement and storage; 308 of 338 total containers completed to date.
  - Initiated physical inspection of selected liquid mixed waste inventory to verify waste streams that can be treated on site at the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility.



Left: Waste Generator Services team members pumped liquid mixed waste from 55-gallon drums to bulking tanks for transfer to the TSCA Incinerator in Oak Ridge, TN. The group was recently recognized for their outstanding accomplishments (6107-d04).

Fernald Shipments — August-2000

Contents / Destination	Shipment Mode	No. of Shipments	Monthly Total	FY00 Total
Low-Level Waste (Nevada Test Site)		21	27,991 cu. ft.	106,087 cu. ft.
Liquid Mixed Waste - Toxic Substance Control Act Incinerator at Oak Ridge		4	13,996 gal.	13,996 gal.
Nuclear product/materials (Portsmouth)		27	602,886 net lbs. or 216.2 metric tons uranium	4,245,053 net lbs. or 1,780.6 metric tons uranium
Waste Pits Project (Envirocare of Utah, Inc.)		2 unit train (120 railcars)	12,908 tons	117,740 tons (1096 railcars)

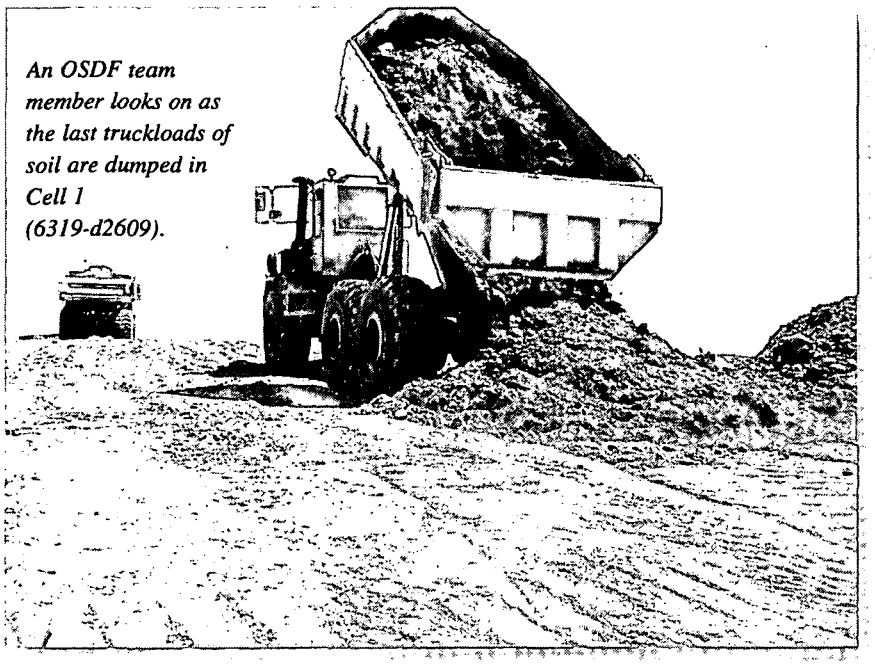
NOTE: One box shipped to Portsmouth in May in error; shipped back to us in June. Accounts for 1.3 MTU.

Graphics # 5949

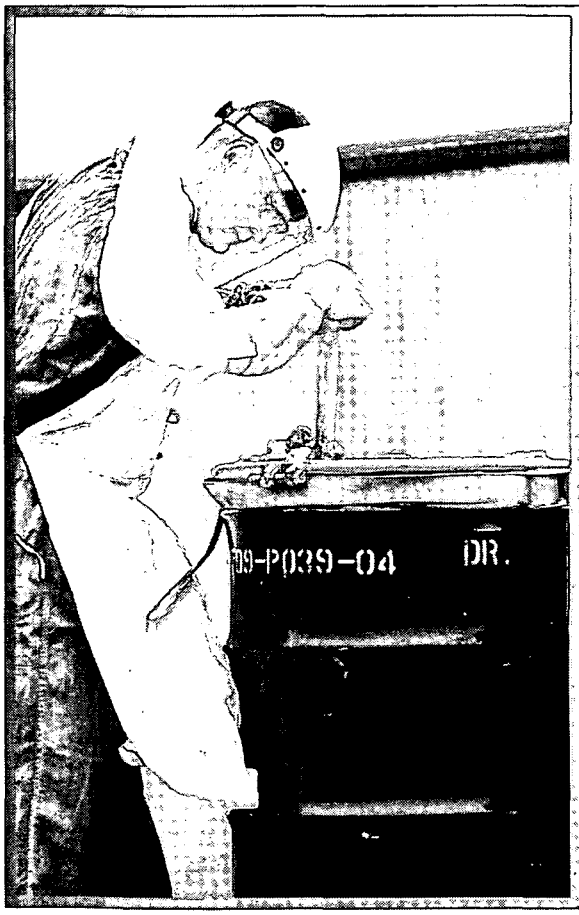
Cell 1 reaches capacity

Since the first waste material was placed in Cell 1 of the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF) in December 1997, the team has been working to fill the cell to its designed capacity. That milestone was reached Sept. 8, 2000. "It was pretty exciting when we reached the designed height at the northern end of Cell 1 back in November; but getting that first cell filled and ready to be capped is something the entire OSDF team has been looking forward to," said Johnny Reising, DOE-FEMP Associate Director of Environmental Management. The volume of, about 310,000 cubic yards of material, will be less than the other cells due to its sloped sides and end position. The next milestone will be the capping of Cell 1 in 2001.

Another project that started this summer at the OSDF and remains on schedule is the installation of the Enhanced Permanent Leachate Transmission System. Each cell will have its own valve house with instrumentation to monitor leachate flows from the individual storage cells. The valve houses are approximately 15 feet by 20 feet and equipped with light and heat for year round access for sampling. An interim leachate line is operating while the permanent line is being installed. The project is scheduled for completion in April 2001.



An OSDF team member looks on as the last truckloads of soil are dumped in Cell 1 (6319-d2609).



Liquid Mixed Waste transported to Oak Ridge, Tennessee

In August and September Fernald completed shipments of five tanker-truckloads of liquid mixed waste to the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Incinerator at Oak Ridge, TN., for treatment. These shipments, collectively known as "Batch 9," constitute approximately 16,000 gallons of liquid mixed waste. Fernald will continue bulking compatible wastes into Batch 10 and expects to reach its 20,000-gallon capacity by the end of this fiscal year.

Batch 10 and subsequent liquid mixed waste batches are presently planned for shipment to the TSCA Incinerator. The current TSCA Incinerator contractor, IT Corp., has instituted a "burn schedule" calling for alternating three months of operation with three months of downtime for the facility. As a small generator of liquid mixed waste, Fernald will be attempting to schedule its shipments as expeditiously as possible. Meanwhile, the site continues to conduct an examination of existing liquid mixed waste streams to determine which streams can be treated on site through the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility, thereby eliminating some of the costs associated with off-site transportation and disposal of these wastes.

Left: A Waste Generator Services team member prepares to transfer liquids used to decontaminate a bulk storage tank from the tank to a 55-gallon drum (6898-d91).

STCG identifies new technology needs

The Site Technology Coordination Group (STCG) was formed at Fernald in the mid-90s to assist the Technology Programs Department in the area of selecting, demonstrating and deploying innovative technologies within the DOE complex. The group consists of local stakeholders, regulators, and representatives from DOE and Fluor Fernald. As a result of the STCG subcommittee meetings, a modified list of technology needs has been identified for the Technology Programs Department. Waste Management and Waste Characterization subcommittees identified a total of eleven new needs. Standardized document management system/characterization system; Real-Time Radiography enhancements; Improved process of waste segregation and characterization based on hand-held instruments; and a system of portable scales, possibly computerized, for weighing drums in the field, were among the new technology needs identified. A prior need, The Processing and/or Transportation of "Problem" Material, was revised to include automated handling. Another prior need, Mixed Waste Projects, was revised to address waste streams for accelerated treatment.

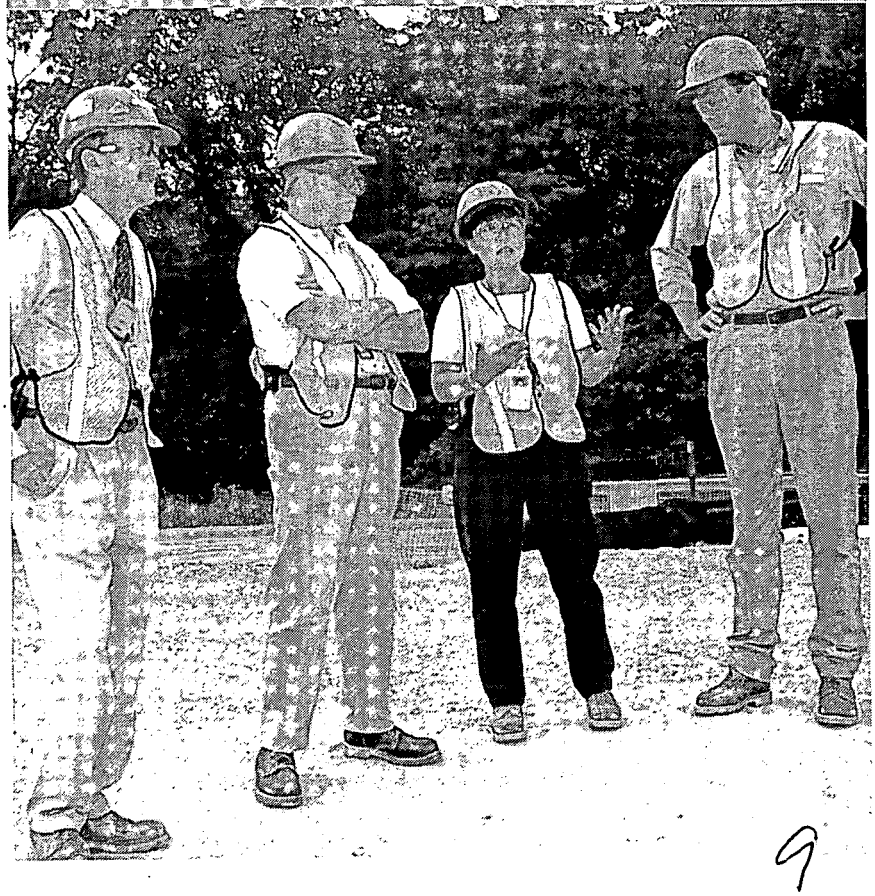
Top: The superior performance of the oxy-gasoline torch has fulfilled many D&D needs at Fernald. (6429-211).

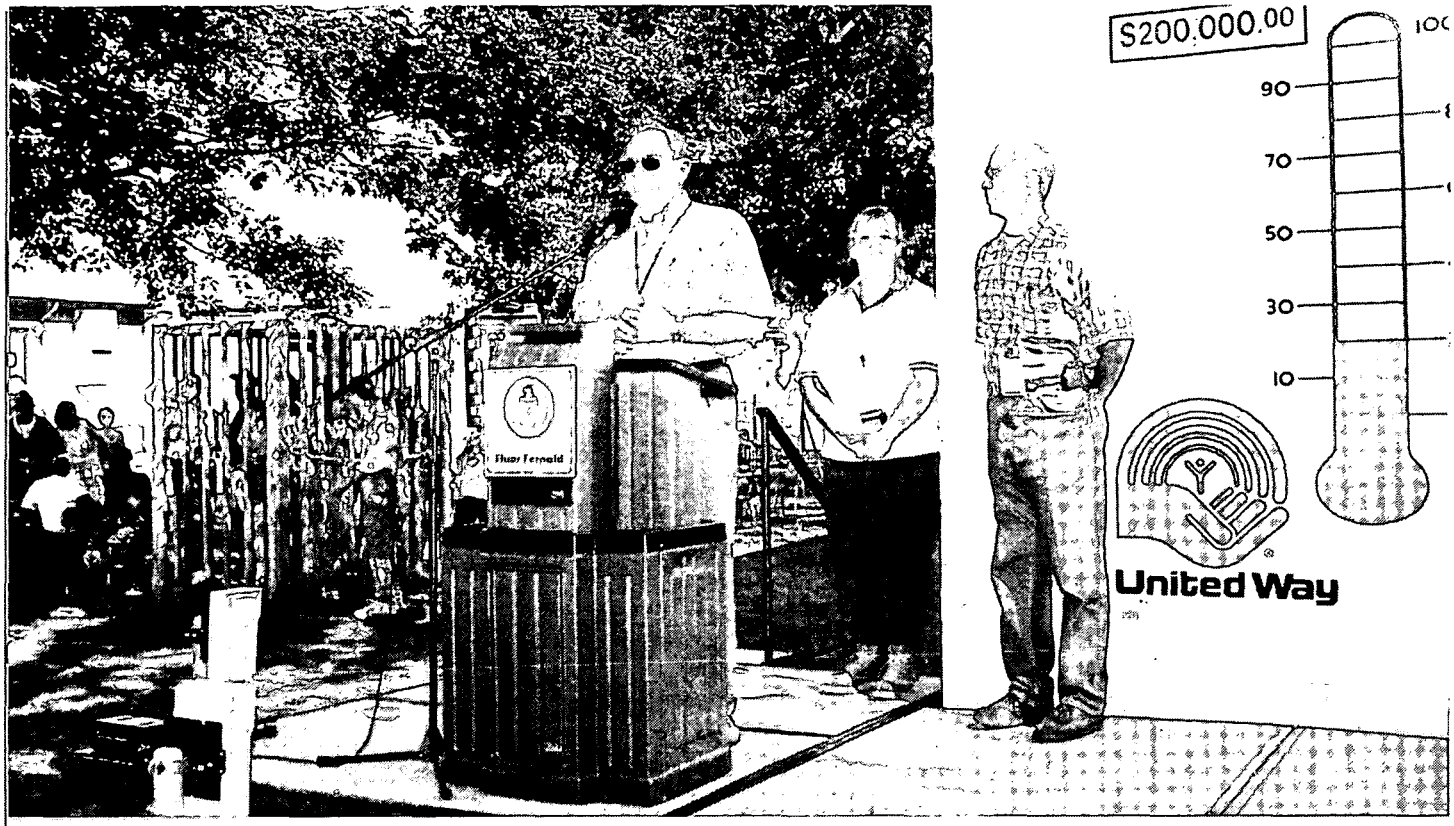
Jim Fiore takes a close look at Fernald's progress

Jim Fiore is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Closure within the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy (DOE). Prior to this, Mr. Fiore held several key positions within DOE including a short stint as Acting Manager of Fernald. "Jim is very knowledgeable of the site, its history, and the cleanup projects and he makes it his business to keep up-to-date on our progress," said Johnny Reising, Associate Director of Environmental Management at Fernald.

Last month, Mr. Fiore spent a day at the site touring a number of major projects and talking to team members about their work. At the Silos Project he was able to observe the construction activities by subcontractor Foster—Wheeler in preparation of the Advanced Waste Retrieval project for Silos 1 and 2. At the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project he saw the dryer operations, the control room and actual pit excavation. "Things have changed a great deal from the last time I took a tour," Fiore said. "This gives me a much better feeling about the progress being made at both the silos and waste pits."

Below: (left to right) Reising; Fiore; Nina Akgunduz, DOE Project Manager of Silos Project; and Dave Lojek, DOE -FEMP Project Manager of Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (6810-d0388).





United Way Campaign starts off with a bang!

Just two weeks after the kickoff of this year's annual United Way campaign, Fernald employees have already raised more than $50,000. That number represents one-fourth of this year's campaign goal of $200,000. In addition to individual pledges, money has also been contributed through various fundraising events.

Claude Griffin, a co-chair for the campaign, said 20 percent of the goal had already been reached by the campaign kickoff on Aug. 31. "Most of that was from fundraising activities and individual pledges matched by Fluor Corp. While we hope the level of support from fundraising activities will continue, we place the most emphasis on individual pledges," Griffin said.

"For every dollar donated via a pledge card, the Fluor Foundation will donate an additional 50 cents," Griffin said.

New hours for the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC)

Beginning October 2, the PEIC located at 10995 Hamilton Cleves Highway (St. Rt. 128) will be changing its hours of operation. The new hours of operation for the PEIC are: Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding the PEIC, please call 513-648-7480, or email: diane.rayer@fernald.gov.

Recent Tours

This summer approximately 60 students participated in the intern program. The Fernald Technical University Program provides an opportunity for students to explore career options related to their respective degrees. The program runs year round and is designed to allow students to gain valuable work experience.

Left: Two of the interns discuss their summer at Fernald. Kathy Cooper (left) worked in the legal department and Kim Cole (right) was assigned to the Silos Project (6810- d0374).

Something for Everyone

Whether you wanted to run, walk, ride, eat, or just watch, the choice was yours at the annual festival sponsored by the Ross Area Merchants Association. Festival activities included rides, bingo, a horseshoe tournament, a craft show and a "cruise in," in which hot rod classic car owners displayed their vehicles.

In addition to the activities at Stricker's Grove, others got up early in the morning to participate in a 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Fernald Community Involvement Team (FCIT). As of August, the all-volunteer FCIT has donated more than 3,000 hours to community projects and supported groups such as New Beginnings, Ronald McDonald House and Habitat for Humanity. Proceeds of the race will support these activities.

Right: Nikki Wagner (daughter of Fernald employee Jeff Wagner) is greeted by Fernald Community Involvement Team chairman Jim Lang, at the finish line of the annual 5K Race/Walk in Ross (7469-d0011).

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
- ◇ DOE Letter: Quarterly Report (Emissions)

☐ Soil & Disposal Facility Project
- ◇ Final Waste Acceptance Criteria Attainment Report for Area 7 Soils (Silos Project Area)
- ◇ DOE Letter: Documentation of Decision to Place Transite Bundles in Cell 3 of the On-Site Disposal Facility
- ◇ OEPA Letter: Approval of Annual Inspection of Leachate Management System
- ◇ USEPA Letter: Area 1, Phase III Part Two Certification Design
- ◇ Final Certification Design Letter for Area 1, Phase III Part Two
- ◇ Project Specific Plan for Certification Sampling of Area 1, Phase III Part Two

☐ Silos Project
- ◇ Silos 1 and 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval (AWR) Project Remedial Design Package
- ◇ Fernald Silo 3 Project Process Control Plan (RMRS)
- ◇ Transportation and Disposal Plan for Operable Unit 4 – Silo 3
- ◇ Sampling and Analysis Plan for Silo 3 Treated Waste Material
- ◇ Fernald Silo 3 Project Operational Environmental Control Plan (RMRS)

☐ Aquifer Restoration Project
- ◇ USEPA Letter: Aquifer Re-Injection Test Report (Approval)
- ◇ May 2000 Re-Injection Operating Report
- ◇ Project Specific Plan for Pumping Test, Pilot Plant Drainage Ditch Plume Area

☐ Miscellaneous
- ◇ 1999 Integrated Site Environmental Report Fernald Environmental Management Project June 2000 (color version)

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

Fernald Report
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