



3556 FCAB UPDATE

Week of March 16, 2001

(Last update was dated February 23, 2001)

MEETING SCHEDULE

DOE Cleanup Progress Briefing
Tuesday, April 10, 2001, 6:30 p.m.

Services Building Conference Room

Stewardship Committee Meeting (*date change*)
Wednesday, April 11, 2001, 6:30 p.m.

Services Building Conference Room

Full FCAB Meeting (*date & time change*)
Thursday, April 12, 2001, 6:00 p.m.

Services Building Conference Room

ATTACHMENTS

- Updated Calendar as of 3/16/01
- Updated Contact Information as of 3/16/01
- Final minutes of January 2001 Full CAB and Stewardship Committee meetings
- USEPA and OEPA comment letters to DOE on rebaselining
- OEPA and Alliance for Nuclear Accountability comment letters to DOE on funding
- DOE letter to USEPA and OEPA re: Proposed Revisions to the Groundwater Final Remediation Levels Established in the Fernald OU5 ROD
- Fluor Fernald letter to DOE re: Evaluation of Tension Support Structures by DNFSB
- DOE-EM Weekly Reports
- Newsclips

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CALENDAR UPDATE** – Please note that the Stewardship Committee meeting in April has moved to Wednesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m., to accommodate the Full CAB meeting which has moved to Thursday, April 12, at 6:00 p.m. Also note the schedule changes for July and November.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Doug Sarno or Lois Yasutis, Phoenix Environmental

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E-Mail: djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com / lyasutis@theperspectivesgroup.com

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FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD CALENDAR 2001

Time and Location of Meetings (unless otherwise noted):

DOE Public Briefing Meetings, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., Services Building Conference Room
 Stewardship Cmte Meetings, Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Services Building Conference Room
 Full FCAB Meetings, Saturdays, 8:30 a.m., Services Building Conference Room

Current as of 3/16/01

JANUARY 2001

08 Stewardship Committee Meeting (*Monday, 6:30 p.m.*)
 09 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 13 Full FCAB Meeting

FEBRUARY 2001

05 Full FCAB Meeting (*Monday, 6:00 p.m.*)
 No Stewardship Committee Meeting
 13 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing

MARCH 2001

01 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 10 Full FCAB Meeting
 13 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing

APRIL 2001

10 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 11 Stewardship Cmte Meeting (*Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.*)
 12 Full FCAB Meeting (*Thursday, 6:00 p.m.*)

MAY 2001

08 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 10 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 12 Full FCAB Meeting

JUNE 2001

12 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 14 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 16 Full FCAB Meeting

JULY 2001

10 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 11 Stewardship Cmte Meeting (*Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.*)
 12 Full FCAB Meeting (*Thursday, 6:00 p.m.*)

AUGUST 2001

NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 2001

11 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 13 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 15 Fernald Citizens Advisory Board Retreat (tentative)

OCTOBER 2001

09 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 11 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 13 Full FCAB Meeting

NOVEMBER 2001

13 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 14 Stewardship Cmte Meeting (*Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.*)
 17 Full FCAB Meeting

DECEMBER 2001

NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED



Date: January 8, 2001

Topics:

- Weldon Springs Experience
- Native American Update
- Scenarios Planning
- Funding Planning

Attendees:

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Jim Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Steve Depoe
Pam Dunn

Phoenix Environmental Corp

Doug Sarno

U.S. Department of Energy

Steve McCracken
Kathleen Nickel
Gary Stegner
Ed Skintik

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Tom Schneider

Fluor Fernald

Tisha Patton
Larry Stebbins
Jeff Wagner
Eric Woods

FRESH

Edwa Yocum
Carol Schroer

FCRO

Todd Trammel

Crosby Twp. Historical Society

Jim Innis



MEETING SUMMARY

The University of Cincinnati will hold a Regional Communications Conference on April 6-9, 2001, at the Omni Netherland Plaza in Cincinnati, OH. Steve Depoe would like representatives from the Fernald site, the FCAB, and/or the community to participate in a roundtable discussion on stakeholder involvement at Fernald, including activities like the Future of Fernald workshops. The FCAB and Fluor agreed to work with Steve on this event.

Jim Werner has resigned from DOE as part of the transition to a new Administration. His temporary replacement is Dave Geiser. It will be several months before the new Administration's impact on environmental policies can be determined.

A team of experts is looking at technologies for monitoring the disposal facility cap and cover system as part of the Post Closure Stewardship Technology Program. The team has developed a priority list of geomechanical and ecological parameters that need monitoring. On January 25th, the team will review and select monitoring technologies. The Stewardship Committee will receive a report on the technologies, and be able to provide input before the deployment of any system(s).

In a comment letter about DOE's draft Long-Term Stewardship Study, OEPA generally favored DOE's recommendations. However, OEPA is concerned that the study does not sufficiently address:

- Developing new institutional controls to replace problematic ones;
- Including LTS considerations in the remedy selection process;
- A "full life cycle cost accounting" of only 70 years;
- Relying only on annual funding by Congress;
- Sustaining re-evaluation methodologies for sites and technologies.

Weldon Springs, Missouri

Steve McCracken provided an overview of the Weldon Springs site.

Weldon Springs, a site similar to Fernald, is expected to finish clean up and to begin stewardship activities within the next two years. A priority of the citizen's group is to find ways to maintain good post-closure communication with DOE. Post closure stewardship requirements for environmental monitoring, institutional controls, and good communications are set out in CERCLA. DOE has agreed that these requirements will continue in force after closure. The community is developing stewardship plans to ensure that DOE fulfills those requirements.

The Weldon Springs long-term stewardship plan begins with the model created by stakeholders at Oak Ridge and adds its own plans for surveillance, monitoring and institutional controls.

The community also is planning an onsite public "interpretation" center. The center could become a key component for funding under CERCLA. They sought advice from specialists at the Missouri Department of Conservation. The specialists had recommendations on the size of the center, how to incorporate it into the existing site infrastructure (i.e., hiking trails, wildlife refuge), as well as how to draw public attention to the site. Also under consideration is a plan to partner with area schools and/or tourist boards. The Weldon Springs interpretation center could be open for visitation by next summer.

Weldon Springs is struggling to ensure implementation of its stewardship plans by completion of clean up. The lesson for Fernald is to begin stewardship planning early to open avenues for implementation and funding prior to closure. For example, grading land for trails, or an interpretation center, could be funded under the closure contract.

Native American Update

Formal discussion has been initiated with Native American groups to determine their participation interest in the site. It will be several more months before a plan is developed and funding needs realized. One possible funding source may be tribal grants from the Department of the Interior.

Stewardship Scenario and Funding Planning

Over the next two months, the Stewardship Committee will develop a conceptual plan for the restored site. The plan will include criteria for the public use areas, such as the hiking trails. Area park planning specialists in Hamilton County will be invited to participate in future planning sessions. Ann Wickham, the new stewardship contact at the Ohio Field Office, will also be invited and may be able to suggest other helpful contacts.

The Stewardship Committee needs to look at goals that can be implemented and funded prior to completion of the clean up. Goals implemented after closure will need new funding. The committee discussed future funding possibilities, such as the Natural Resource Damage Assessments and community settlements, and Congressional appropriation.

Next Meeting

The next Stewardship Committee meeting will be a combined meeting for February/March. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2001.



FULL BOARD MEETING Services Building Conference Room

Saturday, January 13, 2001

MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (the "Board") met from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2001, at the Fernald Site Services Building in Hamilton, Ohio. The meeting was reported in the Federal Register and open to the public.

Members Present

French Bell
Jim Bierer
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Lou Doll
Pam Dunn
Glenn Griffiths (for Steve McCracken)
Jane Harper
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell
Thomas Wagner
Gene Willeke

Members Absent

Steve Depoe
Mike Keyes
Steve McCracken
Robert Tabor
Fawn Thompson

Designated Federal Official

Gary Stegner

Phoenix Environmental Staff

Douglas Sarno
Lois Yasutis

Fluor Fernald Staff

Tisha Patton

Also present at the meeting were approximately 15 members of the general public representing Fluor Fernald, Inc. (Fluor), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Critical Analysis Team (CAT), the Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center, and the local community.

1. Call to Order

Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Chair's Remarks and Ex-Officio Announcements

The University of Cincinnati will hold a Regional Communications Conference on April 6-9, 2001, at the Omni Netherland Plaza in Cincinnati, OH. Steve Depoe asked for representatives from Fluor, the Board, and/or the community at large to participate in a roundtable discussion about Fernald and its stakeholder involvement. Interested persons should contact Jim Bierer or Steve Depoe as soon as possible.

As part of the transition to a new Administration, political appointee, Jim Werner, has resigned from DOE. His temporary replacement is David Geiser. DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Carolyn Huntoon, is not an appointee and may be a continuing presence. It will be several months before the new Administration's impact on environmental policies can be determined.

The Board asked that its representatives from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and DOE facilitate some response to their concerns on the cancellation of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee (FHES). Past inquiries to DOE and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, who is responsible for FHES oversight, have gone unanswered. The Board will send another letter to the CDC requesting the status of the FHES.

On January 23rd, representatives from DOE and contractors at the Portsmouth Site will tour the Fernald facility to discuss experience with the On Site Disposal Facility (OSDF). There is poor stakeholder involvement at Portsmouth, and personnel from the site may seek guidance from the Board.

The EPA has raised the standard of allowable uranium in water from 20 parts per billion (ppb) to 30 ppb. Dennis Carr, Fluor Fernald Executive Project Director, explained that 20 ppb was the standard used to measure: (1) discharge into the Great Miami River, (2) clean up of the Great Miami Aquifer, (3) clean up of ground water on site, especially under buildings, and (4) waste acceptance at the OSDF. It is not clear whether the change in standard would necessitate a ROD amendment, and DOE and EPA will follow up with the Board on that subject. Fluor has had internal discussions about the raised standard, and will keep the Board advised of any impact on water or soil remediation.

The Board will send a follow up letter to Rep. Portman and Sen. DeWine requesting that they continue to ensure appropriate support of Fernald issues in the new Administration.

The Board asked DOE to comment on a report from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) setting out inadequacies in the FEMP Fire Protection Program,

specifically within the Tension Support Structures used to store radioactive waste. In DOE's opinion the issue is a relatively minor "paperwork" problem for DOE to resolve with DNFSB, not an actual "safety" problem. DOE has asked Fluor to prepare its response by March 5.

3. Upcoming Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs Meeting in Las Vegas

The next SSAB Chairs meeting will be February 7-10, 2001, in Las Vegas. They will review the results of the October Stewardship Workshop and discuss topics and plans for the next workshop. Jim Bierer hopes to initiate discussion on the possible effects of the new Administration on functions of the SSABs.

4. Discussion on New Contract and Rebaselining Scenarios

Under the new 10 year closure contract, Fluor must provide a new, revised baseline to DOE by June 1, 2001. Dennis Carr, Executive Project Director for Fluor, explained the tasks involved with the rebaselining. The baseline includes approximately 13,000 activities. To rebaseline, Fluor looks at the sequencing and scheduling details of all activities, and performs a full resource analysis on each activity. The proposed baseline is compared against available funding and adjusted as necessary. The final baseline is subject to review by DOE and an independent validation. The contract defines funding at a flat \$290 million per year with no increases for escalation, as opposed to higher funding in the upfront years that decreases as the contract proceeds. Flat funding will make it very difficult to continue with all activities at their current levels. Using all the available information, Fluor is developing a number of scenarios to explore the most efficient way of proceeding. The three top scenarios currently under consideration are:

- Proceed at current levels, prioritizing critical projects and allocating remaining funding across all remaining projects. For example, under this scenario, K-65 Silos would be prioritized as critical, while the pace of waste management projects would be reduced;
- Proceed fully on certain projects and slow down or stop others. For example, concentrate efforts on K-65 Silos, waste pits and waste management, delay up to four years on OSDF and soil excavation, and delay up to three years on Decontamination and Dismantlement (D&D); and
- Supplement available funding with commercial funding to accelerate the execution of projects, especially in the upfront years of the contract. For example, bring in outside funding to execute D&D at an accelerated pace while delaying soil remediation until D&D allows access to the contaminated soil under the buildings.

Dennis will work with Doug Sarno to prepare the three scenarios in a format that Board members can look at and evaluate. Fluor needs the Board's input within the next month. The Board will meet on Monday, February 5, 2001, 6:00 p.m., for the sole purpose of reviewing and discussing the scenarios. The Board's review will be centered on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Schedule of key activities by Operable Unit (OU);
- Annual and total costs;
- Labor needs over time to include number and classes of employees and costs;
- Environmental impacts;
- Risk issues;
- Milestone impacts;
- Regulatory reaction;
- Impacts on Consent Agreement;
- Costs and other impacts associated with stopping and restarting a project, particularly capping of the OSDF;
- Feasibility;
- Input from onsite workers;
- Funding impacts.

5. Silos Update and Discussion

In a revision to its charter that fulfills DOE requirements for independent reviewers, the Critical Analysis Team (CAT) will report directly to DOE. CAT team reports will continue to be sent to everyone who regularly received them in the past.

Bob Fellman, Project Manager, Silos and Accelerated Waste Retrieval (AWR) Projects, explained the regulatory, construction, and design planning processes for the Silos Project.

Last summer, Fluor sent to EPA the remedial design plan on the Accelerated Waste Retrieval (AWR) for review and comment. After revisions, based on comments from EPA and the CAT, Fluor submitted its finalized plan in January and expects EPA approval this month. In early March, Fluor will submit a remedial action workplan covering operation of the Radon Control System (RCS). At some date, which is still undetermined, Fluor will submit a remedial action workplan for the actual transfer of waste to temporary storage tanks for delivery for remediation.

Construction and design on technical equipment to remove waste from the silos (known as EMMA) is about 75% complete, but Fluor is continuing to look at safety issues in the design and deployment of EMMA's robotic arm. The RCS design is complete and some of the system's features are already in place onsite. The balance of the design planning for the Silos Project is underway.

Construction work is approximately 22% complete. At the storage tank area, tank pads and foundations for each of the transfer storage tanks are poured and construction has started on the walls. At the RCS, the foundation and walls are up for the air handling building, and a generator is installed. All of the foundation work is done at the equipment and stack areas.

Fluor Fernald and Foster Wheeler, the construction subcontractor on the Silos Project, continue to try to iron out contractual issues, which may affect scheduling.

During November and December, Fluor and Rocky Mountain Remediation Services (RMRS) agreed to a termination of services by RMRS on Silo 3, and all design documentation was turned over to Fluor. As of January 8, 2001, RMRS is officially terminated as the Silo 3 subcontractor. Fluor is currently considering its options for Silo 3 and hopes to complete a new plan for implementation by April.

The CAT has reviewed the AWR design documents and found them to be adequate. They also looked at what went wrong on the Silos Project, possible remedies, and how to ensure the same problems don't recur at the silos or elsewhere on site. The problems were both technical and managerial. The CAT's detailed report on AWR and the Silos Project will be distributed in the near future.

Board members expressed the opinion that even though the Silos Project contains complex technical and risk management issues, the problems need to be brought under control and a definitive action plan put in place, especially under the flat funding constraints of the new contract.

6. Stewardship Plans for 2001

Activities for future use of the restored site include a system of hiking trails, Native American reinterments, and an onsite information center. Over the next couple of years the Stewardship Committee will be exploring and planning stewardship of these activities, including post remediation monitoring and reporting, institutional controls, information and records management, natural resources management, funding, and identification of responsible parties.

In February/March 2001, the Stewardship Committee will concentrate on developing a conceptual plan for the hiking/biking trails that will include educational markers on historical and environmental aspects of the site. The conceptual plan for a trail system will aid the Natural Resources Trustees in their work.

7. New Member Recruitment

Mike Keyes has indicated that he will resign from the Board. There have been no definite responses to Board member recruitment actions. The Board will continue to look at new member possibilities to include recruiting members from local colleges and high schools.

8. Public Comment

Jim Bierer opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

9. Adjournment

Jim Bierer adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the January 13, 2001, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.


James Bierer, Chair
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

3/10/01
Date


Gary Stegner, Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
Deputy Designated Federal Official

3/16/01
Date



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3690

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FEB 2 11 2001

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

Mr. Johnny W. Reising
United States Department of Energy
Feed Materials Production Center
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

SRF-SJ

RE: FDF Rebaseline of
the Fernald Project

Dear Mr. Reising:

In the last two months representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the United States Department of Energy's (U.S. DOE), the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF) have been involved in discussions regarding the re-baselining of the cleanup at the U.S. DOE Fernald, Ohio site. The discussions have been a result of the newly awarded contract by U.S. DOE to FDF at the Fernald site for oversight of cleanup activities. As part of the new rebaseline effort, U.S. DOE has required FDF to assume flat line funding at \$290M for the performance period ending December 31, 2010. U.S. EPA is concerned that the reduced funding levels being proposed for the duration of the cleanup jeopardize the environmental progress at the site.

U.S. EPA has several concerns regarding the rebaselining effort. The approach to developing the baseline, a result of U.S. DOE's existing contract mechanism, is inconsistent with past approaches for reaching alignment and consensus among all stakeholders. U.S. DOE's past commitment to accelerate the cleanup and to dispose the silo and waste pit materials off-site was essential in obtaining stakeholder support for the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF). U.S. DOE characterized the OSDF as being necessary for implementation of a safe, cost effective, and prompt cleanup. Extending the duration of the cleanup breaches U.S. DOE's promise and may erode the public's confidence in U.S. DOE's commitment to the Fernald cleanup.

U.S. DOE has informed FDF, U.S. EPA and OEPA that the \$290M annual budget is what they have been required to assume for the outyears when rebaselining the cleanup, yet U.S. EPA has not received any such documentation regarding a U.S. DOE directive toward cleanup funding at the Fernald site. Based on the re-baselining scenarios

described by U.S. DOE and FDF, U.S. EPA believes that U.S. DOE will likely fail to maintain compliance with the schedule commitments as required by the 1991 Administrative Consent Agreement (ACA). The ACA requires U.S. DOE to request funding from Congress for all cleanup activities required under the agreement. Yet under the re-baselining scenarios U.S. DOE assumes a flat-line budget amount which is clearly inadequate to fund ACA required activities. U.S. EPA intends to hold U.S. DOE to the ACA enforceable workplans and schedules.

One of the re-baselining scenarios advanced by U.S. DOE and FDF proposes to "suspend" certain cleanup activities for a number of years. Under this scenario, U.S. DOE would suspend Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) activities in the Production Area for two years, and shutdown soil excavation and waste placement in the OSDF for four years. U.S. EPA believes that suspending such major components of the Fernald cleanup would not be consistent with the Section 120(e)(2) of CERCLA requirement that remedial action be both substantial and continuous. If the cleanup duration is extended, U.S. EPA believes that U.S. DOE must implement an option that assures substantial and continuous implementation of each of the remedial actions selected in the five Records of Decision for the Fernald site.

Beyond concerns about substantial and continuous remedial action, U.S. EPA questions whether the proposed interim cap on the OSDF would be protective of the Great Miami Aquifer, especially if further budget reductions resulted in the OSDF being closed for an even greater period of time. Also, U.S. EPA is concerned that the amount of work estimated to be completed in the later years of the FDF contract period is unrealistic. The pace of D&D, soil excavation, and waste placement activities projected for the later years exceeds any rate achieved to date by U.S. DOE, even with trained and experienced staff and the benefits of excellent weather and extended field seasons. The uncertainty about completing these deferred activities calls into question whether the projected cost and time savings associated with the suspension scenario are realistic. With this uncertainty, U.S. EPA believes that large-scale suspension of remedial projects, many of which have been success stories for the site, is unwarranted. Finally, despite shutting down major remedial projects there is still concerns that further technical difficulties with the silos project could impact available resources for other projects and result in almost no remediation occurring at the site.

In the last decade, notwithstanding a few set backs, U.S. DOE has managed to transform the Fernald Site from an environmental disaster into a model clean up. However, the Fernald site is still

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a work in progress. The \$290M flat line funding approach allows little room for error over the remaining life of the technically complex project. Further, the proposed funding reductions and re-baselining of the Project threaten to negate U.S. DOE's efforts at the Fernald site. Therefore, U.S. EPA urges U.S. DOE to adequately fund the Fernald site in order to maintain continuous remedial action, to meet U.S. DOE's obligations under the 1991 ACA, and to meet stakeholder expectations.

Please contact me at (312) 886-0992 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



James A. Saric
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
SFD Remedial Response Branch #2

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
Kim Chaney, U.S. DOE-HDQ
John Bradburne, Fluor Fernald
Terry Hagen, Fluor Fernald
Tim Poff, Fluor Fernald
Steve McClacken, U.S. DOE-Fernald
Susan Brechbill, U.S. DOE-OFO
Graham Mitchell, OEPA-SWDO
Jim Woolford, U.S. EPA-PFRRO
Craig Hooks, U.S. EPA-PFEO
Jim Fiore, U.S. DOE-HDQ

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State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

8556

Southwest District Office

401 East Fifth Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

TELE: (937) 285-6357 FAX: (937) 285-6404

Bob Taft, Governor
Maureen O'Connor, Lt. Governor
Christopher Jones, Director

February 28, 2001

Mr. Steve McCracken
USDOE FEMP
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

Fax-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ ①
To <i>Fed. Energy</i>	From <i>OEPA</i>	
Co.	Co.	
Dept.	Phone #	
Fax # <i>3076</i>	Fax #	

Dear Mr. McCracken,

We the Natural Resource Trustee representatives for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OhioEPA) and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) are writing you to express our deep concerns with the Department of Energy's (DOE) apparent lack of commitment to successful settlement of the Natural Resource Damage claims and the State of Ohio's lawsuit. To date the trustees including the DOE have made good progress towards settlement and implementation of natural resource restoration at Fernald. We have a tentative agreement on settlement and stand prepared to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that all parties agree can lead to a final settlement agreement. Reaching this point is the result of over three years of negotiation and consultation amongst trustees and stakeholders at Fernald.

Up to the point of our January 31, 2001 Natural Resource Trustee meeting, we had agreed to yearly restoration projects and were actively working with the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board on recommendations for involving public input to our designs and use plans. However, the DOE's request for funding and subsequent direction to its contractor during baseline development, suggest DOE is no longer committed to the settlement and restoration plan negotiated by the trustees over the last three years. The budget request and revised baseline, as we understand them, result in the stoppage of on-going natural resource restoration efforts and the dismantling of the existing Natural Resources Group within Fluor Fernald. Dissolution of the Natural Resources Group will deflect a necessary focus on the natural resource restoration efforts with unacceptable impacts on the timely resolution of the State of Ohio's claim. One important aspect of the current process is the incorporation of natural resource restoration considerations into the remedial work around the site. The apparent direction of DOE on this matter will certainly create a disconnect in current process that will, in time, lead to a more costly site closure and duplication of efforts in the restoration and remedial programs.

This is not the first time DOE has wavered in its commitment to Natural Resource Restoration. Previous difficulties were encountered during the design phases of the A1P1 Wetland Mitigation and the A8P2 Forest Demonstration Area when DOE retracted prior commitments. Therefore we believe it is necessary for DOE to clearly commit to the natural resource restoration as outlined in the September 2000 Detailed Scope of Work

Mr. McCracken
February 28, 2000
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developed by DOE and the trustees. Additionally, we believe it is necessary that DOE provide for restoration work in a separate funding allocation from the current Operable Unit or PBS's. Once DOE has taken these steps and negotiated an acceptable schedule for restoration projects at the site we are prepared to move forward with signing the MOU and finalizing settlement of the NRDA claims and the State of Ohio's lawsuit.

The trustees are currently at an impasse due to the lack of clarity in the DOE position on the direction to be taken in the natural resource claims. In order to clarify the DOE position and allow the trustees to proceed on the most practical path, please provide a written response by April 1, 2001 concerning the following three items. First, confirm DOE's level of commitment to continuing the restoration work at Fernald as outlined in the September 2000 Scope of Work. Second, provide a separate funding line or PBS for Natural Resource Restoration to ensure adequate resource allocations. Third, develop an acceptable schedule for implementation of restoration projects at Fernald.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely



Thomas A. Schneider
Fernald Project Manager
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight
Ohio EPA



William J. Kurey
Acting Supervisor
Reynoldsburg Ohio Field Office
USF&WS

cc: Mark Navarre, OEPA Legal
Tim Kern, OAG
Daniel Dertke, US DOJ
John Ebersole, US DOE
Pete Yerace, US DOE
Janet Wong, DOI, Office of the Field Solicitor

TAS/



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southwest District Office

3556

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Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

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Bob Taft, Governor
Maureen O'Connor, Lt. Governor
Christopher Jones, Director

March 9, 2001

Mr. Steve McCracken
USDOE FEMP
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

Dear Mr. McCracken,

I am writing you to express Ohio EPA's concerns regarding the on-going rebaselining efforts by DOE and Fluor Fernald. The rebaselining is the result of DOE's award of the closure contract to Fluor Fernald and DOE's proposed funding request of only \$290 million flat line for the duration of the project. Based upon our discussions over the past two months, it appears the proposed funding profile and contract mechanisms will result in numerous missed regulatory milestones in the coming years and jeopardizes the environmental progress achieved at the site to date. It is important to note that all Fernald compliance milestones are directly related to site remediation and should not be viewed as different from site cleanup progress.

Ohio EPA has several concerns with the proposed scenarios being developed under the rebaselining and in particular with Fluor Fernald's preferred scenario which proposes the shutdown of several major projects on-site. Fluor's preferred scenario as we understand it would shutdown soil excavation, disposal cell operation and possibly decontamination and demolition activities to fully fund Waste Pit and Silos projects. Ohio EPA is concerned that under this scenario projects which have been highly successful at actual remediation work are being abandoned to focus on a project (silos) which has endured numerous problems and no actual remediation. We understand the priority of addressing the silo materials in a timely manner, however we are concerned with any scenario that advocates focusing on that project to the exclusion of others. The Silos project is extremely complicated and requires detailed attention. Therefore we believe a sequential approach to design and operation is needed. The project should focus on one aspect at a time. Obviously difficulties have been encountered when trying to focus on all aspects of design and treatment for the three silos simultaneously.

The Fernald remediation is based upon a very detailed and rigorous approach to soil excavation and placement of material into the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF). Any scenario which proposes to shutdown the soil excavation and disposal cell operation, jeopardizes the entire project. The knowledge base and skill level of those involved with these projects will not be easily regained once lost. The loss of those individuals with experience in following the protocols and procedures of excavation, construction, and placement doom the project to committing the mistakes of the past. Additionally, we do

Mr. McCracken
March 9, 2001
Page 2

not believe that an acceptable interim closure of the OSDF is possible. Ohio EPA, USEPA, DOE and Fluor Fernald all agreed during the original development of the OSDF concept that interim closure was unacceptable. The proposal for interim closure shows a lack of good faith on the part of DOE and Fluor Fernald. Ohio EPA believes any acceptable rebaselining effort must include a continuation of soil excavation and OSDF operation; continuation of natural resource restoration, a refocusing of Silos efforts, and continuation of Waste Pit operations.

Ohio EPA has been a willing partner in the development of better ways to get the job done at Fernald. The actions of the DOE have now put DOE's commitment to completing the work at hand in a judicious fashion in doubt. Since the first Fernald Ten Year Plan, Ohio EPA has worked diligently to accommodate the routine funding shortfalls at Fernald and shuffle work to keep the remediation and restoration as efficient and close to schedule as possible. The seemingly constant slippage in schedules can however not continue indefinitely and unfortunately the new contract and funding profile, when coupled, seem destined to institutionalize just such slippage. DOE must recognize the deleterious impacts of recent decisions and restore efforts to supply the resources necessary to support successful completion of milestones at Fernald.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (937) 285-6466.

Sincerely



Thomas A. Schneider
Fernald Project Manager
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight
Ohio EPA

cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA
Terry Hagen, Fluor Fernald
John Bradburne, Fluor Fernald
Jack Craig, U.S. DOE-OFO
Susan Brechbill, U.S. DOE-OFO
Ruth Vandergrift, ODH
Doug Sarno, FCAB
Jim Fiore, U.S. DOE-HDQ

8556

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability

A national network of organizations working to address issues of nuclear weapons production and waste cleanup

Member Groups

American Friends Service Committee
Denver, CO

Carolina Peace Resource Center
Columbia, SC

Citizen Alert
Las Vegas, NV

Coalition for Health Concern
Kovil, KY

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
Santa Fe, NM

Fernald Residents for Environmental
Safety and Health, Inc.
Ross, OH

Global Resource Action Center for the
Environment
New York, NY

Government Accountability Project
Seattle, WA

Heart of America Northwest
Seattle, WA

Los Alamos Study Group
Santa Fe, NM

Miamisburg Environmental Safety &
Health
Miamisburg, OH

National Environmental Coalition
of Native Americans
Prager, OK

Neighbors in Need
Englewood, OH

Nuclear Watch of New Mexico
Santa Fe, NM

Oak Ridge Environmental
Peace Alliance
Oak Ridge, TN

Panhandle Area Neighbors and Landowners
Pantowle, TX

Peace Action Education Fund
Washington, DC

Peace Farm
Panhandle, TX

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington, DC

Pertsmouth/Wisconsin Residents for
Environmental Safety and Security
McDonough, OH

Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice
Center
Boulder, CO

Schotts Texans Against Nuclear Dumping
Amarillo, TX

Shunkana Network
Fairport, NY

Snake River Alliance
Boise, ID

Southwest Research and
Information Center
Albuquerque, NM

Tri-Valley CAREs
Livermore, CA

Western States Legal Foundation
Oakland, CA

Women's Action for New
Directions
Andover, MA

March 7, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary, Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) is a nationwide network of over 30 organizations working in the shadow of the nuclear weapons complex. We are writing out of a grave concern that the proposed Department of Energy (DOE) budget threatens human health and the environment because of hidden cuts to Environmental Management (EM) cleanup programs. We fear that President Bush's initial proposal obscures this dangerous reality and urge you to make public the size and scope of cleanup cuts and their impacts on individual facilities.

The member groups of ANA are local organizations working to address cleanup, health care, and weapons production issues at DOE weapons complex facilities such as Hanford (WA), Oak Ridge (TN), Paducah (OH), Rocky Flats (CO), and nuclear weapons labs. Our members have detailed knowledge of the contamination at their sites, the challenges to cleanup that exist, and the risks to health that have already taken an enormous toll on workers and surrounding communities.

We share the concerns expressed by a bi-partisan coalition of Members of Congress who represent districts near nuclear weapons sites in their January 4 and February 14 letters to you that cuts in cleanup will create larger costs in the long run due to spreading contamination and lawsuits brought to fulfill existing cleanup agreements. In fact, significant increases to the Environmental Management program are required to meet the DOE's legally binding agreements with states and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The General Accounting Office highlighted this conclusion in a April 1999 report: level funding for EM is causing the DOE to fall short of meeting its cleanup plans and obligations by \$500 million annually from 1999 to 2006. In addition, the DOE in Fiscal Year 2002 will add approximately thirty facilities to its cleanup program for decontamination and decommissioning this year, placing even greater demands on the EM budget.

As an example, the cleanup schedule at Hanford is governed by the Tri-Party Agreement, a legal pact among the DOE, the EPA, and Washington's Department of Ecology. This schedule is based on prudent plans to ensure that 177 storage tanks of high-level liquid nuclear waste do not threaten the Columbia River. The program to build a major glassification plant and clean up parts of the Columbia River already contaminated is expensive, requiring \$1.5 billion in 2001 and approximately \$1.9 billion in 2002. Level funding—or worse, cuts—will not enable Hanford to stay on schedule and meet its legal cleanup obligations. The State of Washington can, and is likely to, file a lawsuit against DOE if it appears the DOE will fall behind the cleanup schedule.

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It is not as if sufficient funds to meet these needs do not exist in the federal budget. It is a question of priorities.

We are particularly concerned that anticipated cuts to cleanup are being made to help fund a large increase in the DOE's Defense Programs (DP) budget. The DOE is moving forward with an elaborate Stockpile Stewardship Program designed to maintain the U.S. arsenal at START I levels prior to the completion of the President's Nuclear Posture Review. The President has spoken repeatedly in favor of significant cuts to the U.S. nuclear arsenal, and the Nuclear Posture Review will almost certainly reflect these intentions. Without knowing the scope and size of DOE's weapons responsibilities, increased funding and planning for expensive new bomb-making facilities is premature. The General Accounting Office has also commented on this issue in its December 2000 report on Stockpile Stewardship. The GAO raised concerns about the lack of firm program requirements and the difficulties that this creates for budget planning. Moreover, the Stockpile Stewardship Program will add to the cleanup burden by creating even more radioactive and toxic waste.

The federal government must ensure that the Cold War's legacy of contamination is cleaned up and compensation is awarded to workers and citizens poisoned by this contamination. While the Administration believes that the American people are owed a tax cut, the American people are also owed clean water supplies, fresh air, and land where children can play without risk of contamination.

We urge you to be mindful of the legal and moral obligations that exist to clean up contamination. The tradeoff currently being proposed between weapons and cleanup programs is totally unacceptable. We strongly urge you to re-submit a DOE Environmental Management budget proposal that meets the nation's obligations to communities near DOE weapons sites.

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability would like to discuss these concerns with you in the near future. I will contact your office late next week to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,



Susan R. Gordon
Executive Director

Cc: Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Director, Office of Management and Budget



Department of Energy

**Ohio Field Office
Fernald Area Office
P. O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705
(513) 648-3155**



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FEB 23 2001

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V, SRF-5J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

DOE-0357-01

Mr. Tom Schneider, Project Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
401 East 5th Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

**PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE GROUNDWATER FINAL REMEDIATION LEVELS
ESTABLISHED IN THE FERNALD OPERABLE UNIT 5 RECORD OF DECISION**

- References:
- 1) Federal Register, 2000, "40 CFR Parts 9, 141, and 142, National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; Radionuclides; Final Rule," Vol. 65, No. 236, pp. 76708-76753, December 7, 2000, Washington, D.C.
 - 2) Record of Decision for Remedial Actions at Operable Unit 5, DOE, January 1996
 - 3) Superfund Fact Sheet: "ARARs Q's & A's", United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, May 1989

On December 7, 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) promulgated the final Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for uranium in drinking water at 30 micrograms per liter (µg/L) [Reference 1]. In adopting the final MCL, U.S. EPA based their decision on the reasoning that "potential uranium MCLs lower than 30 µg/L have substantially higher associated compliance costs and only modest additional cancer risk reduction and kidney toxicity benefits" (p. 76715). The U.S. EPA also indicated that the "30 µg/L MCL is protective of the general population, including children and the elderly" (p76714).



Mr. James A. Saric
Mr. Tom Schneider

-2-

FEB 23 2001

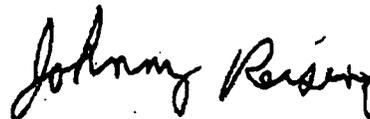
The Department of Energy (DOE) believes U.S. EPA's logic provided in Reference 1 serves as a solid foundation for adopting the 30 µg/L MCL as an appropriate Final Remediation Level (FRL) for groundwater restoration activities at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). With this letter, DOE is requesting concurrence from the U.S. EPA and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to move forward with the process of adopting the promulgated 30 µg/L MCL as a recognized FRL for the FEMP. Specifically, the 30 µg/L FRL would be used as the final target for cleanup of the Great Miami Aquifer and as the new uranium limit (consistent with the process outlined in the Operable Unit 5 [OU5] Record of Decision [ROD]) for water discharged to the Great Miami River. Additionally, the final MCL for uranium will be used as the upper limit for injection water returned to the aquifer under the groundwater injection program.

The ROD for OU5 (Reference 2) adopted the proposed uranium MCL of 20 µg/L with the expectation that once finalized, DOE and the regulatory agencies would review the appropriateness of the final MCL for use at the FEMP. Upon U.S. EPA and OEPA concurrence with this letter, DOE will begin the process of preparing an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) document to facilitate the revision of the OU5 ROD to adopt the final uranium MCL. DOE will work with the public through the ESD approval process. DOE also acknowledges that the impact of adopting the final MCL will need to be reviewed with the Natural Resource Trustees for the site relative to the ongoing resolution of DOE liabilities for natural resource impacts.

The U.S. EPA also recently finalized the MCL for arsenic in drinking water at 10 µg/L. As part of the ESD, DOE will accommodate this final MCL in adopting a new groundwater FRL for arsenic using the process provided in Figure 2-1 of the OU5 Feasibility Study. If, or when, other Fernald constituents of concern undergo similar MCL revisions, DOE will examine their impact in conjunction with U.S. EPA and OEPA following the policies and guidance contained in Reference 3. Typically, this evaluation would be conducted as an integral element of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Five-Year Review process for the site.

The DOE appreciates U.S. EPA and OEPA's input into this revision and looks forward to a successful implementation of the process. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Robert Janke at (513) 648-3124.

Sincerely,



Johnny W. Reising
Fernald Remedial Action
Program Manager

FEMP:R.J. Janke

Fluor Fernald, Inc.
P.O. Box 538704
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704

8556

(513) 648-3000

FLUOR GLOBAL SERVICES

March 1, 2001

Fernald Environmental Management Project
Letter No. C:OOTP:2001-0078

Mr. Stephen H. McCracken, Director
Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P. O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705

Dear Mr. McCracken:

EVALUATION OF TENSION SUPPORT STRUCTURES (TSSs) BY DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB)

Reference: Letter, DOE-0256-01, Stephen H. McCracken to John Bradburne, "Evaluation Of Tension Support Structures By Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board," dated January 19, 2001

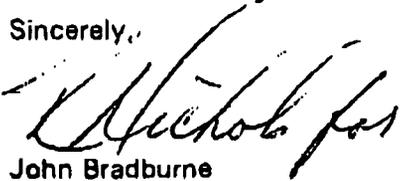
In accordance with your request in the referenced letter, Fluor Fernald, Inc. (Fluor Fernald), has reviewed the concerns raised by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) regarding the Tension Support Structures (TSSs) at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). To address the concerns identified, Fluor Fernald has initiated the following actions:

1. The Fire Hazards Analysis (FHA) for the TSSs shall be revised as necessary to address the inadequacies identified by the DNFSB staff during the review performed on November 9, 2000. Fluor Fernald will work with the DOE-FEMP and the DNFSB staff to ensure the concerns regarding the FHA are satisfactorily addressed. The FHA revision is expected to be complete by April 2, 2001.
2. Fluor Fernald has initiated a supervisory review of the TSSs to ensure that: a) propane-powered vehicles are not left unattended overnight; b) transient combustibles have been properly stored or removed; and c) all unnecessary electrical appliances have been unplugged or shut off at the breaker. This review is conducted, at a minimum, at the end of each work shift, and is documented on an end-of-shift checklist.
3. Fluor Fernald has initiated off-shift tours inside the TSSs to detect a fire that may occur while the structure is unoccupied. Fluor Fernald Fire & Safety Inspectors and/or security personnel perform the tours.

4. Fluor Fernald has contracted a Professional Engineer (PE) qualified in Fire Protection to review the FHA, and to evaluate the adequacy or applicability of fire protection and detection systems supporting the TSSs. Pertinent information resulting from the PE Evaluation will be incorporated into the FHA, which is expected to be completed by April 2, 2001.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Doug Daniels at extension 4344 or Pat Kraps at extension 4217.

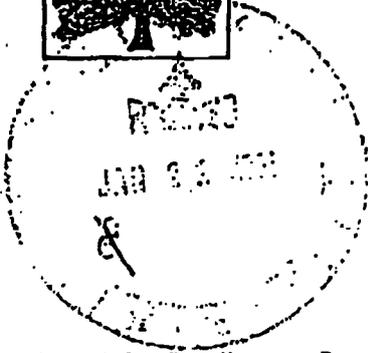
Sincerely,



John Bradburne
President & CEO

JB:DD:trf
Enclosure

c: Robert J. Bell, DOE Contracting Officer, MS45
Terri L. Binau, DOE Contracting Officer, MS45
Dennis J. Carr, Fluor Fernald, Inc., MS2
William B. Hensley, Fluor Fernald, Inc., MS44-0
Pat Kraps, Fluor Fernald, Inc., MS31
Gwen Nalls, Fluor Fernald, Inc., MS80-2
Rex Norton, Fluor Fernald, Inc., MS40
Glenn Griffiths, DOE-FEMP, MS45
David R. Kozlowski, DOE-FEMP, MS45
Donald Paine, Fluor Fernald, Inc., MS52-4
Loretta E. Parsons, DOE Contracting Officer, MS45
Tisha C. Patton, Fluor Fernald, Inc., MS76
Walter J. Quaid, DOE-FEMP, MS45
Dennis Sizemore, Fernald Prime Contract, MS5
Mark L. Sucher, Fluor Fernald, Inc., MS8
Victor M. Taylor, DOE-FEMP, MS45
File Record Project Number 40000/1.1
Administrative Record MS78



Ohio Field Office
 Fernald Area Office
 P. O. Box 538705
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705
 (513) 648-3155

JAN 9 2001



COMMITMENT: 3/5/01
 Action: Danny Whitaker-She
 Support: Buckley/Paine

Copy: P. Kraps
 R. Crawford
 J. Jameson
 M. Slicher
 K. Fritts

8556

DOE-0256-01

*copy: Doug Daniels
 Brenda Perkins
 Matt Frost
 Sharon Keel CQ*

Mr. John Bradburne, President & CEO
 Fluor Fernald, Inc.
 P. O. Box 538704
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8704

Dear Mr. Bradburne:

EVALUATION OF TENSION SUPPORT STRUCTURES BY THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Attached is a letter from the Defense Nuclear Safety Board (DNFSB), John T. Conway to Carolyn L. Huntoon, dated January 8, 2001, listing two concerns related to the use of the Tension Support Structures at the Fernald Environmental Management Project. Included with the letter is a report generated as a result of a site visit by DNFSB staff members.

We will need to respond to this letter to indicate what actions have been or will be completed to address the issues. It is requested that members of your organization work with members of our organization to develop this plan by March 5, 2001.

If you have questions or need additional guidance, please contact Mr. David Kozlowski at extension 3187 or Mr. Victor Taylor at 3121.

Sincerely,

for 
 Stephen H. McCracken
 Director

Cc: w/attachment

- D. Kozlowski, OH/FEMP
- L. Parsons, OH/FEMP
- W. Quaid, OH/FEMP
- V. Taylor, OH/FEMP
- P. Kraps, Fluor Fernald
- D. Sizemore, Fluor Fernald, Inc./5



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEEKLY REPORT

February 16, 2001

I Schedule**II Key Departmental News**

STAR Status: Fernald Environmental Management Project has been awarded gold star recognition status by the Office of Environment, Safety and Health for their Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). VPP promotes safety and health excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management, and government at DOE sites. Contractors that meet the requirements for outstanding performance receive STAR recognition. STAR status is the highest safety performance and program honor that can be achieved.

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: Tom Evans, 301-903-7609

Oral Arguments on the Natural Resource Defense Council Petition Against DOE for Requirements in DOE 435.1 were held on February 9, 2001: The petitioners in this litigation include both the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Snake River Alliance. Their argument is that the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing requirements in DOE M 435.1 are "fundamentally inconsistent with the plain language of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) and Congress' intent to ensure that high-level waste does not 'adversely affect the public health and safety and the environment for this or future generations'." The panel of judges inquired as to whether this case was proper to be argued before the Ninth Circuit of Appeals, and questioned whether the NWPA was the applicable statute. A ruling is expected to be made in the next two to six months.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Ken Picha, 301-903-7199

Envirocare Presents Safety Plaque to the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP): Envirocare of Utah, Incorporated, presented a plaque to the DOE-Ohio Field Office recognizing Fernald's consistent performance in making safe and compliant shipments to their facility. The Fernald Waste Pit Project completed shipping 970 waste loaded gondola railcars in calendar year 2000 without any regulatory compliance issues. Fernald is the second largest waste volume shipper to Envirocare.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Kim Chaney, 301-903-2778

Seven Million Work Hours Without Injuries or Accidents at Fernald: Fernald employees have reached seven million work hours without injuries or accidents, contractor Fluor Fernald Co. announced last week. The achievement for workers at the Fernald Environmental Management Project in Ohio surpasses

the five million hours met in June and represents the longest consecutive safe work-hour streak since 1992, when Fluor began environmental restoration. In a related accomplishment, the Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council and its representative companies reached eight years without a lost-time accident at FEMP. Fluor Fernald President and CEO John Bradburne called the achievement "the biggest change that I've seen take place since the beginning of this cleanup project."

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: Steve McCracken, 513, 648-3101

Mound Achieves Five Million Safe Work Hours: On February 5, the Mound Site (DOE and Babcock & Wilcox Technologies of Ohio, Inc.) achieved a significant safety milestone - five million work hours without experiencing a lost time day away from work case. In honor of this achievement, an award will be presented to all employees.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Rick Provencher, 937-865-3252

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Shipments: As of February 14, WIPP has received 149 shipments (17-LANL, 40-INEEL, 87-RFETS, and 5-Hanford) since March 1999. WIPP is scheduled to receive seven shipments this week from RFETS and INEEL, four shipments from RFETS and three from INEEL, weather permitting.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Mary Bisesi, 301-903-7416

WIPP Visit by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman: Chairman Richard Meserve of the NRC is visiting the WIPP site on February 23. He will be taken on a tour of the underground area and given an overview briefing. This visit was initially planned for January, but was postponed until February 23.

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: Lynne Wade, 301-903-6828

III Work on Secretarial Initiatives

IV Press Inquiries

V FOIA Requests

VI Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

VII Climate Change

VIII Disaster Assistance

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEEKLY REPORT

February 23, 2001

I Schedule

II Key Departmental News

WIPP Workers Reach Two Million Man-Hours Without a Lost-Time

Accident: Workers at the DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) reached a safety milestone on February 19, by working two million man-hours without a lost-time accident. Safe hours include those worked by employees of DOE and contractors associated with WIPP.

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: Dennis Hurtt, 505-234-7327

INEEL Receives Two Awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer: The Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) announced last week that the INEEL won two 2001 FLC Awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer. The two winning technologies are the High Void-Fraction Multiphase Flowmeter and the Rapid Solidification Process (RSP) Tooling Process for Manufacturing Prototype and Production Tooling. Each year the FLC awards 35 technologies that are being successfully deployed in the commercial sector. Hundreds of technologies from all federal facilities are submitted for consideration. The FLC will honor all award recipients during a ceremony to be held during the FLC's 2001 National Meeting in Burlington, VT on May 1. DOE HQ representatives will attend to accept the awards and recognize the recipients.

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: A. Michelle Pettingill, 208-526-0158

Congressman Mark Udall and Staff Visit Rocky Flats: Congressman Udall, and staff visited the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site on February 16. The Congressman requested a briefing on the reconfiguration of the protected area, due to recent concerns expressed by the Site's Guards union. The Guards, Steelworkers and Building Trades Unions participated.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Karen Lutz, 303-966-4546

Meeting with Idaho Congressional Delegation and Governor Kempthorne:

Idaho's congressional delegation and Governor Dirk Kempthorne attended a meeting with DOE-Idaho and Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC (BBWI) on February 17 for status discussions. Topics included the transfer of the Grand Junction Project Office, out-year funding projections, present and future work force profiles, and status of Settlement Agreement milestones.

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: Ron King, 208-526-7300

Hanford K-Basins Spent Nuclear Fuel Project Removes Third Multi-Canister Overpack (MCO): The Third MCO was successfully dried at the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility over the weekend and was transported to the Canister Storage Building on February 20. It was placed in the vault on February 21. Fuel is continuing to be processed and baskets filled for MCO #4.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Tom Hull, 301-903-5677

Possible Siting of Future National Underground Laboratory at WIPP: A National Science Foundation committee evaluating the possibility of siting a National Underground Laboratory at WIPP toured the site on February 15-16. Senator Domenici and Representative Skeen, both of New Mexico, were present to support the selection of WIPP as the site for the National Underground Laboratory at which cosmology and astronomy experiments would be conducted. The Congressmen also participated in a local news conference expressing support for the expanded mission at WIPP.

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: Timothy Harms, 301-903-7183

Rocky Flats Annual State of the Flats Public Meeting: The Annual State of the Flats meeting was held on February 20 at the Arvada Center. Over 100 people attended the meeting; the new format with breakout sessions was very well received. Presentations focused on the work accomplished, progress made in fiscal year 2000 toward closure of the Site and plans for the future.

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: Karen Lutz, 303-966-4546

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Shipments: As of February 21, WIPP has received 153 shipments (17-LANL, 42-INEEL, 89-RFETS, and 5-Hanford) since March 1999. WIPP is scheduled to receive six shipments this week from RFETS and INEEL. Three shipments from RFETS and three from INEEL, weather permitting.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Mary Bisesi, 301-903-7416

III Work on Secretarial Initiatives

IV Press Inquiries

V FOIA Requests

VI Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEEKLY REPORT

March 9, 2001

I Schedule**II Key Departmental News****Rocky Flats 100th Shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):**

Rocky Flats is expecting to make its 100th shipment to WIPP on March 13, 2001. The Site plans to send out a news release on the shipment once it safely arrives at WIPP and have an internal celebration for employees.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Lisa O'Mary, 301-903-2360

50th Anniversary Celebration: The Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site is preparing for events and publications to recognize its 50th Anniversary.

Beginning in March, the Site is planning monthly events for the celebration to recognize employees and the community. Communications is preparing proposed draft articles from Barbara Mazurowski and Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham to publish in the Site's internal newspaper. Articles will focus on the historical highlights, changing missions and closure of the Site. Coordination with Headquarters Office of Public Affairs is ongoing.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Karen Lutz, 303-966-4546

Hanford Recycle Activity Results in Revenue Being Returned to the Site:

The Hanford Site sold 26,320 pounds of excess aluminum HEPA filter frames to a local recycling facility in lieu of disposal. The filter frames were removed from the 189-C facility as part of decontamination and decommissioning. The filter frames are solid aluminum and weigh over 1,000 pounds each. Recycling the filter frames saved waste disposal costs at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) landfill. This transfer exemplifies teamwork among site contractors and DOE representatives to work within the bounds of the moratorium on recycling scrap metals.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Greg McBrien, 301-903-1385; Anna Beard-Taylor, 509-376-7472

Transportation Planning for Fiscal Year 2001 Cross Country Shipment: A shipment of three type B packages (casks) from Germany containing Training, Research, Isotope, General Atomics (TRIGA) spent nuclear fuel will arrive by rail at the Savannah River Site (SRS) via the Naval Weapons Station-Charleston in the summer of 2001. The packages will be transferred to trucks and transit to the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory as part of the Foreign

Research Reactor (FRR) Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) acceptance program. SR initiated the transportation planning process with the States and Tribes along the route from South Carolina to Idaho in December 2000. State and Tribal input on route selection, potential schedule conflicts, improvements over previous shipments, and training and equipment needs has been requested. A route selection recommendation will be provided to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) in mid-March.

Media Interest: Potential

Program Contact: Bill Clark, 803-952-4523

III Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

DOE Team to Visit the Democratic Republic of Congo: Representatives from EM, DOE-Idaho, and two transportation services contractors will visit the research reactor at the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC). Meetings will also be held with Government officials to discuss the possible shipment of fuel from the degraded research reactor under the Department's Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Acceptance Program. The trip is tentatively scheduled for March 16-29 and will include a visit to South Africa to meet with representatives from the SAFARI research reactor on potentially storing the DROC fuel in the interim until it can be combined with the SAFARI fuel for one ocean transit from Africa to the U.S.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Tracy Mustin, 202-586-2676

IV Work on Secretarial Initiatives

V Press Inquiries

VI FOIA Requests

VII Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

VIII Climate Change

IX Disaster Assistance