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## FCAB UPDATE

*Week of February 4, 2002*  
(Last update was December 28, 2001)

### MEETING SCHEDULE

**Fernald Citizens Advisory Board Meeting**  
Monday, February 11, 2002, 6:00 p.m.

PEIC – Public Environmental  
Information Center

**DOE Public Briefing Meetings**  
Tuesday, February 12, 2002, 6:30 p.m.

Services Building Conference Room

**Stewardship Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 13, 2002, 6:30 p.m.

PEIC – Public Environmental  
Information Center

### ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Minutes from the 01/12/02 FCAB Meeting
- 01/10/02 Stewardship Committee Meeting Summary
- Draft 02/11/02 Full Board Meeting Agenda
- Draft 2/13/02 Stewardship Committee Meeting Agenda
- Articles & News Clippings

### NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that this is Tisha Patton's last meeting as Fernald Liaison. There will be a short presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

At the January stewardship meeting, a number of report summaries were distributed regarding the Deer Management Plan, Fernald Stewardship Management Plan, and DOE Long Term Stewardship Strategic Plan. If you are interested in any of these reports call Patti Kidd at 648-6478 or you can download them directly from [www.fernaldcab.org](http://www.fernaldcab.org).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Doug Sarno or David Bidwell at The Perspectives Group  
Phone: 513-648-6478 or 703-971-0058 Fax: 513-648-3629 or 703-971-0006  
E-Mail: [djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com](mailto:djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com) or [dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com](mailto:dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com)

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**FULL BOARD MEETING**  
**Public Environmental Information Center**

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**Monday, February 11, 2002**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

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- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 5:30 p.m.        | Dinner  |
| 6:00 p.m.        | Call to Order<br>Presentation to Tisha Patton                           |
| 6:00 – 6:15 p.m. | Chair's Remarks and Ex Officio Announcements                            |
| 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. | Current Remediation Issues, Silos, Efficiency Efforts                   |
| 6:45 – 7:15p.m.  | Site Technology Coordination Group Overview and Update on Alpha monitor |
| 7:15 – 7:30 p.m. | Break   |
| 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. | Progress Tracking Materials   |
| 8:00 – 8:45 p.m. | Planning for Public Records Workshop                                    |
| 8:45 – 9:00 p.m. | Public Comment  |
| 9:00 p.m.        | Adjourn   |

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# STEWARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING PEIC

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

## DRAFT AGENDA

- 6:30 p.m.      Opening Remarks and Updates
  
- 6:45 p.m.      Site Plans and Documents
  - Environmental Assessment
  - Long-Term Stewardship Plan Update
  - Native American Repatriation Plan
  
- 7:30 p.m.      Public Records Feasibility Study
  - Plans for Public Workshop (March 13)
  - DOE Long Term Stewardship Study
  - Review Outline of Research Findings
  
- 8:30 p.m.      Adjourn



**FULL BOARD MEETING**  
**Public Environmental Information Center**

**Saturday, January 12, 2002**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, 2002, at the Public Environmental Information Center in Harrison, Ohio.

**Members Present:**

French Bell  
 Jim Bierer  
 Lisa Blair  
 Kathryn Brown  
 Marvin Clawson  
 Lisa Crawford  
 Steve Depoe  
 Pam Dunn  
 Gene Jablonowski  
 Steve McCracken  
 Graham Mitchell  
 Robert Tabor  
 Thomas Wagner  
 Gene Willeke

**Members Absent:**

Blain Burton  
 Jane Harper  
 Sandy Butterfield

**Designated Federal Official:**

Gary Stegner

**The Perspectives Group Staff:**

Douglas Sarno  
 David Bidwell

**Fluor Fernald Staff:**

Sue Walpole

Approximately 15 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from the Department of Energy and Fluor Fernald.

**Call to Order**

Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Minutes from the December 1, 2001 Board meeting were approved.

### **General Remarks and Announcements**

Jim announced to the group that Tisha Patton has been reassigned to the silos project by Fluor and that Sue Walpole has become the Fluor liaison to the FCAB. Doug Sarno announced that a brick in the Cold War Garden has been purchased in Tisha's name, and the board indicated its interest in buying an additional gift.

Steve McCracken reported that he submitted the FCAB's Top to Bottom Review comments to DOE headquarters. To his knowledge, Fernald stakeholders are the only group from outside DOE that provided comments. According to Steve, findings from the Top to Bottom Review will effect Environmental Management's budget requests, which will be submitted at the end of January.

French Bell reported that ATSDR recently proposed a well-water monitoring project, which would seek correlation between medical monitoring and water quality data for Fernald. The proposal ranked fifth out of 22 proposals, but funding of this project will depend on the total funding available for the year.

Doug explained that the February meeting schedule conflicted with Valentine's Day and the Presidents' Day Weekend. The FCAB agreed to change the schedule. The FCAB will now meet on Monday, February 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Stewardship Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 13 at its regular time.

Doug announced that planning for the SSAB Chairs' meeting, which will be hosted by the FCAB in April, is moving forward. Doug explained that part of the meeting would focus on long-term stewardship and the Public Records Feasibility Study. Although the meeting is for SSAB chairs, all FCAB members are encouraged to attend both a reception on Thursday night and to attend the Friday meeting as an observer. Doug stated that the Saturday session will focus on Fernald, so participation of more FCAB members may be appropriate.

The FCAB reviewed a brief comment letter, which gives favorable feedback on the draft DOE Long Term Stewardship Strategic Plan. The board officially approved the letter, which will be sent to the appropriate persons at DOE headquarters.

### **Current Remediation Issues**

Doug announced Fernald site managers had a brief meeting with Jesse Hill Roberson of DOE Headquarters to discuss changes to the site-funding baseline. Roberson approved an annual supplement of \$34 million dollars for fiscal years 2003 through 2005 in order to facilitate meeting a 2006 site closure date.

Terry Hagen provided the committee with an overview of how the 2006 goal will be pursued. Terry provided a definition for site closure at Fernald:

- All major contaminant sources are remediated to specifications in the Records of Decision.
- The groundwater plume is fully contained and equipment needed to treat the plume is in place.

Tasks that would be completed after 2006 include final groundwater cleanup, remediation of soil contamination associated with treatment facilities, natural resource restoration, maintenance of the natural resource restoration and on site disposal facility, and maintenance of facilities constructed for future use. It is also likely that completion of silos 1 and 2 could follow the closure date. Terry also explained that closure is targeted to December 31, 2006, so funding would be necessary in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2007.

Terry reviewed key assumptions and changes to the current baseline that would be required to meet a 2006 closure date:

- Labor costs will be further reduced through attrition, voluntary separation, and involuntary separation. Planning for labor reductions is made possible by determining the number and type of staff needed for each project. The site may instigate an incentive program to keep employees with desired experience and skills.
- Waste pit dryers will operate on a 24-hour, 7 days-a-week schedule. Twenty rail transport cars will be added.
- Schedules for soil excavation and construction of the OSDF will conform to the current baseline, but Fluor will hire and manage the workforce directly, rather than relying on a subcontractor.
- Fluor will renegotiate its contract with Mactec to accelerate demolition projects.
- Silo 3 wastes would be sent to Envirocare, rather than NTS. The Envirocare WAC would not require treatment of wastes prior to disposition. The wastes would be transported in IP2 approved plastic "super sacks" that could be inserted directly into IP1 transport containers. To disposition these bags without opening them, Envirocare will have to get an exemption from the NRC. Terry stated that Envirocare was likely to receive this exemption. Gene Willeke expressed concerns over inhalation risks associated in moving the powdery wastes in Silo 3 without stabilization. Dennis Carr explained that shipping the wastes without treatment would reduce the operations and equipment needed at the site and reduce the risk of staff exposure during the treatment process. Ray Corradi will bring a sample IP2 bag and a video illustrating its use to the next FCAB meeting.
- The ROD for silos 1 and 2 would be amended to allow more flexibility for the disposition of materials. Fluor is pursuing an ESD process for this change, rather than a formal ROD amendment, but would voluntarily conduct a public comment period. No change in waste removal or treatment is anticipated. Shipping these wastes to Envirocare would cut costs. Dedicated rail cars will be used to transport of silos materials. Wastes would be placed as deeply as possible in the cell to prevent radon, which has a short half-life, from reaching the surface. To accept these wastes, Envirocare would need a WAC modification from NRC to accept higher concentrations of radium 226. A decision on the exemption is expected within two months. Lisa Crawford asked that as this option becomes viable, a representative from Envirocare should be invited to speak to the FCAB. A decision on this opportunity is expected by April, when the preliminary design will be completed. To meet the 2006 schedule, the design phase is moving forward although some

questions remain unanswered. Terry assured the group that accelerating some projects would not effect the current funding priorities.

Gene Willeke inquired about the status of an alpha monitoring device under development. This device, called AI-Rad, is intended to detect residual contamination on workers as they leave the contaminated area and after protective clothing is removed. It is hoped to be more sensitive than the personal monitoring equipment currently in use at the site. Doug explained that to date the site has spent roughly \$200,000 to develop this technology, and an investment of more substantial funding will be needed before it can be effectively field-tested. Ray stated that the benefits to the site are unclear at this time. It was suggested that EM-50 might want to fund this project, because Jessie Roberson has pressed support for closure sites as the top priority for the site technology coordination group (STCG). Dennis will arrange for a member of the STCG to speak to the group about the status of AI-Rad. The FCAB also requested to receive regular STCG updates and minutes of STCG meetings.

Terry updated the group on the depth of intervening layers used in the OSDF. Regulators approved the use of 2-foot soil layers, rather than the existing 4-foot layers. Cell 2 will be completed using 4-foot layers, but 2-foot layers will be used from Cell 3 onward. Terry also announced that a draft ESD has been completed for the blending of waste pit materials with hard-to-manage waste streams. That ESD will be discussed at the February status meeting. He also provided the board with a handout on the Cost, Schedule, and Process Improvement Program that had been requested at the last FCAB meeting.

Lisa Crawford requested earlier public notice of upcoming comment periods. This could reduce the number of requests to extend comment periods. The board also discussed the need to accelerate shipments of nuclear materials to the Nevada Test Site, due to concerns over Nevada politics. Dennis also assured FCAB members that shipment of materials to Utah would not be conducted during the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. Board members also reiterated their concerns regarding funding and management for long term stewardship.

Doug announced that the lease has ended for the current PEIC building and that the reading room may be moved to another location. Board members expressed a need to have a reading room located on or near the site. Doug will coordinate with Dennis on potential sites for the reading room. Gary will check the availability of Crosby Senior Center for FCAB and Stewardship Committee meetings.

#### **Role of FCAB through Closure**

Doug reminded the group that at its October retreat the board discussed becoming a "Closure CAB." Doug suggested the FCAB communicate with DOE to determine the appropriate role and format for such a board. Board members agreed that a Fernald Closure CAB would be a good pilot for other sites that are nearing closure and that they should develop a definition, mission, and

responsibilities for such a board. Members stated that continuity and knowledge of the FCAB members would be important assets during site closure and the transition to stewardship. Steve McCracken offered to distribute a memo from the board to the appropriate person(s) at DOE.

**Update and Planning for Public Records Feasibility Study**

Doug distributed draft promotional materials and a draft questionnaire for the upcoming public workshop on public access to records, which has been scheduled for March 13. Board members offered several suggestions to improve the questionnaire and recommended providing return postage. FCAB members will receive copies of the revised materials, so they can help promote the workshop. Members also suggested individuals, organizations, local newspapers, and reporters that should be contacted regarding the workshop.

The FCAB also reviewed a draft invitation letter for the workshop. Members suggested calling the restoration a "natural area" and using language from the workshop brochure to describe the site.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



# MEETING SUMMARY

**Date:** January 10, 2002

**Topics:**

- Restoration and Stewardship Status
- Draft Deer Management Plan
- Draft Comprehensive Stewardship Plan
- Draft DOE Long Term Stewardship Strategic Plan
- Public Records Feasibility Study

**Attendees:**

**Fernald Citizens Advisory Board**

- Marvin Clawson
- Lisa Crawford
- Steve Depoe
- Pam Dunn
- Bob Tabor

**FRESH**

- Carol Schroer

**The Perspectives Group**

- Doug Sarno
- David Bidwell

**U.S. Department of Energy**

- Ed Skintik
- Gary Stegner
- Pete Yerace

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**

- Donna Bohannon
- Tom Schneider

**Fluor Fernald**

- Tisha Patton
- Joe Schomaker
- Larry Stebbins
- Ric Strobl
- Jeff Wagner
- Eric Woods

**Others**

- Keith Wilkerson
- Jim Innis

**Restoration and Stewardship Status**

Doug Sarno opened the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda, and introduced Eric Woods. Eric updated the group on the status of the environmental assessment (EA) and current restoration activities. The EA should be available for review by the end of January, and a public hearing has been scheduled for February 28. Eric explained that grading and excavation work on the southern waste units will be complete and about 10 acres will be planted with trees and shrubs by spring. He also explained that the northern pines will be thinned to about half the existing number of trees. Trunks will be removed and the trees will be chipped for use on other restoration projects.

Joe Shomaker stated that a plan for repatriation of Native American remains should be completed by the end of January. To date, four Tribes have sent letters of interest. The first request for reburial has also been received, so the first repatriation could happen by summer.

Joe further explained that the remaining buildings at the site have been combed for Cold War artifacts and approximately 100 artifacts have been photographed and will be tagged soon. These include significant artifacts, protected by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and other artifacts of interest. Examples of significant artifacts include a time clock and a steam whistle. More than 1000 Native American artifacts have also been catalogued.

Eric explained that the Post Closure Stewardship Technologies Project installed monitoring equipment in the recently completed Cell 1 of the on site disposal facility. The project received more funding for the coming year, but only 42 percent of its total request.

**Draft Deer Management Plan**

The Committee reviewed a summary of the Project Site Deer management Plan Draft. This plan explores options for deer management at the site and recommends the continued use of plastic tubes and chemical repellants to protect new plantings. According to Eric Woods, these controls are included in the site budget, are easy to implement, and are less costly than replacing trees.

Pam Dunn expressed concern regarding the plan's support for landowners seeking depredation tags. Pete Yerace, DOE, explained that depredation tags were issued only when a request is submitted by a landowner and there is damage or potential damage to a private resource, such as a tree nursery. He stated that the restoration of the Fernald site should not result in increased damage to neighbor's property.

Jim Innis asked if fencing the entire site was a viable option for controlling deer populations. Pete explained that fencing may not be acceptable to the community and hunting would be required to control the deer population within the fence.



## MEETING SUMMARY (continued)

### **Draft DOE Long Term Stewardship Strategic Plan**

Doug explained that DOE headquarters had issued a strategic plan for long term stewardship and reviewed a summary of the plan. Based on seven principles outlined by Jesse Roberson, the strategic plan outlines pertinent issues and establishes a set of goals and objectives for long term stewardship. Doug noted that the plan is very comprehensive. Committee members agreed that the scope of the plan was very encouraging. The Stewardship Committee decided that to send a comment letter from the FCAB to compliment the plan and endorse its adoption as DOE policy.

Gary Stegner stated that the site would submit general comments about the plan, and endorse site-specific flexibility and a national stewardship funding policy. He will share these comments with the FCAB when they are complete.

### **Draft Comprehensive Stewardship Plan**

After a brief discussion, the meeting participants determined that before finalizing the comprehensive stewardship plan for the FEMP, it would benefit the site to wait for DOE headquarters to move forward with its strategic plan. This would also allow the Fernald plan to fully consider the scope of issues presented in headquarters' strategic plan and for results from the Public Records Feasibility Study to be incorporated in the site-specific plan. Eric explained that this approach would not preclude continued work on the stewardship plan and related activities, and that he would continue to share specific progress on the plan. Doug suggested that the Stewardship Committee be provided a monthly update.

The committee reviewed a summary of the draft stewardship plan. Lisa Crawford stated that management of long term stewardship for the FEMP would no longer be transferred to the DOE Idaho field office. Eric encouraged committee members to send him additional comments on the draft plan.

### **Public Records Feasibility**

Doug announced that the public workshop for the Public Records Feasibility Study has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 13 in the Crosby Senior Center. The group reviewed draft promotional materials—a notice and a brochure—for the workshop. Committee members approved of the materials, but offered some minor editorial suggestions. Lisa Crawford asked that the materials be available for Gary Stegner to distribute at the January 24 FRESH meeting.

Doug also distributed a draft questionnaire for review by the committee. The questionnaire will be sent with invitations to the workshop and are intended to help pique interest in the event. Results from the questionnaire will help in planning the workshop agenda and activities. Committee members suggested that questionnaires should be distributed at schools, to county commissioners, and to participants in the Hamilton County COMPASS process. Doug explained that an interactive questionnaire would be posted on the web. Suggestions for the questionnaire included general format changes, addition of demographic questions, and addition of a deadline for submission.

David Bidwell briefed the group on research being conducted for the study. He is reviewing existing materials on long-term stewardship and records management and identifying individuals to contact for information. Two DOE sites have been identified as potential case studies: Pinellas (FL) and Welden Springs (MO).

Doug explained a brief project timeline and expectations for Stewardship Committee member participation in the feasibility study. Members were encouraged to help publicize the workshop and were asked to contribute any resources or relevant case studies. The group also considered potential field trip destinations for the committee. Destinations included archives and museums, as well as nature centers. David will continue to research field trip opportunities for a Saturday morning in April or May. To facilitate participation in field trips, FCAB and Stewardship Committee meeting schedules may be revised.

**Next Meeting Date**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. and the next Stewardship Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13. This meeting date was revised to avoid conflicts with Presidents' Day Weekend and Valentines Day.



Fernald Environmental Management Project  
P.O. Box 538704  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8704  
[www.fernald.gov](http://www.fernald.gov)

Fluor Fernald

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Jan. 22, 2002

**NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Gary Stegner  
Department of Energy  
513-648-3153  
[gary.stegner@fernald.gov](mailto:gary.stegner@fernald.gov)

Jeff Wagner  
Fluor Fernald  
513-648-4898  
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**Fernald Demolition ...  
Six Down – Four To Go**

**Cincinnati, Ohio** - The Fernald Environmental Management Project has reached another milestone in the cleanup of its 136-acre former production area, where for nearly four decades, Cold War workers produced uranium metal products for the nation's defense program. Fernald workers have razed Plant 6, the former Metals Fabrication Plant, where high purity metals were machined to exacting specifications. Plant 6 represents the sixth of 10 major structures demolished since the site's mission changed to environmental remediation in the early 1990s. The project will be completed more than two months ahead of schedule and within budget.

A critical part of Fernald's cleanup strategy is the removal of aging facilities from the former production area so workers can excavate the underlying soil, explained John Trygier, the Department of Energy's decontamination and demolition (D&D) project manager. "Plant 6 is another big piece to fall into place so we can move forward with the below-grade remediation of the site's former production area. In addition to achieving schedule and budget requirements, the project also had a great safety record."

In October 1999, Fluor Fernald awarded an \$8.54 million, three-year subcontract to Mactec, Inc., to decontaminate and demolish Plant 6, the largest of the former uranium processing plants.

Before D&D activities began in Plant 6, Fernald Safe Shutdown workers removed more than 205,000 pounds of hazardous materials that remained in process lines and equipment since 1989, when site operations were shut down to focus on environmental cleanup. The Safe Shutdown program reduced worker exposure to the hazardous material and enabled demolition crews to expedite the overall D&D of the project.

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All site demolition is on track to be completed in 2004. Projects include demolition of Plants 2 and 3 (the Ore Refinery), Plant 8 (the Scrap Recovery Plant) and the Pilot Plant, where workers developed operating prototypes for all phases of Fernald's uranium metal production.

In November 2000, DOE awarded a 10-year, \$2.4 billion closure contract to Fluor Fernald. The cost reimbursable contract provides the framework for the final cleanup and closure of the site. More information on Fernald's former uranium processing facilities is available on Fernald's Web site at [www.fernald.gov](http://www.fernald.gov) under About Fernald/History.

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Photos available at <ftp://ftp.fernald.gov/Public/Press/Plant6/>  
Betacam SP video footage available upon request.

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**NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Joe Davis, 202-586-4940

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Thursday, January 31, 2002

**Secretary of Energy Abraham Previews New Accelerated Cleanup Plan  
for Former Cold War Nuclear Weapon Production Sites***Department's Budget Creates New \$800 Million 'Expedited Cleanup Account'*

**FERNALD, OHIO** – In a visit to the Department of Energy's Fernald, Ohio cleanup project, U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham today previewed the Department's new accelerated cleanup plan for the sites of former nuclear weapon plants that were crucial to winning the Cold War. The Environmental Management plan creates a new \$800 million "Expedited Cleanup Account" to be used by participating sites and is part of the overall program's \$6.7 billion request for basic cleanup at all sites that will be released with the entire DOE FY03 Budget request next Monday.

"When I took office, I was presented with the old plan for cleaning up the Department's Cold War nuclear sites, which called for a timetable of some 70 years to complete and at a cost of \$300 billion," Abraham said. "That is not good enough for me, and I doubt it is good enough for anyone who lives near these sites."

"So last year I called for a top-to-bottom review of the program, which has been recently completed. The result is this new plan that is targeted to swiftly clean up serious problems at sites and also reduce the risks to human health, safety and the environment," Abraham said.

The new proposal emphasizes three basic goals: eliminate significant health and safety risks as soon as possible, review remaining risks on a case-by-case basis working with state and local officials and develop strategies for remediation, and streamline cleanup so current funding will go instead to accomplishing real cleanup progress, rather than routine maintenance and other non-cleanup projects.

"This initial \$800 million Expedited Cleanup Account represents our current estimate of the number of sites likely to need new cleanup agreements this year. However, we are ready to expand this account with more money as additional sites move to expedited schedules," Abraham said.

Under the proposal, to have access to the Expedited Cleanup Account, a site and DOE will have to reach an agreement on an expedited schedule that shows measurable gains in addressing cleanup and important risks. A site that agrees to participate in the new expedited cleanup plan will receive more resources in the near term than in previous years. After the level of funding ramps up at one of these

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sites and problems are addressed, the level of funding will ramp back down. Once an agreement is reached there will be a roadmap for activity and budgets through Fiscal Year 2008, leading to predictable funding levels which the Department and the White House will consent to submit to Congress for the entire period of these agreements.

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"By cleaning up serious problems more quickly under the new plan, our communities will be cleaner and safer," Abraham said. "The Environmental Management Program will be stronger and more effective in its mission of reducing health risks and expediting the environmental restoration of the nation's nuclear sites. And there is an extra benefit to the taxpayers, because over the long run, the new plan will yield substantial savings on overhead, maintenance and security costs which the program estimates to account for two-thirds of the overall EM budget."

"Working with the states and the regulatory agencies, DOE is proposing a new way of doing business, leading to greater accountability, responsibility, and opportunities for both the Department and the States," Abraham said.

"Promoting compliance and ensuring that key milestones are met must be our focus. In some instances, we will set aside funds in escrow, not to be released until those milestones are met. And if they are not, then that money will be put toward cleanup and making things right."

"Some will say the new approach won't work. But those who want to continue with business as usual will be consigning their sites and communities to a slower cleanup of the most serious health and safety risks," Abraham said. "Years ago, skeptics predicted that the cleanup of the Department's Rocky Flats site would take 65 years and cost more than \$36 billion. Through innovative reforms, like those embraced in our plan, the Rocky Flats site will be cleaned up and closed 55 years ahead of schedule in 2006 for about \$7 billion - saving taxpayers nearly \$29 billion."

Details of the Environmental Management's accelerated cleanup plan will be released following the presentation of the Department's Fiscal Year 2003 Budget on Monday, February 4.

Secretary Abraham's remarks from today's event will be available at the Department of Energy web site, [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).

-DOE-

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**NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:**  
Joe Davis, 202-586-4940

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Thursday, January 31, 2002

## **Secretary of Energy Abraham Previews New Accelerated Cleanup Plan for Former Cold War Nuclear Weapon Production Sites**

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"So last year I called for a top-to-bottom review of the program, which has been recently completed. The result is this new plan that is targeted to swiftly clean up serious problems at sites and also reduce the risks to human health, safety and the environment," Abraham said.

The new proposal emphasizes three basic goals: eliminate significant health and safety risks as soon as possible, review remaining risks on a case-by-case basis working with state and local officials and develop strategies for remediation, and streamline cleanup so current funding will go instead to accomplishing real cleanup progress, rather than routine maintenance and other non-cleanup projects.

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Under the proposal, to have access to the Expedited Cleanup Account, a site and DOE will have to reach an agreement on an expedited schedule that shows measurable gains in addressing cleanup and important risks. A site that agrees to participate in the new expedited cleanup plan will receive more resources in the near term than in previous years. After the level of funding ramps up at one of these

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"Working with the states and the regulatory agencies, DOE is proposing a new way of doing business, leading to greater accountability, responsibility, and opportunities for both the Department and the States," Abraham said.

"Promoting compliance and ensuring that key milestones are met must be our focus. In some instances, we will set aside funds in escrow, not to be released until those milestones are met. And if they are not, then that money will be put toward cleanup and making things right."

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Secretary Abraham's remarks from today's event will be available at the Department of Energy web site, [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).

-DOE-

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Environmental Management Program Reform Preview  
Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham  
Fernald, Ohio, January 31, 2002

Good Morning and thank you for coming.

I am especially pleased to be here at the Department of Energy's Fernald site. Fernald, like many other DOE facilities, played a critical role to help win the Cold War for America. This particular site produced high-purity uranium metal products for our nation's weapon production program. And the nation is grateful for the commitment of this community and the men and women who work here.

Now some 50 years later, DOE --through its Environmental Management Program-- is responsible for the cleanup of Fernald and these various other sites around the country.

When I became Energy Secretary -- a little more than a year ago today -- I was presented with the old plan for cleaning up these sites, which called for a timetable of some 70 years to complete and at a cost of \$300 billion. That is not good enough for me, and I doubt it is good enough for anyone who lives near these sites.

The program has involved many good people and good intentions. But a timeline of 70 years means decades of treading water on environmental hazards that need to be eliminated, not just managed. It's not fair to tell people who live near these sites that if everything works right, maybe their grandchildren will live in communities that are risk free.

Think about how you would handle an environmental hazard if it were in your backyard. You would clean it up quickly to prevent health and safety problems; you would not string out dealing with it and slowly clean up just a little every year. You would immediately assess the situation, identify the health and safety risks in order of importance and then begin to clean up the top priorities quickly.

Just as a go-slow approach would not be good for your family, the old environmental management cleanup plan is not good for our communities. And the old plan is not good for the environment either.

So last year, we began a top-to-bottom review of the environmental management mission. Our objective was to develop a new plan to swiftly clean up serious problems at sites and also reduce the risks to human health, safety and the environment.

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After a year of review, I am pleased to announce today the new and improved Environmental Management Program's plan of action called, "Securing Our Communities: A Blueprint for Addressing Health Risks and Accelerating the Environmental Restoration of the Nation's Nuclear Sites."

Recently my team and I have had a chance to brief Governor Taft, Senators DeWine and Voinovich, and Congressman Rob Portman to fill them in on our findings and to spell out what they mean for the future.

We will make the full report available to the public on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the rollout of our FY 2003 Budget. But in the meantime let me explain in broad terms what it says.

The new plan emphasizes three basic goals: 1) eliminating significant health and safety risks as soon as possible; 2) reviewing remaining risks on a case-by-case basis working with state and local officials to determine the most appropriate remediation schedules and approaches; and 3) streamlining cleanup so that funding spent on routine maintenance and security – which the program estimates accounts for two-thirds of the total EM budget—will be put to use for further expedited cleanup.

Further, this plan fully incorporates the Department's Homeland Security Strategy, which is to significantly accelerate the consolidation of nuclear material and waste into more secure locations and configurations.

This in depth plan is the product of an enormous amount of work by many dedicated people at the Department of Energy. This team was led by DOE's Under Secretary Bob Card and Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Jessie Roberson. Jessie is here with me today. The EM team has developed an aggressive plan of action to change how the Department approaches its cleanup mandate, and Bob and Jessie will provide more detailed briefings for each site in the days ahead.

Next Monday I will be releasing the Department's budget. That budget will support our new approach and ensure these reforms can achieve success. I am pleased to announce today that our FY 2003 Budget request for Environmental Management will be \$6.7 billion. This budget will have two categories: one for basic funding at every site -- AND an \$800 million Expedited Cleanup Account out of which those sites who agree to participate in the new plan will receive additional funds to fast-track cleanup.

This initial \$800 million Expedited Cleanup Account represents our current estimate of the number of sites likely to need new cleanup agreements this year. However, we are ready to expand this account with more money as additional sites move to expedited schedules.

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To have access to the Expedited Cleanup Account, a site and DOE will have to reach agreement on an expedited schedule that shows measurable gains and can be held accountable. Therefore, a site that agrees to participate in the new expedited cleanup plan will receive more resources in the near term than in previous years. After the level of funds ramps up at one of these sites and problems get addressed, the level of funding will of course ramp back down accordingly. And, once an agreement is reached there will be a roadmap for activity and budgets through the 2008 fiscal year. That means predictable funding levels – levels which our Department and the White House will submit to Congress for those years.

However, this new approach is about more than just increased budgets. Put simply, what I am proposing is a new way of doing business that brings with it responsibilities and opportunities – for both States and communities, and for the Department of Energy.

Certainly, the sites that participate in the new cleanup plan will be eligible for increased, accelerated cleanup funds going far beyond what some might have imagined possible even a year ago. However, there comes with this a responsibility to understand that this is not a license for unending cleanup, and open-ended budgets.

But the Department of Energy has to step up to the plate, too. I've had an opportunity to talk to Governors, state legislators and regulators, as well as our own environmental management teams at a variety of sites across the nation. And one of the disturbing aspects of these conversations has been the lack of trust among the parties.

Reviewing the history of cleanups at a variety of sites, as we did in our Top-to-Bottom review, leads one inescapably to the conclusion that the Department of Energy has entered into agreements, with aggressive milestones, that simply were not likely to be achievable. Promises were made, and then broken. Milestones were missed, cleanup was slower than expected, and the understandable frustration among states and communities grew and grew.

We have to change this. And, thus, one of the changes I am announcing is the following: We will ensure that agreements and milestones we set are achievable and realistic. We will take responsibility for carrying out those agreements and for successfully meeting our milestones. Promoting compliance and ensuring that key milestones are met must be our focus. In some instances we will set aside funds in escrow, not to be released until those milestones are met. And if they are not, then that money will be put toward cleanup and making things right. We will not use litigation to avoid responsibility. Where we are at fault, we will acknowledge that, and correct course. And I will hold my managers – whether federal or contractor employees – accountable for meeting our commitments.

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Some will say that the new approach won't work. But those who want to continue with business as usual will be consigning their sites and communities to a slower cleanup of the most serious health and safety risks. Indeed, it wasn't long ago that people expressed skepticism about the new cleanup approach adopted for our Rocky Flats, Colorado site, and they were wrong.

Just a few short years ago, the cleanup of Rocky Flats was expected to take 65 years and cost in excess of \$36 billion. Through innovative project reforms similar to our new plan, Rocky Flats will be cleaned up and closed 55 years ahead of schedule in 2006. And as a bonus, the cleanup will be under budget at a cost of \$7 billion – a savings to the taxpayers of \$29 billion. Many of the ideas used to accelerate the Rocky Flats cleanup came from right here at Fernald, which pioneered the project-based cleanup process.

So we've learned a great deal from the Rocky Flats and Fernald experiences, and those lessons will be applied in our new plan of action.

We are confident this plan will work to expedite the cleanup and closure here at Fernald, improving the health and safety of the local community. With this approach, Fernald will be much closer to completing cleanup than it would be if we stayed with the old plan. In fact, the EM Program projects that Fernald can close by 2006, up to four years ahead of its current predicted schedule.

Rocky Flats and Fernald are the kind of success stories that convince me our goals are attainable, in far less than 70 years and at a cost far less than \$300 billion. By cleaning up serious problems more quickly under the new plan, our communities will be cleaner and safer. The Environmental Management Program will be stronger and more effective in its mission of reducing health risks and expediting the environmental restoration of the nation's nuclear sites. There is an extra benefit to the taxpayers, because over the long run, we estimate the new plan will yield substantial savings, on the order of many billions of dollars, given lowered costs for overhead, maintenance, security, etc.

We owe it to Fernald and the other communities for the sacrifices and contributions they made in securing victory in the Cold War. It is the last legacy of that struggle that we can address with true conviction and with our pledge to cleanup these sites. So we take to the task with renewed vigor, and we bring to it a renewed sense of this mission's importance.

Thank you for coming. Assistant Secretary Roberson and I will be available afterwards to answer any of your questions.

END

# DOE NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS • WASHINGTON, DC 20585

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## NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joe Davis or Jeanne Lopatto, 202-586-4940

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 10, 2002

## Department of Energy Notifies Nevada of Intent to Approve Yucca Mountain as National Nuclear Waste Repository

*Sound Science & Compelling National Interests Lead to Secretary's Approval of Yucca Mountain*

**Washington, D.C.** – As required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham today notified Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn and the Nevada Legislature that he intends to recommend to President Bush that the Yucca Mountain site is scientifically sound and suitable for development as the nation's long-term geological repository for nuclear waste, which will help ensure America's national security and secure disposal of nuclear waste, provide for a cleaner environment, and support energy security.

The Secretary of Energy phoned Governor Guinn at 2:10 p.m. to inform the Governor of his decision. The Secretary's letter of notification was transmitted to Governor Guinn and the Nevada Legislature immediately following the call. Following is the text of the notification letter:

Thursday, January 10, 2002

Dear Governor Guinn:

This letter is to notify you, in accordance with section 114(a)(1) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, of my intention to recommend to the President approval of the Yucca Mountain site for the development of a nuclear waste repository. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, I will be submitting my recommendation to the President no sooner than 30 days from this date. At that time, as the Act also requires, I will be submitting to the President a comprehensive statement of the basis for that recommendation.

First, and most important, that recommendation will include the basis for and documentation supporting my belief that the science behind this project is sound and that the site is technically suitable for this purpose.

Second, there are compelling national interests that require us to complete the siting process and move forward with the development of a repository, as Congress mandated almost 20 years ago. In brief, the reasons are these:

- A repository is important to our national security. We must advance our non-proliferation goals by providing a secure place to dispose of any spent fuel and other waste products that result from decommissioning unneeded nuclear weapons, and ensure the effective operations of our nuclear Navy by providing a secure place to dispose of its spent nuclear fuel.
- A repository is important to the secure disposal of nuclear waste. Spent nuclear fuel, high level radioactive waste, and excess plutonium for which there is no complete disposal pathway without a repository are currently stored at over 131 sites in 39 States. We should consolidate the nuclear wastes to enhance protection against terrorists attacks by moving them to one underground location that is far from population centers.

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- A repository is important to our energy security. We must ensure that nuclear power, which provides 20% of the nation's electric power, remains an important part of our domestic energy production.
- And a repository is important to our efforts to protect the environment. We must clean up our defense waste sites permanently and safely dispose of other high level nuclear waste.

As I indicated earlier, pursuant to section 114(a) of the NWPA, I will be submitting my recommendation to the President no earlier than 30 days from today, together with the other documentation the statute requires. I will provide you with a copy of those materials at that time.

Sincerely  
signed  
Spencer Abraham  
Secretary of Energy

In addition to the notification letter, the Department also released today a document entitled Yucca Mountain "Commonly Raised Topics," which includes a map of nuclear-waste sites. This document is reflective of the most commonly raised topics and includes a description of the step-by-step decision process as required by law.

In addition, as required by law, the Secretary of Energy's basis for recommendation and supporting materials will be available to the public once the formal recommendation is delivered to the President.

For an online copy of the "Commonly Raised Topics," a map\* of the nuclear waste-related sites, and the Secretary's letter to Governor Guinn, visit the Department of Energy's website: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).

- DOE -

R-02-002

\*The map is public domain and permission is granted to news organizations to reproduce, without content changes, for use in broadcast and print mediums.

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February 1, 2002  
The Cincinnati Enquirer  
Pages B1 & B5  
"DOE chief touts new plan"

4123

# DOE chief touts new plan

## Fernald cleanup completion now targeted for 2006

By Randy McNutt  
*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

**CROSBY TOWNSHIP** — A new federal environmental plan would streamline clean-up operations at Fernald and similar hazardous-waste sites and finish the work faster, U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham told about 250 employees here Thursday. He visited the former ura-

nium-processing plant to announce the Department of Energy's accelerated clean-up plan for such sites across the country.

"Just as a go-slow approach would not be good for your family, the old environmental cleanup plan is not good for our communities," he said. "And the old plan is not good for the environ-

ment, either."

Mr. Spencer said his plan emphasizes three goals:

- Eliminate significant health and safety risks as soon as possible.

- Review remaining risks on a case-by-case basis, working with local officials.

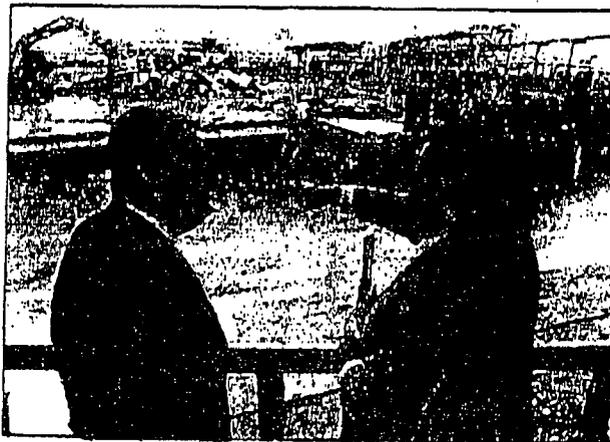
- Streamline efforts so that money can be spent to accomplish a real cleanup,

instead of spent on security and routine maintenance over many years.

The plan sounds good, said community activist Lisa Crawford, but, she added, "Show me the money."

Ms. Crawford, leader of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health

See FERNALD, Page B5



The Cincinnati Enquirer/GLENN HARTONG

**Spencer Abraham**, Department of Energy secretary, talks with Susan Brechbill, manager of the DOE's Ohio field office, Thursday during a tour of the Fernald site.

February 1, 2002  
 The Cincinnati Enquirer  
 Pages B1 & B5  
 "DOE chief touts new plan"

Page 2 of 2

## Fernald: DOE chief sees faster cleanup completion

From Page B1

(FRESH), said, "Long-term stewardship is a concern. . . . Our goal is to watch this and make sure we have a good cleanup. It's really frustrating for community folks to understand the budget process."

Mr. Abraham said the plan will work.

"Years ago, skeptics predicted that the cleanup of the department's Rocky Flats site (in Colo-

rado) would take 65 years and cost more than \$36 billion," he said. "Through innovative reforms, like those embraced in our plan, the Rocky Flats site will be cleaned up and closed 55 years ahead of schedule in 2006 for about \$7 billion."

To accomplish his goals, he plans a fiscal-year 2003 budget request of \$6.7 billion for waste sites across the country. The budget has two categories:

- One for basic funding at every site.

- One for an additional \$800 million expedited cleanup account.

If individual sites agree to participate, he said, they would receive additional money for a "fast-track cleanup."

Fernald spokesman Jeff Wagner said the site needs about \$324 million a year if it is to be cleaned by 2006, the latest target date.

The government spent \$295

million for work here in 2001. Overall it expects to spend at least \$3.7 billion to clean up and decontaminate the 1,050-acre site.

Cleanup began in 1991. The cleanup company, Fluor Fernald, was originally required to finish the job by the end of 2010, but work has progressed better than originally expected.

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February 4, 2002  
The Cincinnati Enquirer  
Pages B12& B5

"Fernald | Speedier cleanup"

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## Fernald | Speedier cleanup

Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham says DOE's accelerated cleanup plans for contaminated sites could complete work at the Fernald site northwest of Cincinnati by 2006 - four years ahead of the original schedule.

On his visit to Fernald Thursday, Mr. Abraham said his speed-up plan set three principal goals: Eliminate the major health and safety risks as soon as possible. Work with local officials to assess the remaining risks on a case-by-case basis. Streamline the cleanup so federal dollars are spent on real cleanup and not just on long-term maintenance and security.

"Just as a go-slow approach would not be good for your family," Mr. Abraham told Fernald workers, "the old environmental cleanup plan is not good for our communities. And the old plan is not good for the environment either."

Neighbors of the former uranium processing plant think the plan sounds promising, but they worry about long-term stewardship, and as community activist Lisa Crawford said, "Show me the money."

In 2001, the government spent \$295 million. A Fernald spokesman estimated Fernald would need about \$324 million a year to finish the cleanup by 2006.

Mr. Abraham plans to request

\$6.7 billion for contaminated sites in fiscal year 2003, with a special \$800 million account for expedited cleanup. The federal cleanup at Rocky Flats in Colorado convinced him his accelerated plan will work. Skeptics said it would take 65 years and cost \$36 billion to clean up Rocky Flats. Now it is expected to be finished in 2006 for about \$7 billion.

Decontamination of Fernald's 1,050 acres is expected to cost at least \$3.7 billion. Cleanup began in 1991. The work has progressed faster than expected. The "hottest" radioactive waste already has been hauled to the Nevada Test Site. This fall, the last of 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil threatening the Great Miami River aquifer was removed. In December, the first of seven waste disposal "cells" was filled and capped. The On Site Disposal Facility is designed to hold up to 2.5 million cubic yards of waste. It will contain about 85 percent contaminated soil and 15 percent demolition debris.

Over the years, the Ohio congressional delegation has pushed hard for fast-track cleanup. Rep. Rob Portman's enhanced leadership role in the House should help deliver the speedier cleanup. A clean, safe Fernald site will relieve this region of one of the Cold War's most toxic nuclear weapons sites.



Spencer Abraham (left) at Fernald.

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*"U.S. Energy Secretary visits Fernald"*

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Greg Lynch/Journal-News

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, left, and DOE Environmental Management Assistant Secretary Jessie Roberson answer questions from the press after Abraham's tour and speech Thursday at Fernald. Abraham visited Fernald to announce he'll ask Congress for a heftier environmental management budget to accelerate cleanup of the complex.

## U.S. Energy Secretary visits Fernald

### Proposes budget for fast-track cleanup

By Kristin McAllister  
kmcallister@coxohio.com  
Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham told about 250 people gathered at the former Fernald uranium processing plant Thursday that he is asking Congress for \$6.7 billion for the 2003 environmental-management budget — with \$800 million of that going to fast-track cleanup at sites like Fernald.

"Even if it means more money, let's get it done more swiftly so that the biggest threats to the communities can be addressed faster," Abraham said. "Put simply, what I'm proposing is a new way of doing business."

Under the new plan, Fernald's annual cleanup budget increases from about \$290 million to an estimated \$324 million, reducing the cleanup time by four years — from 2010 to 2006.

"The goal is to move more

things into a fast track — to try to get the biggest and most serious problems addressed more quickly," Abraham said. "That will take more money, but I think Congress would support that."

Of the DOE's 111 cleanup sites, about 31 remain open, Abraham said. Like Fernald, a tentative plan has been established regarding updated cleanup budgets for all remaining sites, he said.

"We're ready to go to the next step if we can come to an agreement with folks here

that that plan is one that both sides support," he said. "We'll work it out together."

Steve McCracken, project director of the 1,050-acre site that lies in both Ross and Crosby townships, said he is confident Fernald can accomplish the new accelerated clean up plan.

"I think it really gets us fired up to do what we want to do, and that is finish the job by '06. It's very encouraging," McCracken said. "It's an

(Please see FERNALD,  
Page A 12)

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*"U.S. Energy Secretary visits Fernald"*

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## Fernald

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(Continued from Page A1)

honor that they would pick our site to roll out the (environmental-management) top-to-bottom review."

John Bradburne, chairman and chief executive officer of site cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald, said he is proud of employees who have worked so hard in the ongoing cleanup.

"It's a great day for our people. It's a real tribute to what they've accomplished and their dedication and their confidence," he said. "I'm really

happy for them, that the department decided to announce its top-to-bottom review results here."

Abraham also acknowledged some of the DOE's past mistakes.

"I have to say, there's been a lack of trust on some occasions," he said. "Promises were made and then they were broken, and it's one of my goals to change that."

That brought local activist Lisa Crawford, president of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health,

mixed feelings.

"Promises are great, and people showing up are great, and media events are great," she said. "Show me the money. The budget has been our biggest frustration the last 10, 12 years. You know, you sign agreements, you make promises, then all of a sudden you're going through the budget and you don't have enough money."

"But the bigger issue ... is we want it done correctly. We want it done right the first time so we don't have to come back and do it again."

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February 3, 2002

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*"Officials to release Fernald report"*

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## Officials to release Fernald report

Journal-News staff report

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Fernald officials on Monday will release for public feedback the Environmental Assessment for Public Use of the Fernald Site. A 45-day comment period follows, ending on March 15.

The new assessment picks up where the 1998 Environmental Assessment for Proposed Final Land Use at the Fernald Environmental Management Project left off and gives the public an opportunity to comment on public use and access to the restored Fernald site once cleanup is complete.

Release of the final version of the Natural Resource Restoration Plan has been pushed back to the spring. The final NRRP is the culmination of more than three years of work by the Fernald natural resource trustees and reflects considerable public involvement.

Upon their release, both new documents will become available for review at the Public Environmental Information Center, 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, or go to [www.fernauld.gov](http://www.fernauld.gov).

A public meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Road, Harrison. For more information, contact Gary Stegner, DOE-FEMP public affairs officer, at (518) 648-3153 or e-mail at [gary.stegner@fernauld.gov](mailto:gary.stegner@fernauld.gov).

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January 31, 2002

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*"Energy secretary to visit Fernald today"*

# Energy secretary to visit Fernald today

## New plan means more funding, faster cleanup

By Kristin McAllister  
kmcallister@coxohio.com  
Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham will discuss today during his visit to Fernald a new Department of Energy \$800 million accelerated cleanup plan and disclose results of the department's top-to-bottom review of its Environmental Management Program.

"Fernald will be the model program for these types of sites," said Jim Morrell, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. Rob Portman's office.

Abraham outlined plans for the new cleanup program during a meeting Tuesday

with Portman and U.S. Sens. George Voinovich and Mike DeWine, Morrell said.

Though the new program is said to set aside additional funding for the 1,050-acre former uranium processing plant of the Cold War, DOE spokesman Gary Stegner said Abraham is not expected to discuss any details particularly related to Fernald.

"Nothing site-specific," he said. "Those would be covered on Monday during a budget roll-up meeting. This will mainly be a general overview — talking in very general terms about the cleanup."

Funding of the new program is expected to be included in President Bush's proposed budget, due to Congress on Monday, Morrell said.

During his visit today, which is not open

to the public, Abraham will outline the department's new strategic proposal to reduce health risks, improve the environment and strengthen environmental management cleanup operations.

Fernald's reputation of following an aggressive cleanup and well-planned stewardship program most likely is the reason it was chosen for the energy secretary's visit, Stegner said.

Jeff Wagner, a spokesman of cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald, said site officials are honored by the selection of Fernald.

"We're pretty excited about that," he said. "I think it's because we're in front when it comes to DOE's cleanup. Fernald's well on it's way to closure."

*(The Associated Press contributed to this report.)*

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January 30, 2002  
The Cincinnati Post  
Front Page and 9A  
*"Fernald cleanup coming sooner"*

# Fernald cleanup coming sooner

**By Michael Collins**  
Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Work to remove environmental contamination at the old Fernald uranium plant could wrap up four years ahead of schedule under an accelerated cleanup plan the federal government will announce this week.

The former plant in northwestern Hamilton County is one of several environmental sites targeted in a new Department of Energy program.

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham is scheduled to make the announcement during an appearance at Fernald Thursday.

The program means that millions of additional government dollars will be available for cleaning up Fernald, pending a final agreement.

Removal of contamination could be finished by 2008 under the accelerated schedule. The cleanup was to be completed around 2010, although the company hired to do the job had been pushing to finish by 2008.

Rep. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, of

See FERNALD on 9A

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January 30, 2002  
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Front Page and 9A

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"Fernald cleanup coming sooner"

## Fernald: Cleanup by '06

### From 1A

Terrace Park, described the accelerated cleanup plan as a good deal for both the government and the residents who live near the plant.

"This saves the taxpayers money over time because you get the site cleaned up more quickly," Portman said.

"It also reduces the risk to human health and safety and the environment in our area by swiftly cleaning up the problems that remain."

Yet the accelerated cleanup will come with a tradeoff, Portman said.

"Not every inch of the Fernald site will be pristine," he said. "Some of it probably will end up being fenced off."

"Yet what you get from that is a good deal for our area. You get a more rapid cleanup and a reduction of the environmental risks."

Abraham outlined plans for the new cleanup program on Tuesday during a meeting with Portman and Ohio's two U.S. senators, George Voinovich of Cleveland and Mike DeWine of Springfield, both also Republicans.

Abraham indicated during the meeting that \$800 million will be available for sites included in the new cleanup program, but did not say how much of that money will go toward Fernald, Portman said.

Congress already has allocated \$300 million for cleanup

at Fernald, and Portman said he hopes to get another \$25 million or more next year, along with a commitment to continue the funding while the cleanup remains under way.

Fernald processed uranium for the government's nuclear weapons program for 37 years before it ended production in 1989.

A federal study concluded that, during the nearly four decades that the facility was in operation, Fernald residents were exposed to radioactive materials that resulted in a higher-than-expected risk for lung cancer.

Cleanup at the site started in earnest in 1993. The total cost of the cleanup is expected to top \$3.7 billion.

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January 28, 2002

Weapons Complex Monitor

Pages 1 and 7

"Environmental Management staff moves still in flux, Fernald Field Brechbill to resign"

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STAFF MOVES STILL IN FLUX, FERNALD FIELD MANAGER BRECHBILL TO RESIGN

Because some Environmental Management senior executive service staff that were informed by Assistant Secretary Jessie Roberson of proposed changes in responsibilities have not made up their minds on whether to accept new assignments and have asked for further meetings, Roberson reportedly may put off announcement of final staff changes from Jan. 28 as initially planned (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 12 No. 49) until later in the week. However, EM field managers have been called into a meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

According to what *WC Monitor* has learned thus far (but which none of the involved individuals would confirm) Susan Brechbill, now the manager of Fernald Office, has turned down an offer to return to the headquarters and will retire. There is also speculation that Roberson was considering moving Office of River Protection Manager Harry Boston to Washington. But staffers in Congressman Doc Hasting's (R-Wash.) office have made it clear to DOE that they would like Boston to remain where he is.

[Continues on Page 7]

[Continued from Page 1]

One of the more prominent SES headquarters staffers that reportedly has been given options of a new position is James Owendoff, who served as EM principal deputy assistant secretary and acting assistant secretary when that position was open. Other senior level headquarters staffers have also been informed of new responsibilities and are among the 27 selected to change their responsibilities. One, David Huizenga has already revealed that he is moving out of EM to take a position with the National Nuclear Security Administration as Deputy Director of the Office of International Nuclear Safety and Cooperation. ■

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January 24, 2002  
The Cincinnati Enquirer  
Page B2

*"Fernald processing building demolished"*

### **Fernald processing building demolished**

An \$8.5 million project to tear down one of the biggest uranium processing buildings at the former Fernald plant near Ross has been completed.

Plant 6, the former Metals Fabrication Plant, was the sixth of 10 major structures to be demolished since production stopped in 1989. During the Cold War, Fernald refined uranium ore and other products that were later used at other facilities to make atomic bombs.

The remaining large buildings, Plants 2 and 3 (the Ore Refinery), Plant 8 (the Scrap Recovery Plant) and the Pilot Plant, are expected to be demolished by the end of 2004, said officials with Fluor Fernald, the lead contractor in the multibillion-dollar cleanup project.

While many kinds of contaminated waste have been hauled from Fernald, scrap from the buildings is being buried in long-term waste cells recently constructed on plant grounds.

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Initiatives in Environmental Technology Investment

Pages 12, 13, 15

*"Fernald partners with OST to deploy innovative technologies"*

## Fernald partners with OST to deploy innovative technologies

by Jennifer Zewatsky

Technology Programs, Fernald

The Department of Energy's Fernald Environmental Management Project is reaping the benefits of demonstrating and deploying innovative environmental technologies—the site is on track to achieve closure by 2006 and is reducing the costs of cleanup while enhancing worker safety. Fernald believes that its successful experiences in using innovative technologies can be beneficial to other DOE sites and has taken a leadership role in exporting successful technologies across the DOE complex.

Since 1992, the 1,050-acre site, located in southwestern Ohio and managed by Fluor Fernald, Inc., has deployed over 20 innovative technologies in the field. The DOE Office of Science and Technology, which sponsors Fernald's technology projects, estimates that the deployments have saved Fernald and other DOE sites more than \$100 million while significantly improving worker safety and shortening project schedules. OST launched the Accelerated Site Technology Deployment initiative in 1997 to stimulate the deployment of innovative technologies throughout the DOE complex.

Fluor Fernald's Technology Programs department took the ASTD concept one step further by asserting that "business as usual" would not serve the OST technology deployment mission. A more focused, proactive, and hands-on approach to deployment would be needed to accelerate cleanup schedules, reduce costs, and improve worker safety. Technology Programs supports ASTD and the site closure mission by identifying, demonstrating, and deploying technologies that are more effective, safer, faster, and/or less expensive than "baseline" technologies. The department has aggressively pursued the goal of technology deployment at Fernald and has shared its accomplishments with DOE

closure sites and training institutions throughout the United States.

Tangible proof of Fernald's accomplishments comes in the form of results. The on-site deployment of real-time soil characterization equipment and the ASTD project to deploy the Oxy-Gasoline Torch (Tech ID 1847) and Personal Ice Cooling System (PICS, Tech ID 1898), along with several projects currently under way, illustrate Fernald's commitment to accelerated site closure.

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 Initiatives in Environmental Technology Investment  
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*"Fernald partners with OST to deploy innovative technologies"*



"Training the Trainers"—A National Ironworkers Union instructor receives training on PICS.

## Real-time soil characterization

Fernald project managers in charge of soil remediation were faced with a daunting task: find and deploy technology that accurately characterized the radiological constituents of soil, quickly identified areas needing remediation, and presented the information in a manner that clearly communicated soil excavation directions to site contractors. Conventional methods of soil characterization through laboratory analysis are time-consuming, slowing the excavation process and leading to increased remediation costs. Fluor Fernald overcame these obstacles by deploying an integrated technology suite capable of providing accurate results in real time.

The technology suite comprises three main pieces of real-time radiation equipment: the Mobile Radiation Tracking System (RTRAK, Tech ID 2361), the Radiation Scanning System (RSS, Tech ID 2362), and High-Purity Germanium Detectors (HPGe, Tech ID 2157). The RTRAK is an agricultural tractor outfitted with a sodium iodide detector, a

computer, and a global positioning system. The RSS, a smaller version of the RTRAK, allows for analysis of areas that are inaccessible to the large tractor. The HPGe detector employs most of the same software and hardware as the RTRAK and RSS but utilizes a different detector crystal—germanium as opposed to sodium iodide. The HPGe detector has a higher resolution than the NaI systems, allowing it to better differentiate among gamma-emitting radionuclides. Therefore, the HPGe detector can be used to support and refine decisions made with the RTRAK or RSS. HPGe detectors are also used to confirm that soils above the action level have been removed and that soils remaining in place meet final soil remediation criteria.

The equipment described above, combined with software designed to gather, transmit, and interpret the data, provides instantaneous data analysis, display, and mapping of the results, accelerating the excavation decision-making process and minimizing excavator down time. As of July 2001, the suite has been used to characterize over 50% of Fernald's soil, generating cost savings in excess of \$15 million.

## Deployment of Personal Ice Cooling System and Oxy-Gasoline Torch

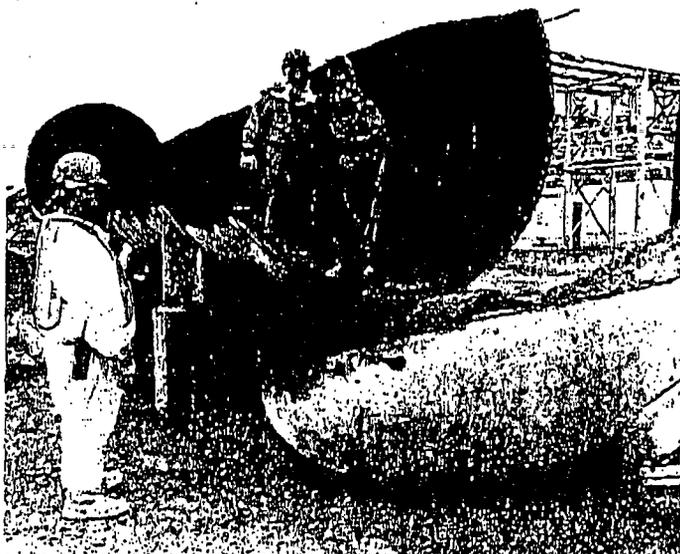
In 1998, Technology Programs launched the Fernald Accelerated Site Technology Deployment Project to expedite the deployment of winning

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*"Fernald partners with OST to deploy innovative technologies"*



Workers marvel at the sight of a completed D&D job made possible by the Oxy-Gasoline Torch.

### Gubka

Fernald's search for technology to dispose of radioactive liquid wastes led all the way to Russia, where researchers have developed an innovative product known as "Gubka" (Porous Crystalline Matrix, Tech ID 2343). The researchers transformed fly ash waste from Siberian coal power plants into a porous crystalline material that stabilizes actinide residue solutions. Gubka, which means "sponge" in Russian, absorbs metal salts, including radionuclides, from waste and acidic liquid residues at room temperature. The Russians recently observed their creation at work in Fernald's lab, where technicians used it to stabilize liquids that would later be shipped to the Nevada Test Site for disposal.

The exchange was successful and will likely lead to further collaboration with Russian industry. Working cooperatively with two entities like this is unquestionably beneficial for both parties," said Dennis Carr, Fernald executive project director. "DOE and Fluor Fernald would like to see continuation of these types of partnerships."

### Remote Prismless Total Survey Station

Land survey measurements are vital to engineering, construction, and remediation activities at Fernald; the Remote Prismless Total Survey Station (RPTS, Tech ID 2983) plays a key role in the acquisition of accurate survey measurements. The instrument, with its coaxial automatic target recognition system, is capable of providing prismless measurement of more than 500 feet. Since its deployment in February 2001, the RPTS has achieved safer work practices, reduced worker exposure to hazardous environments, and significantly reduced personnel costs. The RPTS provides daily support to construction of the Fernald On-Site Disposal Facility. The technology is also used to monitor erosion problems along Paddy's Run and to verify the amount of materials excavated from Fernald's waste pits.

### Wireless Integrated Radon Monitoring System

Fernald is also deploying a Wireless Integrated Radon Monitoring System (Tech ID 2985) to continuously and automatically collect radon data in real-time from monitoring locations at the property boundary and the K-65 Silos area. Wireless technology is an improvement over the former system, which relies on phone lines and cables (See Fernald, page 15)

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**Fernald**, from page 13

to transmit radon data and is susceptible to accidental disruption from severe weather and construction activities.

In May 2001, the wireless hardware was installed and successfully tested at 10 monitoring locations, and data management software is now under development. Once the system is fully operational, Fernald plans to expand the technology to all 34 radon-monitoring locations. This deployment will improve data quality and generate cost savings by reducing the manpower needed for field inspections of equipment and data downloads.

**Universal Demolition Processor**

Decades of uranium production have left behind numerous steel tanks and an estimated 239,000 cubic yards of concrete slabs, foundations, footers, I-beams, and other structures to be demolished. The Universal Demolition Processor (UDP, Tech ID 2981) is making safe, efficient concrete recycling a reality at Fernald. The

UDP is actually three technologies in one: its exchanging jaw sets allow it to be used as a concrete pulverizer, a concrete cracker, or a shear capable of cutting thick steel.

Since the UDP's initial deployment in May 2001, the durable, multifunctional technology has been used to demolish several concrete pads at the site, excavating concrete up to 3 feet thick and leaving piles of crushed material. The UDP's pulverizer attachment is reducing the size of this material to aggregate for reuse in temporary support roads around the On-Site Disposal Facility. Using recycled concrete significantly diminishes the need to purchase and import aggregate for road construction and reinforcement.

Equipped with the plate-shearing jaws, the UDP will enable safe and efficient segmentation of thick steel tanks by a single operator in an enclosed cab. The size-reduced steel will then be placed in the OSDF for disposal.

**Committing to closure**

Through its partnership with OST, Fluor Fernald is making great strides in the deployment of innovative technology solutions. By collaborating with remediation project managers to understand their needs and taking a hands-on approach to the deployment effort, Technology Programs has identified winning technologies capable of accelerating closure at not only Fernald, but also other DOE sites throughout the nation. The success stories described here represent Technology Programs' commitment to the Fernald closure mission and an eagerness to explore new, proactive approaches to meeting technology needs. With OST support, Fernald will continue to bolster its reputation as the "Deploymentville of DOE."

*For more information about Fernald's deployments of innovative technologies, contact Larry Stebbins, Technology Programs, Fluor Fernald Inc., (513) 648-6218, [lawrence.stebbins@fernaldd.gov](mailto:lawrence.stebbins@fernaldd.gov).*

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January 22, 2002  
Business Courier  
*"Plant 6 demolished at Fernald"*

## Plant 6 demolished at Fernald

The Fernald Environmental Management Project reported that workers have razed Plant 6 at the former Fernald uranium processing facility.

Only four more structures remain to be demolished at the 136-acre site, located in Crosby Township, about 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati. The demolition project is expected to be completed in 2004.

Plant 6 was the former metals fabrication plant at Fernald, where high-purity metals were machined. Before it could be demolished, Fernald workers had to remove 205,000 pounds of hazardous materials that had been in the process lines and equipment since 1989. Now that the building has been razed, workers can begin to excavate the underlying soil and remove contaminants.

Once the entire cleanup is complete, the site will be returned to a natural state of trees, grass and wetlands. A corner of the site may be used for a museum with exhibits on the history of the uranium processing plant and its role in making nuclear weapons during the Cold War.

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January 21, 2002

Inside Energy

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*"DOE Could have Saved about \$400,000 by using a Peer Review"*

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**DOE COULD HAVE SAVED ABOUT \$400,000 BY USING A PEER REVIEW** of a technology designed to map groundwater before it was tested in the field and found unfeasible, the department's inspector general said in a report released last week. As a result of its inquiry into the so called Passive Magnetic Resonance Anomaly Mapping technology (PMRAM), the IG recommended that DOE sites coordinate with the Environmental Management division's Office of Science and Technology before investigating unproven cleanup technologies to determine the "appropriate extent and type of review" that they warrant.

The IG's report, whose findings and recommendations were accepted by DOE, also called on Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Jessie Roberson to establish a policy requiring that when DOE sites plan to use OST funds to test environmental technologies, they do so only after the technologies have been specifically approved by the office.

The report follows a recent directive from Roberson seeking better use technology in the cleanup program (*IE/FL*, 14 Jan, 9).

Between January and July 2000, several EM sites, including DOE's East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge and the Fernald Environmental Management Project in Ohio, began field tests of PMRAM. However, OST was not aware of the tests until later, the report said.

Peer reviews were not performed on the technology because the Oak Ridge Operations Office and the

Ohio Field Office used site closure funds rather than OST funds to field test PMRAM, the IG said. Peer reviews determine the scientific and engineering merits of technologies and systems.

As a matter of policy, OST conducts peer reviews of technologies before testing them, but the office does not require DOE sites to apply peer reviews unless OST funds are used to test a technology, the report said.

"As a result, the department incurred \$408,750 in avoidable costs for field tests of PMRAM technology," the report said.

The IG said PMRAM "appeared to be implausible; did not allow for a scientifically-based evaluation; provided no useful information during three field demonstrations; and, appeared inadequate as a site characterization tool." The technology is meant to map the location of groundwater and underground faults, fractures, buried objects and chemicals. However, the field tests indicated that the technology was not feasible and was "likely to underestimate the extent of the contamination," the report said. DOE discontinued field tests of PMRAM, the report noted.

The report (DOE/IG-0539) is available at <http://www.ig.doe.gov>.

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January 17, 2002

The Energy Daily

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*"DOE Resolves Hanford Waste Controversy"*

## DOE Resolves Hanford Waste Controversy

The Energy Department says new testing has dispelled concerns that wastes with unacceptably high radiation levels were mistakenly buried in a landfill at its Hanford site designed only for low-level nuclear materials.

However, federal regulators say they will fine DOE for analytical errors by its prime Hanford contractor, Fluor Hanford Inc., that led to the potential misclassification of the wastes sent to the landfill.

DOE officials acknowledged the seriousness of the incident, saying it could compromise public confidence in DOE's programs for assuring safe disposal of radioactive wastes.

"We cannot have an issue like this come up again," said Mike Schlender, deputy DOE manager for transition at Hanford. "It's imperative that waste disposal activities are performed accurately and in compliance with procedures."

The incident involved wastes that

were cleaned out of the 233-S plutonium facility at the eastern Washington nuclear reservation. After they were tested for radioactivity levels by Fluor, the wastes were classified as low-level waste and sent to Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF), a huge on-site landfill.

Subsequently, however, Fluor discovered errors in its analysis of hundreds of waste items tested over the past two years, raising the prospect that some wastes had higher radioactivity levels than previously believed. That led to concerns that seven of 28 boxes of waste from the plutonium facility had been sent to ERDF with radiation levels above ERDF's acceptance criteria.

Wastes that exceed ERDF's criteria are supposed to be sent to DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, an underground repository which takes more hazardous transu-

ranic waste.

DOE said it resolved concerns about the plutonium wastes by having its contractors dig up a box at ERDF that contained wastes with the highest potential radiation levels of the seven boxes in question. The contents of the retrieved box were retested and found to be just within ERDF's acceptance criteria. DOE officials said the tests showed the other six suspect boxes still buried at ERDF were within regulatory limits.

Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency said they would issue a notice of violation against DOE for the waste mix-up, but said they were satisfied the wastes buried at ERDF were disposed of properly. In addition, a new subcontractor has been hired to take over the testing duties previously conducted by Fluor and EPA has certified new waste testing procedures.

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January 14, 2002

Inside Energy

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*"DOE has Proposed to Fine the Fernald Site Contractor \$55,000"*

4120

**DOE HAS PROPOSED TO FINE THE FERNALD SITE CONTRACTOR \$55,000** for air-monitoring deficiencies that resulted in radiological exposures to 23 workers between December 1999 and August 2000. Investigators with DOE's Office of Price-Anderson Enforcement (OE) said Fluor Fernald Inc. failed to detect elevated airborne radioactivity inside a trailer at the Waste Pits Remedial Action project at the former uranium site in Ohio.

In a preliminary notice of violation to Fluor President Woodrow Jameson, OE Director R. Keith Christopher said Fluor did not identify deficiencies in a timely manner. Fluor workers detected elevated airborne radioactivity levels in December 1999, but investigators said Fluor managers did not recognize the potential for possible increased levels until eight months later. Contamination levels, however, were below regulatory limits for workers.

"No mitigation was provided for timely self-identification since the violations were either long-standing in nature or identified by DOE," Christopher said in the Jan. 4 notice. "DOE recognizes, however, that once identified, Fluor Fernald promptly reported the deficiencies into DOE's Noncompliance Tracking System."

Christopher also instructed Fluor to respond to the notice, documenting any additional specific actions taken to address safety problems. "After reviewing your response to the PNOV, including your proposed corrective actions entered into NTS, I will determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with DOE nuclear safety requirements," the notice said. In an enforcement conference

with OE investigators in November, Fluor acknowledged the weaknesses that led to the events, said it understood the significance of the problems, and added it was committed to correct them and avoid recurrences. Fluor did not challenge any of the facts or findings documented in OE's investigation summary report.

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January 14, 2002

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*"Lawmakers Urge Bush this Year to Avoid Rancor over Cleanup Funds"***LAWMAKERS URGE BUSH THIS YEAR TO AVOID RANCOR OVER CLEANUP FUNDS**

Still smarting over the Bush administration's treatment of DOE's cleanup program in last year's budget debates, members of the Senate and House with contaminated department facilities in their states are pressing for more money in the White House's upcoming request for FY-03.

"It is imperative that your budget request provide enough funding" to meet legally enforceable agreements with states, Sens. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, Larry Craig, R-Idaho, and Patty Murray, D-Wash., said in a recent letter to President Bush. Murray, whose state is home to DOE's Hanford Site, co-chairs a Nuclear Waste Cleanup Caucus comprising 16 senators.

A spokesman for Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., chairman of the House Nuclear Waste Cleanup Caucus, said, "We have been continually talking with OMB and DOE about funding in FY-03 and we are hopeful that the request will contain adequate funding for the program." Hastings' district includes Hanford.

Last year, the Bush administration requested \$5.9 billion for DOE's environmental management (EM) program in FY-02, about \$400 million less than the program received the previous year. Ultimately, Congress appropriated \$6.2 billion for the program.

"That was unacceptable, inexcusable and morally reprehensible," a spokesman for Murray said of the administration's request last year. According to the spokesman, the administration's proposal to significantly cut the program's budget came despite assurances Murray received from Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels that it would not be subjected to deep cuts. "So, their track record is not sterling on this."

Early last year, lawmakers passed an FY-02 budget resolution authorizing \$1 billion more for EM than the administration had sought for them. In addition, the Senate Appropriations Committee commented in a report that the administration's request was not sufficient to satisfy state-imposed legal requirements at several sites or to maintain "prompt and efficient" cleanup at other sites not subject to such requirements, the senators noted in their letter.

An aide to Craig said it appears the administration is contemplating a budget for EM in FY-03 that is "as deficient as last year's submittal." In the Dec. 20 letter to Bush, the senators said the administration last year sought reductions in the EM budget while at the same time insisting that DOE still meet deadlines at cleanup sites, including ones at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

"As Congress works through the yearly budget process, we must ensure that the federal government keeps its commitments to nuclear cleanup in Idaho and throughout the country," Crapo, the other co-chair of the Senate caucus, said in a statement. "While the Senate Nuclear Waste Cleanup Caucus has been successful in educating the administration and other members of Congress about cleanup concerns, this is an ongoing effort to make certain that adequate attention and resources are dedicated to cleaning up contaminated DOE sites," he said of the senators' letter.

Earlier this year, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham began addressing cleanup commitments by ordering a "top-to-bottom" review of the EM program to identify ways to improve the program. The senators acknowledged that effort. "We hope that the real efficiencies may be found that can clean up sites more quickly and inexpensively, while maintaining the safety of workers and communities," they told Bush. "However, we do not agree that ongoing cleanup activities should be delayed while the review is conducted."

A DOE contractor source said the review is expected to be announced when the administration releases its FY-03 budget, an event now planned for Feb. 4. A DOE spokeswoman said she could not comment on the review's timing.

"Failing to work collaboratively on our critical environmental problem would force Congress to once again manage the DOE EM program through the authorization and appropriations process," the senators' letter said. "We see no evidence that DOE can meet its legal cleanup requirements to the states and the public while significantly reducing funding for the EM program," they added. — Shawn Terry

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January 21, 2002

Weapons Complex Monitor

Page 6

*"Department Wasted \$400,000 on Useless Groundwater Detector"*

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**DEPARTMENT WASTED \$400,000 ON  
USELESS GROUNDWATER DETECTOR***Modern-Day Dowsing Rod Wholly Ineffective, IG Says*

Environmental cleanup officials at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the Fernald and Ashtabula Environmental Management Projects in Ohio, wasted more than \$400,000 in 2000 on an alleged subsurface contamination detector that, on closer technical review, was based on "implausible" technology that "provided no useful information during three field demonstrations," an investigation by the Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General has

concluded. The IG's description of the technology, Passive Magnetic Resonance Anomaly Mapping (PMRAM), paints a picture of a modern-day dowsing rod. "PMRAM is a non-intrusive characterization technology that attempts to map the underground location of groundwater, faults, fractures, buried objects, and chemicals. This technology is unique in that it combines an electronic system and a human operator into a single bio-sensory unit by connecting the operator at the wrists to an electronic system, which is harnessed to the body." The technology relied on the ability of the world's only qualified operator, a resident of the Ukraine, to sense changes in magnetic fields; according to the IG report, "Passive Magnetic Resonance Anomaly Mapping at Environmental Management Sites" (DOE/IG-0539), which was released Jan. 16.

Field tests of PMRAM were conducted in Tennessee and Ohio prior to any evaluation of the technology by DOE's Office of Science and Technology (OST), the IG found. OST procedures require peer review of technologies proposed for use, but those rules did not come into play until the sites had already spent \$400,000. OST became involved when the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Closure requested OST funding for the PMRAM technology in FY 2000, according to the IG's investigation. When OST brought in a team of experts to evaluate PMRAM, they concluded it "did not appear plausible and did not allow for a scientifically based evaluation." In addition, the peer review panel noted, "no useful information was developed during the three field demonstrations, and the PMRAM technology appeared inadequate as a site-characterization tool." Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Jessie Roberson agreed with the IG's findings and noted in a Dec. 19 letter that spending on PMRAM has been halted. ■

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January 2002

Milestones

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*"Fernald Closure Plans"*

### **Fernald closure plans**

The Department of Energy and its cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald are working with the community and regulators to make important decisions about the future closure of the

Fernald Environmental Management Project. A new section called "The Future" has been added to the Fernald web site, <http://www.fernald.gov/AboutFernald/Future/Future.htm>. The section describes the Department's final land use plan for the 1,050-acre site, examines public use issues and the upcoming decision process, and highlights ecological restoration projects and cultural resources initiatives. ❖

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January 21, 2002

Journal-News

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*"Fernald company declares bankruptcy"*

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# Fernald company declares bankruptcy

Officials: Project to  
remain on schedule

By Kristin McAllister  
kmcallistar@coxohio.com  
Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Though the Fernald waste pits project subcontractor filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last week, site officials say the project will not suffer any setbacks.

The Pittsburgh-based IT Group Inc. in October 1997 signed onto the eight-year U.S. Department of Energy project in a \$122 million deal. The contract called for IT to plan, design and build the waste-pit facility, in addition to conducting the excavation, processing and loading of more than a million tons of waste for shipment to Envirocare, a waste-disposal site in Utah.

The Shaw Group Inc., based in Baton Rouge, La., bought IT's assets for \$105 million, said David Hinaman, Fernald spokesman.

"Pending bankruptcy-court approval, Shaw is stepping up and buying the whole IT group," he said. "It's going to be seamless on our end. We don't anticipate any problems at all. We're monitoring the situation closely. What's important is that we do not anticipate any changes in our daily operation."

Fifty-two IT employees and 200 employees of Fluor Fernald, the site's cleanup contractor, were assigned to the project during the last four years.

During that time, 51 unit trains of waste — 300,000 tons — were sent to Envirocare.

"We're a third of the way there," Hinaman said.

The project is slated for completion in 2004, while decontamination and dismantling of equipment and the waste-processing facility is scheduled for 2005.

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January 14, 2002  
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*"At Fernald ..... Fluor Fernald Cited For Safety Violations"*

**AT FERNALD ..... FLUOR FERNALD CITED FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS**

Energy Dept. Price-Anderson Enforcement officials are proposing to fine Fernald contractor Fluor Fernald \$55,000 for safety violations at the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP). In a Jan. 4 preliminary notice of violation sent to Fluor Fernald President Woodrow Jameson, Office of Price-Anderson Enforcement Director Keith Christopher explained the fine resulted from "several problems and events" which took place in 2000 and 2001. They include a long-standing problem in which the lack of appropriate air monitoring at a trailer at the WPRAP resulted in 23 workers receiving unplanned and unmonitored radiation exposures between December 1999 and August 2000. The Department also found that Fluor Fernald's quality improvement processes were not effective in controlling and resolving deficiencies in a timely manner.

DOE offered no mitigation of the fines for timely self-identification, noting that the violations either were long-standing or were identified by DOE. However, the Department has proposed reducing the fine by 50 percent in recognition of Fluor Fernald's "comprehensive and timely corrective actions relative to the subject events once they were identified, and in light of Fluor Fernald's historically strong [Price-Anderson Amendments Act] performance with respect to the self-identification and correction of regulatory issues."

January 8, 2002

The Energy Daily

Page 4

*"DOE Fines Fernald Contractor For Contamination Incident"*

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## **DOE Fines Fernald Contractor For Contamination Incident**

The Energy Department announced Monday it was fining its Fernald cleanup contractor \$55,000 for its failure to detect elevated airborne radioactivity that contaminated 23 workers inside a trailer at the Ohio uranium site.

DOE said the accidental exposures occurred over an eight-month period at a trailer near cleanup operations for disposal pits holding thorium and other radioactive waste.

Investigators with DOE's Office of Price-Anderson Enforcement said elevated airborne radioactivity levels were detected by Fluor Fernald Inc. workers in December 1999 near a waste-handling building being used in the waste pit cleanup operation.

However, the investigators said Fluor managers did not recognize the potential for possible increased radiation levels inside the adjacent trailer until August 2000. During the eight-month lapse, 23 workers working inside the trailer received accidental exposures ranging from 30 millirem to 330 millirem.

While those contamination levels are below regulatory limits for workers, DOE said Fluor should have moved more quickly to take air samples inside the trailer in response to the December 1999 detection of elevated radiation levels nearby.

DOE also cited Fluor for not promptly following up on other nuclear safety concerns identified in operations reports at Fernald. And Fluor was criticized for failing to adequately train personnel working on the waste pit cleanup.

—GEORGE LOBSENZ

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January 7, 2002

Weapons Complex Monitor

Pages 1 and 2

*"EM Chief Orders Reorganization of Science & Technology Program"*

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**EM CHIEF ORDERS REORGANIZATION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM***Focus Areas Replaced; New "Thrusts" Created*

Energy Dept. cleanup managers have abandoned the Office of Science and Technology's "focus area" approach to technology development, under which research and development efforts supported five broad environmental management activities, in favor of a more-targeted approach designed to speed the cleanup of contaminated sites while reducing costs and risks. The reorganization, outlined in a Dec. 14 memo from Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Jessie Roberson, will include a simpler proposal and review process to speed the application of new scientific information and technological advances, "ensuring more resources are available for on-the-ground support of the cleanup program." Roberson has directed the management of the science and technology office to develop an implementation plan for the new approach by Jan. 24. Environmental Management officials said last week they consider the new approach to be "a work in progress" and said any discussion prior to the completion of the implementation plan would be premature.

Roberson's idea, outlined in the Dec. 14 memo, is to replace the "Focus Areas" which developed technologies

for decontamination and decommissioning; nuclear materials management; subsurface contamination; tank management; and transuranic and mixed waste management with two new "thrusts" to provide technologies to support the closure sites and to replace high-risk and high-cost technologies, particularly those dealing with underground storage tanks and subsurface contamination. "For the [science and technology] program to have maximum impact," Roberson wrote in her memo, "it must be streamlined and highly focused on a limited number of critical, high payback activities where step improvements can be gained versus a larger number of activities that offer only marginal improvement. It must be end-point and risk-driven to provide the necessary technical basis for future decision-making."

The closure thrust, Roberson said, will feature a multidisciplinary, hands-on team to identify technology requirements for Rocky Flats, Fernald and the other closure sites. "The team will have a dedicated budget so that necessary resources are readily available," Roberson added. "A streamlined proposal process will be developed to provide real-time response to site needs while ensuring high-quality work." The second thrust, Roberson said in the memo, will be managed from DOE headquarters and will offer aggressive investments to technologies offering the greatest returns. "This will include a complete analysis of the requirements for alternatives, the drivers for the requirements, and the efficacy of the approach for the long-term," Roberson said.

Other details of the reorganization plan, including whether the Office of Science and Technology itself will be reorganized, were not available. ■

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January 21, 2002

Journal-News

Page A3

*"Fernald company declares bankruptcy"*

4120

# Fernald company declares bankruptcy

## Officials: Project to remain on schedule

By Kristin McAllister  
kmcallistar@coxohio.com  
Journal-News

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ROSS TOWNSHIP

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January 14, 2002  
Weapons Complex Monitor  
Pages 7 and 8  
"At Fernald ..... Fluor Fernald Cited For Safety Violations"

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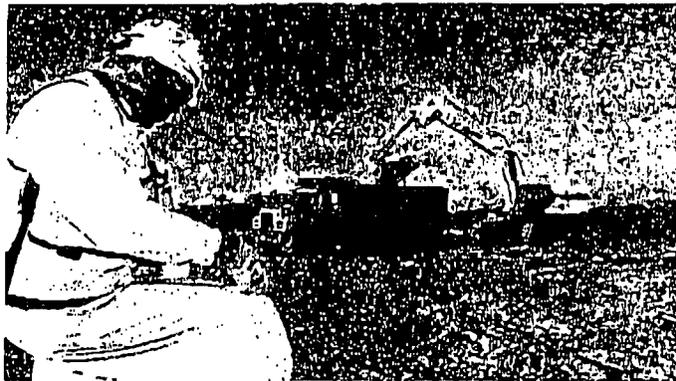
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*"Fernald site eliminates groundwater contamination source"*

## Fernald site eliminates groundwater contamination source

Workers at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Fernald Environmental Management Project completed a high-profile soil remediation project in November 2001, eliminating the main source of contamination to the underlying Great Miami Aquifer, one of the largest sources of drinking water in the nation. The project involved the excavation and disposition of contaminated soil and debris from a 26-acre area called the Southern Waste Units.

During nearly 40 years of uranium metal production, tons of contaminated construction debris, boiler plant fly ash, and soil were dumped in an isolated area on a southern portion of the Fernald Site to make room for new structures. In the mid 1990's, the contamination problem was discovered during a comprehensive environmental investigation. Sampling results from groundwater monitoring wells indicated uranium concentrations as high as 2,000 parts per billion (ppb), compared to background concentrations ranging from 1 to 3 ppb.



*A member of Fluor Fernald's Waste Acceptance Organization finishes a manifest for a truckload of waste material from the Southern Waste Units.*

The Department and its cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald initiated several removal actions to address immediate concerns until a long-term cleanup plan was developed. Workers installed extraction wells to pump the contaminated water to on-site wastewater treatment plants and stabilized eroding banks along Paddys Run Stream, which borders the site.

In 1998, Fernald initiated the final cleanup plan for the Southern Waste Units. The plan involved characterizing the soil to determine contamination levels, excavating contaminated portions of the soil, and disposal of the waste in Fernald's on-site

disposal facility. A paved haul road was constructed to ensure safe transportation of the waste. During the three years of excavation, approximately 33,000 trucks carried more than 400,000 cubic yards of material to the disposal facility.

"While our building demolition tends to receive most of the attention, elimination of this environmental threat has the most direct impact on the health and safety of our neighbors," said Johnny Reising,

DOE-Fernald Associate Director for Remediation Management. "Our groundwater monitoring currently shows the uranium contamination levels at about 50 parts per billion beneath the former source area. Removal of the source, infiltration of clean rainwater, and aggressive pumping have helped to drive the contamination down."

As of November 2001, over 50 percent of the 1,050-acre Fernald Site has been certified as meeting Environmental Protection Agency cleanup standards. Fernald will begin ecological restoration of the Southern Waste Units area in 2002. ♦

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*"Grinch" foiled from taking holiday gifts"*

## 'Grinch' foiled from taking holiday gifts

The quick action of an employee of the Department of Energy's Fernald Environmental Management Project and an officer from the Hamilton County (Ohio) Sheriff's Department helped rescue some holiday gifts from the hands of would-be thieves.

In mid December, Fluor Fernald Wish-Tree Coordinator Katie Payne was at a private security storage facility sorting over 300 gifts donated by Fernald employees when she noticed two teenage boys near the storage bay where the gifts were being housed temporarily. Several bags

had to be placed outside the entrance of the bay while gifts were being arranged by destination. Turning her attention to the bags near the door, Payne noticed that four bags of gifts were missing. When confronted, the boys denied taking the gifts and left.

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Department determined the teenagers were renting a storage bay and lived nearby. Deputy Dave Hill monitored the activity at the storage complex and residence that evening. Later that night, one of the teenagers returned to the bay to retrieve the packages. He was arrested and is

awaiting a decision from the grand jury on felony theft charges. In all, deputies recovered more than \$700 in stolen gifts.

"It's hard to believe that anyone would want to take packages clearly marked for area children," Payne said. "I'm just thankful that Deputy Hill and the Sheriff's Department were able to recover the gifts."

Each year, Fernald workers donate presents for children in need from area schools. Over the past seven years, Fernald employees have donated over 3,000 gifts through the Wish Tree Program. ❖

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*"Department employees care and share"*

## Department employees care and share

Throughout the year, and especially during the holiday season, Department of Energy (DOE) employees at Headquarters and field sites always are there to lend a helping hand to their local communities and to share with those in need. The year 2001 was no exception.

DOE Headquarters' annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) began on Nov. 1, 2001, with a goal of \$840,000. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham appointed General Counsel Lee Otis as his Vice Chairman to coordinate the drive. By the end of the campaign on Dec. 21, employees had pledged \$937,854—112 percent of the goal—to local, national, and international charities.

Federal and contractor-employees at DOE field sites also gave generously to their local CFC and United Way charity campaigns. The 54 employees at the Kansas City Area Office raised \$17,265 for CFC charities, exceeding the goal of \$9,200 by 88 percent. The Kansas City Plant's prime contractor, Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies, also exceeded its 2001 United Way goal by raising more than \$620,000 through employee contributions and Honeywell corporate support. Employees for Savannah River Site con-



*Savannah River Site employees Jeannine Mills, Bennie Wiggins, Jr., and Kim Prettel sort through a portion of the 18,480 pounds of food donated during the Site's annual food drive.*

tractors Westinghouse Savannah River Company, Bechtel Savannah River Inc., BNFL Savannah River Corporation, and BWXT Savannah River Company donated a total of \$2,272,405 for area United Way agencies.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) firefighters raised more than \$23,000 for the families of victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy in New York. The firefighters, members of Union Local I-2, collected more than \$13,000 from ORNL staff and a match of \$10,000 from UT-Battelle. The fund-raising effort was spontaneous, with just a day's notice to staff that firefighters would be at the ORNL gates.

A truck loaded with gifts arrived in time for the holidays for the Shawnee Tribe in White Oak, Okla., thanks to the American Indian Winter Assistance Drive, a community effort sponsored by the Department's Fernald Environmental Management Project in Ohio. A donated 40-foot semi-trailer loaded with canned goods, clothing, computers, school supplies, and children's toys collected from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana made the holidays brighter for over 2,000 residents of the reservation.

Savannah River Site employees donated the equivalent of over 64 tons of food—\$23,346 in cash and 18,480 pounds of food—to Golden Harvest Food Bank during the annual holiday food drive and more than 10,000 toys during the site's 11th Annual Toys for Tots Drive. The Westinghouse Savannah River Company donated an additional \$2,000 to the food bank for the purchase of holiday turkeys and hams.

These are but a few of the many benevolent efforts of DOE Federal and contractor employees. A hearty thank you goes out to these and all offices not mentioned that care enough to share with others in need. ♡

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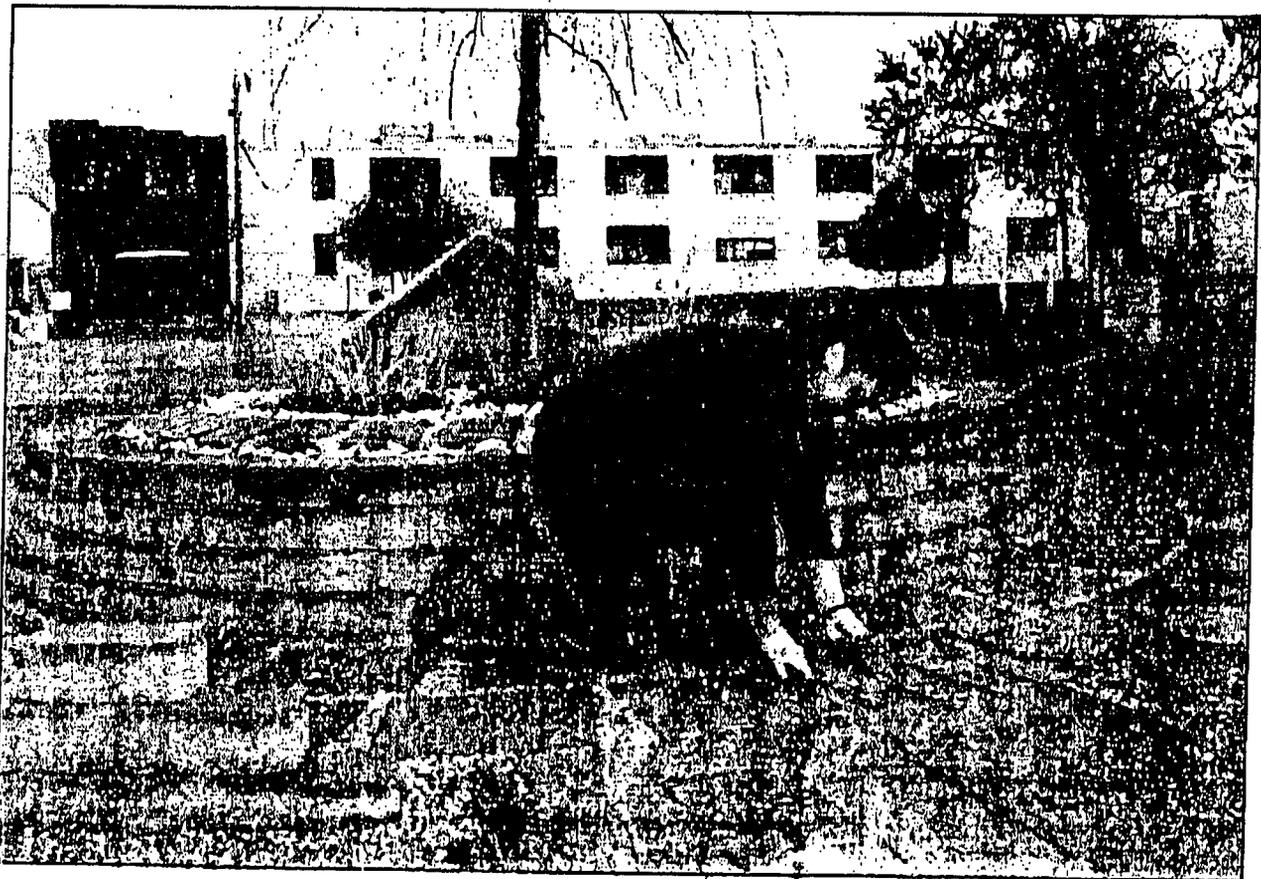
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*"Cold War Garden is peaceful reminder"*

# *Cold War Garden* *is peaceful reminder*



Fluor Fernald employee Lisa Peacock installs a inscribed memorial brick in a walkway surrounding the site's Cold War Garden.

Fluor Fernald photograph

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 "Cold War Garden is peaceful reminder"

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## Bricked park is tribute to Fernald workers and those who shut it down

By Tina Emmick  
 Staff Writer

In the midst of cleanup efforts at the former Fernald uranium processing site in Crosby Township, Fluor Fernald has created a park on the site dedicated to the memory of those who contributed to the plant's history.

The Cold War Garden serves as a reminder of the 40-year period in America's history when the government raced against the Soviet Union to develop a nuclear weapon arsenal.

"There was a lot of work done stateside to stay ahead of other countries and keep America safe," said Allen Callaway, vice-president of Fluor Fernald's trade and labor council. "This is a memorial to more than 15,000 people who have worked at the site."

The garden was designed to honor Fernald employees and township residents who played an unwitting part in the development and operation of the facility, and to the people who held the federal government accountable for its cleanup.

The park is meant to be a peaceful spot that invites reflection. The square plot measures about 40 feet on each side and contains tables and benches for Fluor Fernald employees' use.

The centerpiece is a multi-tiered planter crowned with a weeping cherry tree, chosen by garden designer Peggy Ravenscraft as a fitting tribute to the thousands of people who worked at the plant.

Surrounding the tree are engraved paving stones dedicated to the landowners who gave up their property for the facility and long-term employees, such as the recently-deceased Vinny Vinson who had worked at the plant for more than 40 years, said Ric Strobl, manager of Fluor Fernald's multi-media visual services.

Citizens' groups such as Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH) and Fernald employees' trade unions are also represented, said Ravenscraft.

Hostas and daylilies provide color during the heat of summer and spirea bushes accent the garden in spring. Seasonal plantings create a park-like atmosphere for year-round enjoyment, said Ravenscraft.

Four walkways radiate from a brick path encircling the planter and extend to patio areas containing color-coordinated tables with green umbrellas.

The park is solely used by employees and authorized visitors because of heightened security surrounding government areas, said Allen Callaway, vice president of the trade and labor council.

Ultimately, as demolition progresses, the garden will be dismantled and moved to a permanent location with public access. A site for the garden's final home is being negotiated between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board, said Callaway.

The park was constructed in 1996 and located between the administration and human resource buildings, said Ravenscraft. When one of the buildings was demolished several years later, damaged portions of the park were reconstructed. In 2001, another refurbishment took place, including the widening of several paths to accommodate wheelchairs, she said.

Last May, during a celebration commemorating Fernald's 50th anniversary, a large rock with an inscription was dedicated and placed at the base of the weeping cherry tree.

Bricks inscribed with the names of people associated with the plant or cleanup efforts are being sold for \$35 through the Fernald Living History group and Crosby Township Historical Society.

About 55 bricks have been sold and installed in the garden's walkway, said Callaway. To purchase a brick, call Jim Innis, 738-8764.