



FCAB UPDATE

Week of May 14, 2002
(Last update was April 4, 2002)

MEETING SCHEDULE

Stewardship Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2002, 6:30 p.m.

**PEIC – Public Environmental
Information Center**

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
Saturday, June 15, 2002, 8:30 a.m.

Crosby Township Senior Center

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Minutes from the 04/20/02 FCAB Meeting
- Draft Minutes from the 04/18/02 Stewardship Committee Meeting
- Articles & News Clippings

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

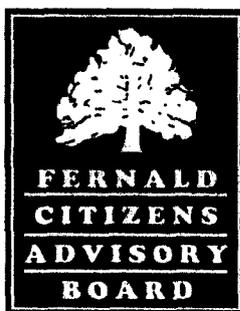
Reminder that the Design Charette will held on Saturday, May 18th from 8:30-12:30 starting at the Fernald site and continuing at the Crosby Township Senior Center.

There will be no FCAB or Stewardship meeting this month. However we will resume again in June.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please note that the phone number for The Perspectives Group has changed.

Please contact Doug Sarno or David Bidwell at The Perspectives Group
Phone: 513-648-6478 or 703-837-9269 Fax: 513-648-3629 or 703-837-9662
E-Mail: djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com or dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com



FULL BOARD MEETING
Public Environmental Information Center

Saturday, April 20th

DRAFT MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, 2002, at the Public Information Center

Members Present:

Jim Bierer
 Susan Brechbill
 Kathryn Brown
 Sandy Butterfield
 Marvin Clawson
 Lisa Crawford
 Lou Doll
 Pam Dunn
 Jane Harper
 Gene Jablonowski
 Steve McCracken
 Tom Schneider
 Robert Tabor
 Tom Wagner
 Gene Willeke

Members Absent:

French Bell
 Lisa Blair
 Blain Burton
 Steve DePoe
 Graham Mitchell

Designated Federal Official:

Gary Stegner

The Perspectives Group Staff:

Douglas Sarno
 David Bidwell

Fluor Fernald Staff:

Sue Walpole

Approximately 10 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. The minutes from the March 2002 meeting were accepted with the two corrections:

- 1.) Jane Harper attended the meeting.
- 2.) Gary Stegner committed to meet with committee members to discuss the relocation of the Public Environmental Information Center.

General Remarks and Announcements

Jim thanked the FEMP staff for providing a site tour for the SSAB Chairs meeting on April 11. The feedback he received was positive and people were excited by what has been accomplished at the site. Jim also thanked Fluor Fernald for sponsoring a reception for the chairs that evening.

Susan Brechbill announced that she is retiring from DOE, effective May 3, after thirty-four years of service. Susan expressed fondness for Fernald and stated that the FCAB is one of the most progressive advisory boards in the DOE Complex. Susan's successor has not yet been determined.

Steve McCracken stated that implementation of long-term stewardship is underway at the Welden Springs site. He urged the FCAB to keep an eye on Welden Springs, because it is likely to influence what happens at Fernald regarding stewardship. DOE is not writing a definitive policy regarding long-term stewardship, but will instead rely on precedence set at individual sites. Jim stated that Dave Geiser presented many details of the Welden Springs stewardship plan at the SSAB Chairs meeting. Doug Sarno explained that the Stewardship Committee would review the stewardship criteria that were presented by Dave.

SSAB Chairs Meeting

Jim reported that the SSAB chairs met in Cincinnati on April 11 to 13. The meeting focused on the FY03 EM budget, the Top-to-Bottom Review, long-term stewardship, and public involvement.

Jim reported that Gene Schmitt explained the Top-to-Bottom Review and reviewed the resulting proposed budget for Environmental Management. The proposed base EM budget is \$5.9 billion. An \$800 million fund has been proposed as a supplement for accelerating risk reduction and site closure. An additional \$300 million may be available. Overall, the Chairs were not pleased with the review and its impact on the budget. Lisa Crawford expressed skepticism that cleanup sites would receive those funds. Susan cautioned the group that the revised baseline for Fernald is based on receiving a portion of the \$800 million supplement.

Jim further reported that the Chairs approved and signed the statements developed at the SSAB Groundwater Workshop.

Jim also reported that the Chairs discussed public participation and the role of SSABs. In general, the Chairs were concerned that the impact of SSAB recommendations is poorly tracked. He stated that some Chairs were upset that Jessie Roberson did not attend the Chairs meeting. Jim Brannon of New Mexico will draft a letter to Roberson expressing the willingness of the SSAB Chairs to provide input on Complex-wide decisions to DOE.

Lisa Crawford stated that she felt it was inappropriate for the DOE headquarters presenters at the SSAB Chairs meeting to place blame on a past DOE employee.

Doug expressed concern that Dave Geiser may have painted too positive a picture of stewardship at Welden Springs. He suggested that some FCAB members visit Welden Springs in mid-summer. Steve urged the group to meet with all of the site's stakeholder groups. Susan cautioned the group against relying too heavily on another site as a model for stewardship.

Jim noted that Gene Schmitt's presentation called for development of a common vision for risk reduction. Jim stated that a similar effort should be instigated to develop a common vision for long-term stewardship.

Doug announced that DOE personnel attending the Chairs meeting indicated that Roberson intends to renew the national SSAB charter, which expires in May.

In the near future, Roberson may schedule a video conference with the SSABs. The next Chairs meeting will be in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, October 14 to 16. The next SSAB Workshop will focus on transuranic waste and transportation issues and will be held in New Mexico in early 2003.

2006 Acceleration and FY03 Budget

Steve announced that the revised baseline for 2006 closure has been presented to DOE. The baseline package included the letters of support from the FCAB and others, as well as a letter of commitment between DOE and Fluor Fernald. Pam Dunn reminded Steve that the FCAB requested a response to the concerns presented in its letter of support.

Dennis Carr stated that representatives from Fluor Fernald and DOE met with Jessie Roberson on April 12, uninterrupted for almost an hour, and that the meeting had gone well. He feels that Roberson now fully understands the site and the scope of work needed to reach closure. Dennis reported that Roberson offered assistance in the NRC

license modification process being pursued for the silos projects. Dennis reviewed the information that was presented to Roberson, which included baseline budgets of \$324 million and an alternate \$350 million. An independent review team, currently examining the site proposal, will provide final funding recommendations to Roberson. A report is expected from this team by April 30.

Dennis clarified some points from his presentation to Roberson. Lisa Crawford stated that some wording in the presentation could create false impressions at headquarters. Members also expressed concern that the revised baseline had been presented to Roberson before the completed version was presented to the FCAB.

Pam Dunn inquired about funding for long-term stewardship, which prompted a general FCAB discussion regarding the lack of clarity for long-term stewardship funding. Steve and Susan reported that while there have been some efforts to identify funding, there are still many questions. Steve stated that preparations for stewardship should come from project funds, but specific funding needs have not been well defined. FCAB members expressed concern that Congress and the public do not understand that funds will be required beyond FY06 to complete the remediation and manage the site. One significant issue is the proper organization and disposition of records and photographs. This issue will be a significant focus of the June FCAB meeting.

Silos Projects

Ray Carradi reported that several issues of concern were identified at the April 9 Monthly Progress Briefing, which focused on the silos projects: 1) status of LRAD monitoring technology, 2) use of IP2 "super sacks" for Silo 3 wastes, 3) pretreatment of Silo 3 waste, 4) ROD and NRC license modifications, and 5) the build-design approach.

LRAD

In the past, FCAB members have inquired about the potential use of personal monitoring technology currently under development, called LRAD, for the Silo 3 project. Dennis distributed an initial assessment from Stan Waligora; a Certified Health Physicist hired by Fluor to evaluate the potential use of the LRAD personal monitoring system for the Fernald cleanup. Dennis explained that the major risks associated with Silo 3 materials are inhalation and ingestion of particulate. He reviewed worker safety measures that would be in place during the removal and packaging of Silo 3 material. These include ventilation controls in removal and packaging areas, personal respiratory systems, protective outer clothing, showers, and use of the best available monitoring technology to ensure there is not a spread of contaminant. LRAD is intended to be a more sensitive technology for detecting any radioactive particulate that may remain on a worker after protective clothing has been removed. Waligora's initial assessment is that the

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technology would not be commercially available for use in the Silo 3 project. Following discussion, the FCAB agreed that Waligora should finish his analysis, but that additional development funds for the technology should come from EM50 rather than the site budget.

IP2 "Super Sack" Packaging for Silo 3 Waste

Ray stated that he recently learned there may be a misperception that the use of IP2 "Super Sack" packages for the transport of Silo 3 waste is only being pursued to lower project costs. Ray explained that the site feels that these sacks are a better way to meet DOT requirements for dusting and radon containment. Ray reviewed the testing requirements for the sacks and stated that these sacks must meet the same drop, puncture, and pressure requirements as other IP2 packaging. In addition, the sacks would be placed in Sea-Land containers for shipment, which would further reduce puncture risks. Ray further reported that these sacks have been successfully used at sites with similar materials. If sent to Envirocare by rail as planned, the bags would be lifted from Sea-Land containers by straps and placed directly in the disposal cell.

Each sack would contain a plastic liner, with a fill spout that can be heat-sealed. This liner has been tested for its ability to contain radon. The group discussed the importance of using a surrogate material to test the system for filling and sealing of the bags. Lou Doll suggested using a traceable chemical in the surrogate in order to check for small leaks. Ray indicated that the site has requested funding for this kind of testing.

Ray reported that transportation disasters are computer modeled. The modeled results of a worst-case scenario (total dispersal of the contents of a bag) remained within the allowable levels for human health risk. The assumptions used for this model are currently being reviewed and a sensitivity analysis is being conducted. Ray further reported that materials handling experts indicated that the Silo 3 materials settle quickly, so the airborne dispersal that was modeled in the worst-case scenario is unlikely.

Doug requested that Ray bring any available Super Sack performance data and illustrative videos to the June FCAB meeting.

Pretreatment for Silo 3 Material

At the Progress Briefing and other meetings in the past, FCAB members have discussed options to prevent the dispersal of Silo 3 materials through pretreatment. Ray reported that the site has asked the materials handling experts to assess substances on the market that could be used to prevent dispersal of dust. Because the pneumatic removal of material will aerate it somewhat, applying a sticky substance could reduce the ability of the material to settle in the bags. Sticky substances could also result in clogged equipment. Substances could be sprayed as material is layered into the sacks, and either

bond the surface of the layer or soak into the material. EM50 has been approached to fund some mock-ups using surrogate materials. Doug suggested that any tests be video taped and suggested that a FCAB member be in attendance. The FCAB asked that the CAT make recommendations regarding pretreatment. Ray will provide more information regarding pretreatment options at the June FCAB meeting.

Build-Design Approach

FCAB members have also expressed concerns about bidding out parts of the projects for construction before the entire final design is completed. Ray explained that although he was not at the site during the design and construction of the vitrification pilot plant, he has been involved in discussions to learn from the mistakes made on that project. He reported that build-design is the common approach in the commercial world, and that the Silos project team has extensive experience using this approach. He also reported that, over the past 20 years, the government has started to see the benefits of this approach, which include improvements in cost, schedule, and quality. Ray explained that the key to success is to comply with logical construction sequences, identify packages that can be built, and account for all of the details through a constructability review process. Ray identified the key difference between the fast-tracked vitrification project and this approach is that there will be a single team working together closely as a consistent design authority.

FCAB members cautioned the Silos Team that there are many opportunities for pitfalls to occur, asked for continuous updates on progress, and indicated that the CAT should be kept in place throughout the process.

ROD and NRC License Modifications

Terry Hagen provided the group with an overview of current regulatory issues concerning the Silos projects.

Terry announced that the Record of Decision (ROD) would have to be amended to implement recent plans for Silo 3 materials, because proposed changes would eliminate treatment for RCRA metals. The site is working on a draft of this amendment, but a schedule has not been set until a decision is made on pretreatment. A definitive schedule is expected next month. The ROD for Silos 1 and 2 currently specifies disposal at NTS. The site would like to amend the ROD to allow disposal at NTS or a commercial facility, so Silos 1 and 2 wastes could be sent to Envirocare. This change could be made through an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD), since it does not change the planned remedy. Although the site intended to include both of these changes in one document, the FCAB urged them to separate the two processes in order to eliminate delays of both projects if there was a problem with one. Terry agreed that the site would produce separate documents, but work on them concurrently.

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Terry also explained silos issues related to NRC. Fernald would like to dispose of Silo 3 wastes in the 11(e)2 cell at Envirocare, but disposition of the Super Sacks would require a modification of Envirocare's 11(e)2 NRC license. While there appears to be no technical problems with this, an administrative issue has arisen concerning the definition of 11(e)2 waste that was generated prior to 1978. If DOE and NRC cannot reach agreement that this material is appropriate for the 11(e)2 cell, Terry explained, it could be placed in Envirocare's low-level waste cell. He also reported that for Silos 1 and 2 waste, Envirocare would need a modification to their Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) for radon. For political reasons, the State of Utah is reluctant to raise the radon WAC. Terry also reported that a group of Utahns are advocating an exponential increase in waste disposal fees. If these issues are not resolved, the most feasible option for disposal of Silos 1 and 2 wastes would be NTS. Terry reported that DOE headquarters would pursue resolution of this issue.

Education Facility Design Charrette

Doug announced that the scheduled May 18 FCAB meeting would be replaced by the design charrette for a proposed multi-use education center. Doug reported that during its Thursday meeting, the Stewardship Committee met with the architects who will be conducting the May 18 charrette. All FCAB and Stewardship Committee members are urged to attend the charrette. The charrette will be held at the Crosby Township Senior Center, but it may begin at the FEMP site. Members will receive more information regarding where to meet that morning.

Recognition of Susan Brechbill

Tom Wagner suggested that the FCAB draft a letter of appreciation for Susan Brechbill's commitment to and cooperation with the FCAB. The members agreed.



MEETING SUMMARY

Review of SSAB Chairs Meeting

4274

Date: April 18, 2002

Topics:

- Review stewardship conversations from SSAB Chairs Meeting
- Prepare for multi-use education facility (MUEF) design charrette

Attendees

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Jim Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Pam Dunn
Gene Jablonowski
Bob Tabor

FRESH

Carol Schroer
Edwa Yocum

The Perspectives Group

Doug Sarno
David Bidwell

U.S. Department of Energy

Gary Stegner
Anne Wickam

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Tom Schneider

Fluor Fernald

Larry Stebbins
Ric Strobl
Jeff Wagner
Sue Walpole
Eric Woods

Others

Brenda Scheer
David Scheer

David Bidwell opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Jim Bierer announced that Dave Geiser spoke at the April 12 SSAB chairs meeting. He explained that Dave presented an overview of long-term stewardship criteria, using the Welden Springs site as an example. Jim stated adequate funding continues to be a concern. However, according to Jim, Dave announced that DOE would not develop firm stewardship policy, but allow each site to determine its own needs.

The Stewardship Committee briefly discussed DOE obligations for long-term stewardship and the importance of maintaining public involvement in DOE decisions.

Preparation for MUEF Design Charrette

David reviewed a handout outlining possible functions of a multi-use education facility. These functions were gleaned from past documents created by the committee and at the March 13 Future of Fernald Workshop. These functions included public access to site records, interpretive museum, education facility, research center, office space for site stewards, and local meeting space.

Brenda and David Scheer introduced themselves to the committee. The Scheers own the architecture and design firm that will be conducting the design charrette on May 18. Brenda explained that when designing a building, designers work from a program that explains the uses of the building and spaces that are required. At tonight's meeting, she explained, they would like to answer many of these questions, for use at the charrette.

Brenda and David also explained more about what could be expected at the design charrette. Participants in the charrette will engage in exercises (such as, working in teams to arrange blocks like a building) to explore uses of the building and how they will relate to the possible building site. Participants will also do some visual preference surveys, to explore what they like and designs that would help to communicate the kinds of messages the MUEF should communicate.



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MEETING SUMMARY (continued)

After the charrette, their design firm will use the charrette results to develop schematic sketches and conceptual plans, which can be used to foster additional support and funding for the facility.

First, the Scheers asked the committee to discuss how they envisioned public access to site records. After lengthy discussion, the committee generally agreed that access to in-depth records should not be the focal point of the facility. Members suggested having a reference library that relates back to the information available in the interpretive components of the facility. People who visit the facility should be able to find general answers to their questions and research where to find answers to more in-depth questions. Some members suggested that the MUEF should contain only that information that is most important to have at the site, with more extensive information available at a nearby repository, such as a local library or museum. Tom Schneider suggested that detailed information should be available regarding groundwater and the on-site disposal facility, because those would be of primary interest to community members if something were to go wrong at the site. Members acknowledged that computers could dramatically increase the information available at the site, but voiced concerns for maintenance of computer equipment and stressed that some information should be available in a paper format. Brenda stated that space limitations could help to dictate limitations to the records available at the facility.

Sue Walpole reviewed the kinds of education programs that have been conducted at the site, and explained that they are very popular. She stated that school children and teachers are the most likely audiences to visit a MUEF. Popular topics include archaeology, groundwater, environmental science and ecology. Jim Bierer stated that schools are looking for opportunities to take learning beyond the classroom, and that well-developed programs at sites of interest facilitate this kind of learning. David Scheer stated that he finds the story of how the community reacted to contamination at the site and the resulting cleanup to be a compelling historical message.

Committee members suggested that college students interested in conducting research at the site would have equipment and resources at their schools, and would not need specific space or resources at an on-site MUEF.

There was support within the committee that the primary function of a MUEF would be as an interpretive museum, with a strong focus on reaching school children. Attention should also be given to attracting and educating casual visitors. Other facility functions should be conducted on the periphery.

Doug Sarno suggested that this educational function could help generate support for building the facility, because it would develop a strong relationship between the site and the community and would result in continued awareness of the site.

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The committee also discussed specific requirements for the size of the building. Committee members suggested that the building should include an auditorium that could accommodate 200 to 300 children, noting that such a facility could be used for other community functions at night and on weekends. In general, the group believed that if a facility was intriguing conceptually, funding could be identified. Tom Schneider stated that the designers should consider a building that could cost up to \$10 million.

All members of the Stewardship Committee and FCAB were encouraged to attend the design charrette. Committee members suggested other invitees: the Librarian from the Harrison Library, Joe Shomaker, Representative Chabot's office, a representative from Oxford Audubon, representatives from DOE Headquarters and EM51, a local school teacher, Jim Innis, select FRESH members, and a representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The charrette will likely begin at the FEMP site, if the participants are able to walk the 23 acres that typically have been discussed as a MUEF site. The remainder of the charrette will be conducted at the Crosby Township Senior Center.

Next Meeting Date

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. There is no regular Stewardship Committee meeting scheduled for May, but the MUEF Design Charrette will be held on Saturday, May 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Winter/Spring 2002

EM PROGRESS

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"SPOTLIGHT ON FERNALD"

Page 1 of 2

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SPOTLIGHT ON FERNALD

A former uranium production facility rapidly heading toward closure, the Fernald site in Ohio is safely completing one milestone after another in remediation and cleanup projects. More than 50 percent of the site's 1,050 acres has already been accepted as "certified clean" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

First Waste Cell Completed

Fernald cleanup workers have completed construction of a multi-layer final cover for the first of seven cells to be used for the disposal of contaminated soil and demolition debris from Fernald's former uranium processing facilities.

DOE and Fluor Fernald are constructing an On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF) as part of the site's long-term cleanup strategy for waste disposal. The strategy is a balance of on-site disposal of larger volumes of waste with lower contamination levels and off-site transportation and disposal of smaller volumes of waste with higher contamination levels.

The OSDF is designed to hold up to 2.5 million cubic yards of waste; approximately 85 percent will be soil and 15 percent will be demolition debris. When complete, most of the OSDF will be above ground to preserve the natural underlying clay layer and protect the underlying ground water. Each cell will be roughly 400 feet by 800 feet and have its own liner system made of multi-layer leak detection and wastewater collection systems.

The Cell 1 final cover is 8.75 feet thick and contains layers of natural clay and manmade plastic liners, as well as layers of 110,000 tons of stone and rock to prevent animals from burrowing and vegetation from taking root.

In September 2000, Cell 1 reached its design capacity of 314,000 cubic yards of material. Workers are currently seeding

and installing erosion control matting on Cell 1's final cover.

For more information, contact Rob Janka on (513) 648-3124 or at robert.janka@fernald.gov.

Workers at Fernald Complete High-Profile Remediation Project

During nearly four decades of uranium metal production, tons of contaminated construction debris, boiler plant flyash and soil were dumped in the isolated area south of the site to make room for new structures. This area, called the Southern Waste Units, has been a high cleanup priority for DOE, EPA and the site's neighbors because it lies directly above the Great Miami Aquifer, one of Ohio's largest sources of drinking water.

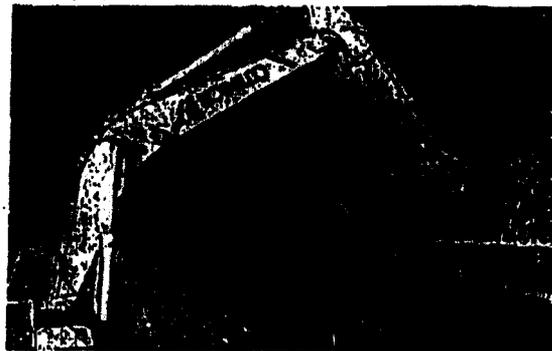
In 1998, Fernald initiated the final cleanup plan for the Southern Waste Units. The plan involved characterizing the soil to determine contamination levels, excavating the contaminated portions of the soil and disposing the waste in Fernald's on-site disposal facility. During the three years of excavation, approximately 33,000 trucks carried more than 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris from a 26-acre parcel of the Southern Waste Units to the disposal facility. That source of water contamination has now been eliminated.

"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 our neighbors," says Johnny Reising, DOE associate director of site cleanup. "Our ground water monitoring currently shows the uranium contamination levels at about 50 parts-per-billion beneath the Southern Waste Units, which is down significantly from the original 2,000 parts-per-billion levels. Removal of the source, infiltration of clean rainwater, and aggressive pumping have helped to drive the contamination down."

Fernald will begin ecological restoration (grading and seeding) of the Southern Waste Units area this year. The restoration

Spotlight, continued on page 5



An operating engineer loads one of approximately 33,000 truckloads. A steamroller then drove the waste material to Fernald's On-Site Disposal Facility. During this loading activity a laborer applies water to the soil to control fugitive dust emissions.



Workers in the Southern Waste Units transferred more than 400,000 cubic yards of material to Fernald's On-Site Disposal Facility.

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SPOTLIGHT ON FERNALD

project will create additional floodplain for a local stream and expand the wooded corridors along it. The upland portion of the project site will be revegetated with native trees, shrubs, grasses and wild flowers similar to other site restoration projects.

For more information, contact Rob Janks on (513) 648-3124 or robert.janks@fernald.gov

Decontamination and Dismantlement Activities Continue

Decontamination and Dismantlement (D&D) activities continue at Fernald—the most recent D&D activities were focused on the site's 223,000 square feet former Metals Fabrication Plant. Removal of exterior transite and structural steel demolition was completed early this winter. This was the sixth of 10 major plants that have been removed from Fernald's skyline. Workers have now turned their attention to the Ore Refinery and Scrap Recovery plants.

For more information on D&D projects, contact John Trygler on (513) 648-3154 or at john.trygler@fernald.gov.

Workers Achieve New Safety Record

Fernald employees' personal commitment to safety has paid off for the former uranium production facility. On November 26, 2001, after working safely for 1000 days, Fernald workers reached more than 10 million safe work hours without a lost-time injury or accident.

Over the past year, Fernald has earned local and national recognition for its safety program. The site was awarded the VPP Star Status from the DOE Office of Environment Safety and Health, and the Greater Hamilton Safety Council presented several awards to the site for the

best industrial safety record and the lowest incident rate.

For more information, contact David Kozlowski on (513) 648-3187 or at david.kozlowski@fernald.gov.

National Academy of Science Visits Fernald and Mound

In early November 2001, the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Committee on Long Term Institutional Management at DOE Legacy Waste Sites visited Fernald and Mound to discuss issues related to long-term stewardship (LTS).

At both sites the committee members received presentations from DOE and site contractor personnel regarding physical drivers for cleanup, LTS plans, hazards and risks associated with the cleanup remedies, goals for cleanup and LTS, and progress measurements. Committee members also received in-depth tours of Fernald and Mound and met with local stakeholders at both sites.

According to Dr. Kai Lee of Williams College, chair of the committee, the group is "looking at how to improve plans for long term stewardship at DOE sites that can't be released for unrestricted

use because of contamination that will remain after current cleanup efforts are done."

Ultimately, the committee will issue recommendations for improving plans for long-term institutional management across the complex. As Dr. Lee puts it, "We came to learn about the technical and institutional aspects of long term stewardship, as well as how the various groups on site and in neighboring communities define stewardship, at two sites that are among the furthest along in their thinking on these issues."

At Fernald, members of the public related their history of involvement with Fernald. The citizens emphasized the positive nature of their current relationship with DOE-Fernald and the contractor, Fluor Fernald, but also indicated their concerns for stable cleanup funding.

The committee will be visiting other major EM sites in the near future, after which they will formulate their recommendations.

For information about the NAS/NRC visit to Fernald, contact Gary Stegner on (513) 648-3153 or at gary.stegner@fernald.gov.



Johnny Rising, DOE-Fernald Associate Director, uses an aerial photo to describe the physical drivers for cleanup at Fernald to the NAS/NRC Committee members.

April 4, 2002
 Broadcast News Coverage
 "Fernald Layoffs"

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Thursday, April 04, 2002

Cincinnati 5 WLWT 11:00 PM News

Time In	Lenet	-Value	Description
00:13:12	00:20	\$666.67	Fernald Layoffs

65 workers were laid off today. Fluor Fernald says the workers skills are no longer needed to complete the job.

Cincinnati 9 WCPO 11:00 PM News

Time In	Lenet	-Value	Description
00:04:19	00:19	\$633.33	Fernald

61 people have been laid off at Fernald. That leaves 1500 employees.

Cincinnati 12 WKRC 5:30 PM News

Time In	Lenet	-Value	Description
00:10:30	00:30	\$500.00	Fernald layoffs.

V; Clean-up nears completion.

Cincinnati 700 WLW-AM 6:00 PM News

Time In	Lenet	-Value	Description
00:03:01	00:10	\$41.67	Fernald layoffs today. Workers are no longer needed for project.

Thursday, April 04, 2002

Columbus 37 ONN 6:00 PM Tonight

Time In	Lenet	-Value	Description
00:16:23	00:19	\$28.50	Fernald Jobs

Fernald laid-off 61 salary employees today. V; Workers.

Stories Total : 5 Viewership, ~Total: 232,000

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April 5, 2002

Journal-News

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"Fluor Fernald reports layoffs"

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Business

Fluor Fernald reports job cuts

Fernald site cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald cut 61 salaried jobs at the Department of Energy former uranium processing plant.

► Page B7

Fluor Fernald reports layoffs

By Kristin McAllister
kmcallister@coxohio.com
Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Fernald site cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald on Thursday cut 61 salaried jobs at the Department of Energy former uranium processing plant.

"It's never easy," said Jeff Wagner, Fluor Fernald spokesman. "It's obviously a somber day. A lot of friendships have been built through the years. What we've achieved up to this point is because of the people who are leaving here today."

The layoffs, officials said, are part of an overall plan to align the skill mix of workers with remaining cleanup work at the site.

"It's based on what we're going to need in the future," Wagner said.

Employees let go were offered a voluntary separation program from October to January. During that time, 34 employees accepted, while another 50 employees left through attrition,

transfers and temporary staff reductions.

Jobs cut included chemists, engineers, department administrators, quality assurance specialists, project managers, and industrial and public relations personnel, Wagner said.

"There's 16 different job classifications," he said. "They all played support roles in this project. What you'll see, though, is that we're going to need more heavy equipment operators. ... There will be more working on construction tear-down — positions like that."

Thursday's cuts mark the third layoff at the 1,050-acre site since the plant shut down in 1989 and cleanup began in 1990, when about 2,000 employees worked there.

"We're now just over 1,500 employees," Wagner said.

The first layoff during the cleanup came in 1993, when 232 jobs were cut. The second layoff, in 1995, decreased the work force by 428 people. Employment during cleanup peaked in early 1995 at about 2,400.

"While it's hard to lose the folks that have shared in our accomplishments, it's important that we be in the best position to move forward with the right amount of people planning, doing and supervising the work," said Jamie Jameson, Fluor Fernald president.

More than 50 percent of the site has been certified clean by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Fernald officials said. The cleanup timeline calls for a completion date of December 2006.

"You know, I've always said 'Be ready for life after Fernald,' which is why we have things like the career development center," Wagner said, referring to services aimed at helping displaced workers relocate or find new employment.

"A lot of folks have been here during production and saw all the days when we were on every (television) network, in all the papers, making national news," Wagner said. "They've seen the great steps that have been taken. This is really hard."

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April 5, 2002

Journal-News

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*"Fernald lays off 61 employees"***4274****Fernald lays off
61 employees**

With the environmental cleanup about 35 percent complete, Fluor Fernald Corp. laid off 61 salaried workers Thursday.

Company spokesman Jeff Wagner said the workers were warned in October that the project was progressing to the point that the company would need to cut back on some categories and expand others.

Fluor Fernald, a subsidiary of Fluor Corp., was hired by the U.S. Department of Energy to clean up the former uranium-processing plant in Crosby Township. It still employs about 1,500 people and expects to complete the project in 2006.

Mr. Wagner said the next phases of the cleanup will require more heavy-equipment operators for building demolition.

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"Fernald residents question safety of new silo cleanup plan"

Fernald residents question safety of new silo cleanup plan

Officials trying to meet 2006 deadline

By Kristin McAllister
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Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

After learning last week about the revised Fernald silos project plan, residents expressed fear that the government is being careless in the interest of sticking to a speedier cleanup deadline.

"This sounds to me like we're doing a real sloppy job of cleanup in the name of getting it done by 2006," said Vicky Dastillung, an area resident and member of the Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health.

During the meeting Tuesday, Fernald cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald presented the new design/build program that will allow the site to meet the federal government's new accelerated cleanup plan timeline announced Jan. 31 by U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham.

The new plan reduces the

cleanup timeline of the 1,050-acre site from a 2010 completion date to 2006.

Dastillung called the new design/build plan hasty and compared its planning to that of the failed vitrifier pilot plant once constructed on site. On Dec. 26, 1996, a method testing the containment of waste in glass failed during a test run using surrogate waste.

'This sounds to me like we're doing a real sloppy job of cleanup in the name of getting done by 2006.'

Vicky Dastillung
Member of the Fernald Residents
for Environmental Safety and Health

bid and design phases.

But because it was surrogate material that spilled onto the floor during the failed test, there was no contamination.

"The pilot plant did exactly what it was supposed to do," said Johnny Reising, DOE associate director of site cleanup. "The investigation showed us that it needed to be treated differently, and

so a different process was chosen."

Reising argued that a comparison between the two can not be drawn for a variety of reasons, including the fact that construction began of the then-planned contaminated waste treatment facility before the method was fully tested.

"That's not the case here. We would absolutely never compromise safety or quality as far as any of the projects are concerned — especially the silos. It is the greatest risk to the public. What we are attempting to do with the plan is emphasize on accelerating it."

Ray Corradi, silos project director, agreed.

"We're not doing anything that's really unnatural, or forced, as far as the execution of the project," he said. "It's a project delivery method that allows one consolidated team to deliver the entire project in a logically planned fashion."

Site Director Steve McCracken said the design/build concept is commonplace.

"The DOE does not have any regulations saying you can't do it this way," he said. "And in fact, that's how they do it for their big projects."

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Weapons Complex Monitor

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"NUCLEAR WATCHDOGS CALL FOR "REAL CLEANUP" OF WEAPONS SITES"**NUCLEAR WATCHDOGS CALL FOR
"REAL CLEANUP" OF WEAPONS SITES**

Environmental restoration of the nuclear weapons complex is being sacrificed in favor of massive and unjustified budget increases to develop new nuclear weapons, the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) will charge in a new report to be released today (April 15). ANA, a coalition of anti-nuclear watchdog groups from communities surrounding nuclear weapons plants, will argue the Bush Administration's proposal to cut the baseline cleanup budget from the Fiscal Year 2002 level of \$6.7 billion to \$5.9 billion in 2003 will sideline cleanup efforts at nearly every site in the complex and create "national sacrifice zones" filled with untreated contamination. ANA is holding its annual "DC Days" lobbying effort this week in Washington, D.C.

According to the group's analysis of the Department's budget request, the \$800 million baseline reduction will, in part:

- Delay the closure of the K-65 silos at the Fernald site and stall or eliminate some groundwater remediation, pushing site closure beyond the 2006 target date;
- Slow the removal of spent nuclear fuel from the leak-prone K-Basins at the Hanford site and delay both the cleanup of contaminated soil near the Columbia River and the removal of barrels in burial grounds;
- Result in the reclassification of high-level waste as low-level waste at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and allow plutonium to be left in the soil, threatening the Snake River Aquifer;
- Reduce funding for groundwater remediation at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; and
- Curtail the effort to determine the extent of groundwater contamination at the Pantex plant.

The damage to the cleanup program, ANA will argue, is particularly difficult to justify because DOE is, at the same time, increasing funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration's "Weapons Activities" account, which has grown from \$2.87 billion in Fiscal Year 1995 to a proposed \$5.87 billion in FY 2003. The request, according to an analysis prepared for ANA by former Office of Management and Budget analyst Robert Civiak, contradicts the Bush Administration's promise to reduce the number of operationally deployed warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200 by providing for "major upgrades to every nuclear weapon design in the current stockpile and request[ing] funds to design the first completely new U.S. nuclear weapon for the stockpile in more than 15 years."

The ANA report, Where Do Department of Energy Tax Dollars Really Go?, will be released at 9:30 a.m. today (April 15) at a press conference in Room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. ■

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"Shipment marks Fernald milestone"

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Shipment marks Fernald milestone

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ROSS TOWNSHIP

The final truckload of product uranium will leave Fernald around 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, marking another milestone for the Department of Energy former weapons complex.

The Cold War plant opened in October 1951 and produced 500 million pounds of uranium from 1952 to 1989.

Of that amount, a project team with site cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald disposed of 6 percent, or 31 million pounds, of the uranium. And in a safety record-setting span of two years, the team packaged and located storage for 9.1 million pounds of the product uranium.

"It's amazing to me that in '99, they had nowhere to go, no place to send it, and it all needed to be packaged," said Victor Taylor, DOE project manager. "It's remarkable that they got all that done in that short of time, and without incident. That's the important part —

without incident. Because there was a lot of risk involved."

The team deemed 5.2 million pounds of the 31 million pounds of uranium as waste for off-site shipment and transferred 16.7 million pounds of it to federal sites, or sold it to the private sector.

"It can be used to make fuel for reactors, because the half-life is so long on uranium," Taylor said. "We recently shipped 10 shipments to England for reactors in Europe."

Completion of the project put a tremendous dent in work accomplished at the site, Taylor said.

"But we've still got some waste left on site that will be shipped out to Nevada that cannot be used in its current form," he said. "We've actually got until '04, but we'll beat that by quite a bit."

Jeff Wagner, Fluor Fernald spokesman, said an estimated 6.2 million cubic feet of waste has already shipped to the Nevada facility.

"We have about 300,000 cubic feet still remaining of

legacy waste that will go to Nevada," he said, referring to a byproduct of the metal-making process conducted at Fernald.

More than 800 cubic yards of waste has gone into Fernald's On Site Disposal Facility, while more than 337,000 tons of waste pits material has been sent to Envirocare in Utah — another disposal facility.

"And we've got in silo 3 slightly over 5,000 cubic yards of waste that will go to Envirocare, and in silos 1 and 2, we've got 8,900 cubic yards that will go off-site too," he said.

The entire 70-member Fluor Fernald project team, including driver Robert Sizemore, of Middletown, will be recognized during a Wednesday ceremony at the site.

"We want to get out and recognize the group that did an excellent job," Wagner said. "In some cases, they had 60,000 fuel cores they had to manually repackage. They did it safely, and they did it earning four Tri-Star awards. It's just a tremendous team effort. ... It certainly is a major accomplishment."

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