

7180



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southwest District Office

401 East Fifth Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

TELE: (937) 285-6357 FAX: (937) 285-6249  
[www.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.epa.state.oh.us)

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor  
Chris Korleski, Director Director

May 29, 2009

Ms. Laura E. Freeman  
Contracting Officer USDOE  
Office of HQ Procurement Services  
c/o Office of Legacy Management  
3600 Collins Ferry Road  
Morgantown, WV 26505

**RE: FERNALD COST RECOVERY GRANT AWARD NUMBER DE-FG01-07LM00107 OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING AT THE FERNALD SITE**

Dear Ms. Freeman:

Attached please find Ohio EPA's Quarterly Report for the period January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009 detailing activities related to the Cost Recovery Grant.

If you should have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at (937) 285-6466.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Schneider  
Fernald Team Leader  
Federal Facilities Program

cc w/o enc: Steven Snyder, DERR, Fiscal  
Vickie Stevens-Pease, Grant Files  
Jim Beaton, Grants Administrator, Fiscal  
cc w/ enc: Jane Powell, DOE-LM Fernald Preserve



Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Federal Facilities Group



# Fernald Quarterly Report

October, November, December 2008



*Ohio EPA observed the first Fernald Preserve 3-acre prairie burn on the west border of the site.*

Ohio EPA  
Federal Facilities Section  
401 East Fifth  
Dayton, OH 45402  
(937) 285-6357

May 29, 2009

**Ohio EPA Office of Federal Facilities Oversight  
Cost Recovery Grant Quarterly Report  
for the  
Second Quarter of FFY09**

**JANUARY 2009**

**HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- Joe Bartoszek (DSW) attended the monthly FCA meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition to normal group discussions, a discussion of the proposed adjacent drag strip was held. A contractor for the property owner discussed plans for the property and expressed an interest in protecting the wetlands and woods on the site. There may be potential for working with the land owner on obtaining conservation easements on at least portions of the property through the Fernald NRD settlement.
- Tom Schneider was a guest on *Make Peace with Nature*, a live-taped television show hosted by David Surber. The program is syndicated nationwide and seen internationally (internet, etc.). Tom was interviewed for two one-half hour segments to be broadcast over two weeks. The program focused on the Fernald site cleanup, Fernald's role in the nuclear weapons complex and restoration of the site. Although the interviewer was more focused on the environmental problems and their cleanup, Tom did let him know that without strong input from the citizens the outcome for the site would have been different. The show is broadcast locally in Cincinnati. Mr. Surber provided us a DVD of the two shows.
- Ohio EPA worked in conjunction with US EPA Division of Air and Radiation to inform DOE of their continuing air monitoring requirements under NESHAPs. DOE is required to continue high volume air monitoring for particulate radionuclides until June 20, 2011. Ohio EPA is awaiting a response from DOE.
- Continued converting web site FFS pages for compliance with Governor's directive.
- Reviewed quarterly reports for December OSDF and Site Inspections.

**DOCUMENT REVIEWS**

Provided Ohio EPA review and comments on the following: 1) Fernald Preserve QAPP; 2) OSDF Site Inspection Report.

**MEETINGS**

One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings: Monthly Project Managers conference call; DERR staff meeting; FCA monthly (JB).

**FEBRUARY 2009**

**HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- Tom Schneider and Donna Bohannon attended the FCA monthly meeting on February 2nd. The main topic of discussion was DOE's plans to conduct three prescribed burns within the restoration areas on the site. Though there wasn't much debate about the issue at the meeting, a number of stakeholders raised concerns in emails subsequent to the meeting. Tom Schneider replied to the emails describing Ohio EPA's support of the burns, but insistence on the operation of site air monitors during the burns. In response to significant email and telephone conversations, Laura Hafer and Tom Schneider met with concerned FRESH citizens on February 19th about proposals to execute a prescribed burn on the site. FRESH's frustrations with other aspects of site management were voiced and a meeting with DOE and Fernald site personnel was scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- On February 17, 2009 the Department of Treasury on behalf of DOE deposited \$13.75M into an escrow account of the US District Court. These funds are to be used to restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of injured Natural Resources at and in the vicinity of the Fernald Preserve and to reimburse Ohio's Natural Resources Damages Assessment costs. By June 17, 2009 the Trustees are required to develop a plan related to expenditure of these funds.
- Tom Schneider and Laura Hafer gave a presentation on wetlands and vernal pool monitoring to two AP Environmental Studies classes at Bellbrook HS. In addition to the presentation the students got to see examples of Ohio mole salamanders including streamside, tiger and spotted salamanders. The class subsequently conducted vernal pool monitoring in a local metro park vernal pool over the next couple months.

**DOCUMENT REVIEW**

Provided Ohio EPA review of the following documents: 1) Fernald Preserve QAPP (comments); 2) sent comments on 2007 SER; 3) received and reviewed LMICP RTC.

**MEETINGS**

One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings:  
Monthly Project Managers conference call; DERR staff meeting; FCA monthly (DB, TS); FRESH core meeting to discuss burns et al (TS, LH).

**MARCH 2009**

**HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- DOE submitted to the Natural Resources Trustees a draft Fernald Preserve Restored Area Maintenance Plan and a draft Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Plan.
- Laura Hafer and Tom Schneider met with FRESH and DOE (LM and EM) following

## CRG Quarterly Report

May 29, 2009

Page 4

community concerns about prescribed burns and site communication. DOE agreed to include issues of substance as regular agenda items at quarterly public meetings. These are to include changes to the LMICP, site inspection findings and communication from technical staff.

- Fernald successfully conducted their first prescribed burn for prairie management on March 17. The 3-acre Irwin Prairie on the west side of the site (formerly A8P3) was burned. Donna Bohannon was on site to observe. The burn followed significant outreach efforts with the local community over the past two months to address their concerns about the fire on the former nuclear production facility. Skillet Prairie burn was tentatively planned but due to weather conditions, it did not occur.
- SWDO and PIC staff led students from Bellbrook High School AP Environmental class and Centerville High School's Science Olympiad team on a nighttime amphibian monitoring expedition at Sugarcreek Metropark. In addition to teachers from Bellbrook and Centerville, a 4th grade teacher from Beavercreek and leader of their Environment Club also participated. In total more than 25 students, teachers and parents participated. A reporter and photographer from the Dayton Daily News attended and a freelance journalist, Tom Schneider and Laura Hafer had presented information on the vernal pool monitoring program to the Bellbrook class in February.
- Donna Bohannon, Laura Hafer and Joe Bartoszek participated in the quarterly site inspection on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This inspection focused on the former waste pit area and former production area. Excessive amounts of potentially contaminated debris were flagged throughout both areas. Of particular concern was the amount of suspicious debris flagged in former production area outside the west fence of the OSDF. Yellow flagged items will be scanned by the site rad tech as time allows. This area was one of the last to be addressed during site closure in 2006.
- Donna Bohannon and Laura Hafer participated in the quarterly OSDF inspection on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Pursuant to recent LMICP changes, the spring and fall inspections will include a full walk-down of all cells. The March inspection only included an east/west transect of cells 1,7 and 8, the perimeter toe and fence walk-down and drainage checks.
- Laura Hafer attended the quarterly FCA meeting where the group discussed their ongoing outreach and fundraising initiatives.

### **DOCUMENT REVIEW**

Provided Ohio EPA review of the following documents: 1) response to LMICP RTC

### **MEETINGS**

One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings:  
DERR staff meeting; NRD trustees call (TS).