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## FRIDAY MAILING

1/9/98

### INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING ARE:

- Newsclippings

### CAB MEETINGS:

- FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:** The next meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board will be held on January 17, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. in the Alpha Building.

### OTHER MEETINGS:

- FERNALD CLEANUP PROGRESS BRIEFING:** The January Fernald Monthly Cleanup Progress Briefing will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.
- FRESH MEETING:** The next FRESH meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. at the Venice Presbyterian Church on Layhigh Road in Ross.

### QUESTIONS:

Please call John at [REDACTED] or Doug at [REDACTED] with questions or concerns. You may also fax or e-mail us at:

John Fax: 281-3331  
Doug Fax: 648-3629

E-Mail: [john.applegate@law.uc.edu](mailto:john.applegate@law.uc.edu)  
E-Mail: [REDACTED]

January 6, 1998

Journal News

Front Page

**"DOE launches probe of Fernald waste spill"**

Reporter: Nicholas G. Jonson

1193

# DOE launches probe of Fernald waste spill

By Nicholas G. Jonson  
Journal-News

## ROSS TOWNSHIP

The U.S. Department of Energy began an investigation Monday of a December incident in which as much as 2 pounds of radioactive residue from the former Fernald uranium processing plant spilled on a highway near Kingman, Ariz.

Though state and federal officials determined the Dec. 15 incident caused no threat to the public, all shipments from Fernald were suspended pending an investigation.

Environmental engineer David Rast, one of two DOE officials from Fernald to visit the incident site, said he expects the suspension to slow the cleanup process for several weeks. But he said the suspension probably will not change the number of shipments sent this year for disposal at the Nevada Test Site near Mercury, Nev.

"Given our shipment forecast, if we can resume shipments in the spring, I'm confident we can still make our estimated amount of shipments for the year," he said.

Rast said officials from the DOE's Ohio field office in Miamisburg began assembling a team of investigators within a few days of the incident.

The team is composed of representatives from the DOE's field offices in New Mexico, Idaho and Nevada, as well as environmental management and environmental safety and health experts from

DOE headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Rast said the investigation will focus on the DOE's operations at Fernald, as well as the manufacture and procurement of the containers used to ship the waste.

"Everything's fair game here," Rast said. "We have to find out what the root cause of this was."

Like previous shipments, the waste involved in the Arizona incident had been loaded into seven white metal boxes measuring 4 feet long, 4 feet high and 8 feet wide.

Five of the boxes contained depleted and slightly enriched uranium residue from Fernald's waste-water treatment plant. The other two contained building debris and filtration sand.

The boxes had been loaded on an 18-wheel tractor-trailer truck for shipment to Nevada.

Though officials know that broken welds allowed the material to leak from the boxes, they are unsure how the breaks occurred. Hundreds of similar shipments had been transported without any problems.

Rast said that before the Dec. 15 incident, the DOE had made about 1,400 shipments from Fernald using the metal boxes.

"That's why we have to find out what happened, what changed and what's different, and methodically walk through each of those processes," Rast said.

Rast said the investigation report is due in the DOE's Ohio field office by Jan. 31.

January 1, 1998  
The Cincinnati Post  
22A

"Editorial-High hopes doe a new year"

## Editorial

# High hopes for a new year

One of the joys of New Year's Day is thinking in cyclical terms. The old is done with, one can imagine, and the new about to begin.

It's the day to resolve to better ourselves and leave behind all that was unfortunate; a day to regard past habits and mistakes merely as the cost of learning.

But we are not going to want to say goodbye to everything that came our way in 1997.

Most of us surely would love to see the extension of more than a few trend lines, chief among them that of an economy that grew robustly.

Employment was at record highs and inflation at record lows in the 12 months just gone. Incomes were up, too, and the worst danger now is that our politicians won't let good enough alone.

So here's hoping that Congress continues to give Alan Greenspan a free hand, and that Congress and the lame duck Clinton administration stay the course on a balanced budget and find the gumption to address the long-term solvency of the Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security programs.

Closer to home, there are plenty of New Year's resolutions for those responsible for making public policy decisions. Here are some on our list.

In Columbus:

■ **School funding.** The overriding priority is for Gov. George Voinovich and the Legislature to craft an intelligent response to the Ohio Supreme Court mandate for an overhaul of the state school funding system.

The school lobby is being at once greedy and high-handed; at the other extreme are those (including two Republicans who want to succeed Voinovich as governor) who seem to believe it's possible to get needed improvements in Ohio schools for nothing in the way of new taxes.

There are plenty of ways to raise the necessary money, and there's a sensible proposal (the one advanced by the BEST coalition) on the table for spending it in ways that will help Ohio children learn better.

Any plan the Legislature submits to voters should also include a major expansion in charter school options, as well as safeguards to ensure that the extra money being pumped into schools buys smaller classes and improved quality, rather than merely making it easier for teacher unions to secure raises for the existing workforce.

■ **Electric utility deregulation.** Opening the electric utility industry to competition holds such promise of lower rates that it ought to be pursued — but carefully.

The leaders of a legislative task force on the topic recently announced their conclusions, the full task force report is imminent, and the time is ripe for legislative debate and decision.

One fifth of the states have already passed deregulation bills, and Congress is in the process of developing a national superstructure for the process.

In a perfect world, Ohio's deregulation plan would be considered as part and parcel of the school funding debate (because the former requires major changes in tax policies that affect schools). However, the consensus is these topics are too complicated to consider together; if so, deregulation should come right after education.

■ **Elections.** Ohioans will choose a new governor and a full slate of statewide officeholders in 1998; those choices will determine which party controls the reapportionment process after the 2000 Census. Ohio will also pick a successor to re-

1 of 2

tiring U.S. Sen. John Glenn. Be it resolved the campaigns will be substantive and decent.

■ **Growth management.** This term is beginning to make its way into public policy debates. That's good. States like Oregon have shown the legislature can play a useful role in promoting sensible land use patterns and protecting natural resources.

Closer yet to home:

■ **Ft. Washington Way.** Political leaders must cement funding for Ft. Washington Way and get the project launched. It will make a safer connection between I-71 and I-75, improve access to downtown and reconnect it with the riverfront — all for a reasonable price.

■ **Stadiums/Riverfront.** The first order of business is to forge a city-county agreement on the Bengals' stadium. Then make a decision on the Reds' stadium. Then lock in plans for the Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Then design a grand public space along the water. Then tie it all together with smaller, enduring projects that complement the existing downtown core.

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## Ambitious goals are within reach for the nation, state and Greater Cincinnati region.

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■ **I-71 Corridor.** 1998 should bring a decision on what improvements to make in the I-71 corridor. A light rail system connecting the airport, downtown, Hill Hill, the zoo, the northern suburbs and Paramount King's Island would be wonderful — but before embracing such an ambitious effort, citizens and policy makers need to accept the local tax burden it would require and the land use controls (promoting higher density housing) that will be needed throughout the corridor to make such a mass transit system viable.

■ **Bus system.** With or without light rail, Greater Cincinnati needs a truly regional bus system. The biggest one now, METRO, relies almost exclusively on the Cincinnati income tax for local operating funds, which all but dictates a city-oriented bus system. We need one that takes people where the jobs are, and the jobs aren't all in downtown Cincinnati any more.

■ **Regionalism.** The past year has brought a remarkable, and welcome, interest in ways to address needs on a regional basis. The corporate sector is leading the charge, but increasingly political and civic leaders are coming to understand that Greater Cincinnati's competitiveness will be controlled by forces that often extend beyond political boundaries rooted in the 19th Century. The challenge is for the players to identify what regionalism really means, and sort out areas where action on a broad front makes most sense.

■ **Cincinnati schools.** The district needs to stay the course on the reorganization plan and produce a restrained, common-sense proposal for addressing the district's building needs.

■ **Police radios/computers.** Hamilton County commissioners need to find a better way to pay for a modern radio system and computers for public safety forces.

■ **Fernald.** The contractor and regulators have made solid progress in cleaning up the site, but in 1998 they need to resolve the vexing problem of how to remove and safely store wastes from the K-65 silos.

**December 31, 1997****Weapons Complex Monitor****Page 3****"Fluor Daniel to Issue RFP for Retrieval System for Silo Waste Expressions of Interest Due Jan. 17"**

1193

**FLUOR DANIEL TO ISSUE RFP FOR  
RETRIEVAL SYSTEM FOR SILO WASTE***Expressions of Interest Due Jan. 17*

Fluor Daniel intends to issue a request for proposals in April for a fixed-price contract to design and build an Accelerated Waste Retrieval System for residues from Silos 1 and 2 at the Fernald Environmental Management Project. The contractor also will perform a mock-up test of Fluor's concept for the AWRS. Fluor officials require expressions of interest by Jan. 17 and anticipate awarding a contract around Sept. 20.

The AWRS is to include a full-scale Waste Retrieval System, a Transfer Tank Area, and a Radon Control System. The concept for the AWRS includes retrieval of all material from the silos; transfer of the material to the TTA for temporary storage; decontamination of both silos; transfer of the material from the TTA to a planned full-scale stabilization facility; and control and treatment of the radon generated in the headspace of the silos, the TTA, and the WRS. Fluor personnel will perform the full-scale operations.

**Mock-Up Needs to Simulate Retrieval**

The full-scale, mock-up testing will simulate the actual waste retrieval as closely as possible, by using a benign surrogate that has the physical qualities of the residues. The mock-up will use pressures and flow rates under which the retrieval system will need to transfer the actual wastes. Silos 1 and 2 will be breached for the specific purpose of connecting the Radon Control System to the silos for headspace radon control.

[Interested parties should submit a standard SF 254 to Fluor Daniel Fernald, Attn: Bill Hensley (MS52-3), 7400 Willey Road, Hamilton, OH 45013-9402 or P.O. Box 538704, Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704. Contact Hensley at 513-648-4478. (CBD, 12/18/97)]

5

December 31, 1997

Weapons Complex Monitor

Page 4

*"Fluor Daniel Fernald Gets 73% of Fee, Excellent to Unsatisfactory Ratings"*

### **FLUOR DANIEL FERNALD GETS 73% OF FEE, EXCELLENT TO UNSATISFACTORY RATINGS**

Fluor Daniel Fernald earned \$9.11 million out of a possible \$12.42 million—73 percent—of performance-based incentive fees for the period of April 1 through Sept. 30, 1997, receiving ratings from "Excellent" for technology development to "Unsatisfactory" for quality assurance. Ohio Field Office Manager Leah Dever, following the advice of the Performance Based Fee Board, determined that Fluor earned 67.5 out of 92 possible points. Dever in her letter to Fluor Daniel Fernald President John Bradburne lauded the contractor for excellence in Technology Development support; completing the Thorium Overpacking Project; on-site disposal facility activities; baseline compliance; and enhanced work planning. However, she told Bradburne that "the waste disposition activities" which led to the overpressurization of a waste container was a "major area of concern"....since work procedures and controls were found to be inadequate and led to an unsafe condition."

**December 30, 1997**  
**Journal Press**  
**Page 2**  
**"Fernald Update"**

**1193**

8

**THE JOURNAL-PRESS****December 30, 1997**

### **Fernald update**

There will be a Fernald Cleanup Progress briefing at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Road, near Harrison.

The briefing will explain the critical analysis performed on the U.S. Department of Energy's plan for early retrieval, transfer, and temporary storage of silos 1 and 2 residues.

There also will be a review of public comments from stakeholders.

For more information, call 1-513-648-3153.