

## FCAB UPDATE

*Week of August 25, 2003*  
(Last update was July 7, 2003)

### MEETING SCHEDULE

**Stewardship Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, September 11, 2003 6:30 p.m.

Trailer T-214 On Site

**FCAB 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
Friday September 12, 2003 6:00 p.m.

Fitton Center

**FCAB Retreat**  
Saturday, September 13, 2003 8:30 a.m.

Fitton Center

### ATTACHMENTS

- 8/14/03 Draft FCAB Meeting minutes
- 8/13/03 Stewardship Committee Meeting Summary
- 9/13/03 FCAB Retreat Draft Agenda
- 9/11/03 Stewardship Committee Meeting Draft Agenda
- SSAB Responsibilities letter from Jessie Roberson
- SSAB Budget letter from Jessie Roberson
- Natural Resource Damages letter to Trustees and Judge Spiegel
- Records Management letter to Jessie Roberson
- Fluor Fernald Injury Statistics CY July 2003
- Fernald Closure Project Safety Performance
- Articles & News Clippings

### NOTES

A survey is being conducted by F-CHEC on the use of cisterns by residents who live within five miles of the site. Anyone interested in filling out a survey should contact Sue Walpole. 513-648-4026

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Doug Sarno or David Bidwell at The Perspectives Group  
Phone: 513-648-6478 or 703-837-9269 Fax: 513-648-4141 or 703-837-9662  
E-Mail: [djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com](mailto:djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com) or [dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com](mailto:dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com)  
Visit the FCAB website at [www.fernaldcab.org](http://www.fernaldcab.org)



# FULL BOARD MEETING T-214

Thursday, August 14, 2003

## DRAFT MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory board met from 6:30 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. on Thursday, August 14, 2003, in T-214 at the Fernald Closure Project site.

**Members Present:**

Jim Bierer  
Sandy Butterfield  
Marvin Clawson  
Lisa Crawford  
Lou Doll  
Pam Dunn  
Glenn Griffiths  
Gene Jablonowski  
Robert Tabor  
Steve DePoe  
Jane Harper  
Graham Mitchell  
Gene Willeke

**Members Absent:**

French Bell  
Lisa Blair  
Kathryn Brown  
Blain Burton  
Tom Wagner

**Designated Federal Official:**

Gary Stegner

**The Perspectives Group Staff:**

Douglas Sarno  
David Bidwell

**Fluor Fernald Staff:**

Sue Walpole

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

**General Announcements and Ex-Officio Comments**

Jim Bierer called the meeting to order. The Board approved the minutes from its June 12th meeting.

Jim noted that all SSAB Chairs received a letter from Jessie Roberson in mid-June, which reiterated DOE's commitment to the boards but instructed them to limit their attention to Environmental Management issues. Doug Sarno promised to include a copy of the letter in the next mailing to FCAB members. Jim also announced that the FCAB budget for FY04 had been reduced from an estimated \$240,000 to around \$200,000. This reduction is not as large as that imposed on some other SSABs in the DOE Complex. Jim stated that the Board may have to curtail some of its activities, but should be able to continue its regular meeting schedule. Doug stated that FCAB resources would be discussed at the Board's retreat in September, but added that it appears the budget for FY05 will drop to \$100,000.

Jim reviewed a letter from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in response to the FCAB's support regarding the designation of silos waste as 11e.(2) materials. Jim noted that this issue might be moot, because language that would resolve this issue has been added to a Congressional appropriations bill. Jamie Jameson explained that the appropriations language has not yet been approved, but Fluor remains confident it will be. He also thanked the Fernald community for its support of Fluor's effort to have the materials designated 11e.(2).

Jamie acknowledged a recent newspaper article that raised concerns about safety at the Fernald site. He discussed the safety records of different groups of workers and of the site as a whole. Jamie stated that site workers from the Fernald Atomic Trades (FATLC) have the best safety record in the Complex—a Recordable Incident Rate of 0.61—and that workers on Fluor's self-perform projects have performed nearly as well. He explained that a higher rate of accidents has occurred among subcontractors. Jamie stated that Fluor staff members have been added to the subcontractors' management teams, in an effort to build a culture of safety within those teams. The total site has an incident rate of 1.43. Lisa Crawford asked about the newspaper report, which stated that an independent safety review found that many laborers believe schedule is more important than safety at the site. Jamie stated that the reviewers spoke first with employees who no longer work at the site, but added that he and his staff have been speaking with workers at the site to address this issue and promote safety as the top priority. Lisa also stated that community members are concerned about reports of "near misses." Jamie stated that all accidents and near misses are investigated and added that these incidents are often exaggerated through the rumor mill. In response to a question by Jane Harper, Jamie stated that 14 medical personnel are employed at the site, but that all after hour first aid calls currently go to Crosby Township.

Glenn Griffiths stated that the site has an excellent safety program and record. He provided copies of DOE safety reports. Glenn stated that although the site has a good record compared to other industries, DOE is not satisfied. He discussed measures being taken at the site to improve the safety awareness of new employees. The FCAB members reviewed the safety information distributed by Glenn and asked for additional information, including a comparison of Fernald to other closure sites in the DOE Complex. Lou Doll stated that he had reviewed safety statistics for the site and believes there have been more injuries recently because there are more people working at the site and performing difficult tasks. Doug promised to include copies of the information provided by Glenn and Jamie in the next mailing.

Jamie thanked Graham Mitchell for hosting the annual tour for Congressional staff members. Graham stated that he received positive feedback on the tour, which was attended by representatives of Senators DeWine and Voinovich's offices, as well as the Governor's office. Jamie noted that Assistant Energy Secretary, Bob Card, also toured the site in early August and was very enthusiastic about progress being made at the site.

Sue Verkamp of the Fernald Community Health Effects Committee (F-CHEC) provided a brief presentation and showed a short video. The mission of F-CHEC is to continue past efforts to study the health of people who worked at and lived near the Fernald facility and increase awareness of health effects. Currently, F-CHEC is partnering with the University of Cincinnati to study the use of cisterns by residents who lived within five miles of the site after 1958. A survey of these residents is being conducted; anyone interested in filling out a survey should contact Sue Walpole. The survey should be completed by December, 2003, with a report of findings anticipated in 2004. Jim asked Sue to return to a future FCAB meeting to report on the survey findings. Doug offered to post information regarding F-CHEC and its project on the FCAB Web site.

The FCAB discussed at-length the newspaper articles and editorials that had appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer on the two preceding days. FCAB members and ex-officio members stated that the articles were misleading and had not included full information on the issues they addressed. FCAB members stated that the site should confront the paper regarding these articles, because the community is concerned about the potential impacts of sensational journalism. Gary Stegner and Jeff Wagner stated that they had spoken to the editor and the new reporter who had written the articles and invited them to the site for an orientation.

Gene Jablonowski reported that the U.S. EPA had conditionally approved the ROD Amendment for Silo 3 and the ESD for Silos 1 and 2. In response to a question by Pam Dunn, Johnny Reising stated that DOE would submit an outline of an Institutional Control Plan to EPA in November. FCAB members asked to review a draft of the outline, before it is submitted to EPA.

#### **Discussion and Approval of FCAB Letters**

The FCAB discussed two draft letters and approved them for distribution.

The first letter was a follow up to the Natural Resource Damages Roundtable, held by the FCAB in May 2003. The letter outlined outstanding issues and presented values that should guide settlement of the NRD lawsuit. Gary Stegner agreed to supply the group with a more accurate estimate of savings from not having to backfill areas of the site that have been excavated. The group approved the letter, with this revision. The letter will be sent to the Natural Resource Trustees and copied to the judge overseeing the NRD lawsuit, the DOE Office of Legacy Management, other DOE leadership, SSAB Chairs, and the Ohio Congressional delegation.

The second letter expanded on FCAB concerns regarding records management and the availability of user-friendly information following site closure. The letter was drafted in response to Jessie Roberson's April response to recommendations in the FCAB report, *Telling the Story of Fernald*. Doug summarized FCAB concerns that a lack of outreach to residents in the area will result in misunderstandings about the site and calls for further remediation. FCAB members offered some editorial changes and asked that the letter reiterate recommendations that DOE provide information resources beyond what is required by federal law. The Board approved the letter with these changes. It will be

sent to Jessie Roberson and copied to the Office of Legacy Management, other DOE leadership, SSAB Chairs, and the Ohio Congressional delegation.

#### **Steps to Achieve Post-Closure Education Goals**

Doug reviewed discussions that occurred at the August 13th Stewardship Committee meeting. At that meeting, Gary Stegner presented different options for making site records accessible to community members, ranging from building an on-site education facility to shelving select records in a nearby library. At the Stewardship Committee meeting, community members reiterated their positions that the site must become an asset to the community, that local citizens will be the only continuous presence at the site, and that continued education is required to maintain community awareness of the site. Doug stated that achievement of these goals does not necessarily require the construction of the proposed multi-use education facility (MUEF), but there must be some structure or organization in place to conduct outreach and manage education resources. Doug stated that an individual or organization must emerge from the community to serve as a champion for these issues. He added that any new organization must be in place by September 2004, if these goals are to be realized before site closure. He stated that much of the upcoming FCAB retreat would focus on these issues.

Bob Tabor suggested that the FCAB should develop a resource that would graphically explain the difference between records management and the availability of information. Others supported the need to better communicate the benefits of telling the story of the site.

Steve DePoe reported that the Stewardship Committee discussed two roles that should be assumed by the FCAB over the next year. First, the Board should develop more concrete recommendations regarding information needs. Second, the Board should act as a "midwife" to a new organization focused on post-closure outreach and education. This could mean pulling together individuals and groups to gauge their interest and explain community needs. Doug stated that he and David Bidwell would draft a strategic plan to address these issues.

#### **Upcoming SSAB Chairs Meeting**

Doug announced the next SSAB Chairs Meeting would be hosted by the Paducah site, with a tour on Thursday, September 25 and the meeting held on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Doug explained that DOE Headquarters designed the agenda for this meeting. The Board briefly discussed concerns that the focus of Headquarters agenda is, apparently to have the SSABs justify the value of their work. Board members stated that past Chairs meetings have been valuable opportunities to share ideas and learn about issues facing the entire DOE Complex.

Lisa Crawford, Pam Dunn, and Bob Tabor, will represent the FCAB at this upcoming Chairs meeting. Sue Walpole will coordinate travel arrangements for the group.

Doug noted that several members of the Paducah SSAB resigned earlier in the week. He will provide any follow-up information to the FCAB and inform the Board if these resignations will impact the Chairs meeting.





## MEETING SUMMARY

**Date:** August 13, 2003

**Topics:**

- FCAB role in meeting the community's post-closure information needs.

**Attendees:**

**Fernald Citizens Advisory Board**

Marvin Clawson  
Steve DePoe  
Pam Dunn  
Bob Tabor  
Tom Wagner

**FRESH**

Carol Schroer  
Edwa Yocum

**The Perspectives Group**

Doug Sarno  
David Bidwell

**U.S. Department of Energy**

Gary Stegner  
Anne Wickham

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**

Donna Bohannon

**Fluor Fernald**

Joe Schomaker  
Jeff Wagner  
Sue Walpole  
Eric Woods

**Other**

Jim Innis

**General Updates**

Doug Sarno called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Joe Shomaker announced that he and Eric Woods had met with representatives of the Miami Tribe from Okalahoma. They continue to show an interest in reburying remains at the Fernald site, but they expressed concern regarding both the scope of contamination at the site and certification of areas as clean. Joe is putting together information to send to the Tribe. Representatives of the Shawnee will also visit the site before the end of August.

Eric Woods announced that designs have been submitted to DOE for two restoration projects. One project would complete the restoration of the Northern Pines area, west of Paddys Run. The other was for a second wetlands mitigation project, located on the northern end of the site between Pit 5 and the north woodlot. The designs should be available for review by the Stewardship Committee at its October meeting.

Eric also announced that talks have continued with the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA regarding the development of an institutional control plan. DOE has proposed to submit a preliminary document to the U.S. EPA by November 15th. Members of the Stewardship Committee asked to review the document before it is submitted to the EPA, and Gary Stegner stated that the committee would be able to conduct an unofficial review. Gary reported that DOE Headquarters still desires public input on planning for long-term stewardship, and that Dave Geiser and Mike Owen are likely to visit each closure site in November, when the Office of Legacy Management is up and running. Gary also reported that the site has received no feedback from Headquarters on the Stewardship Plan that was submitted earlier this year.

**Meeting Post-Closure Information Needs**

Doug stated that it is important for the Stewardship Committee to address how the community's post-closure information needs will be met. In the past, the Fernald community has proposed the construction of a multi-use education facility (MUEF) to meet the community's needs. Doug stated that the Stewardship Committee should consider other options as well and discuss what role the FCAB should play in addressing this issue. Doug stressed that the FCAB is not likely to exist for more than another two years, and its activities will be reduced over that time. Funding for the FCAB has been reduced in FY04 and is likely to be cut in half for FY05.

Doug briefly reviewed the Board's past decisions and recommendations regarding post-closure information and education. The Stakeholders Vision for the Future of Fernald states that public education should be the primary future use of the site. The FCAB recommended criteria for achieving that vision also focus on public education and propose the construction of an education facility. The FCAB's 2002 report, *Telling the Story of Fernald*, outlined the critical role of information in community-based stewardship and the continued protection of human health and the environment. That report also presented the types of information that were identified as important by the Fernald Community and conceptual plans for a MUEF. Doug stated that these recommendations by the FCAB has not resulted in a clear plan for how post-closure education and outreach will be achieved. He stated that DOE has not committed to providing information beyond what is required by law, and settlement of the NRD lawsuit is not a definite funding source.

Gary reviewed a handout that presented several options and cost estimates on how DOE could provide access to site records. These options include building an on-site MUEF, building a county library branch on the site, leasing space in a nearby building, renting space in a township building, using space in the soon-to-be-closed Ross Middle School, or the relocation of trailers currently used for offices at the site. Gary stated that storage of the current Administrative Record for the site, plus the artifacts managed by Joe Shomaker, would require about 1500 square feet. He reminded the group that DOE is obligated to provide some degree of access to records, but that obligation has not been defined clearly. He will discuss this issue with the Office of Legacy Management relatively soon. Gary reported that representatives from the Hamilton County Parks District visited the site recently, and may be interested in managing the natural resources at the site. He reminded the

group that the DOE Grand Junction Office had been designated as the steward for the on-site disposal facility (OSDF) and other controls.

The Stewardship Committee members discussed Gary's presentation and how to meet the community's need for information. Specific discussion points are listed below:

- Information and public education resources should be available at the site, even if it means that a less-developed building would be used.
- Local townships would likely welcome any funds from DOE to develop a facility. Crosby Township should have an opportunity to compete for these funds. However, Crosby Township already has the Senior Center and a relatively new library building.
- Storage for records and artifacts could be designed to use space more efficiently. Moveable shelving would allow materials to be stored in a much smaller amount of space.
- Nearby universities may be interested in setting up a satellite campus at the site, as a location for teaching environmental courses of study.
- Any files maintained at the site would be copies of official records. The community will need to determine which records need to be copied before official records are sent to a storage facility. *Who will do this?*
- There may be unique opportunities to fund the construction of a facility if it was designed as a model "green building" (i.e., it was constructed with environmentally preferable materials).
- A facility could also serve the needs of site stewards and be used for the storage of equipment.

Steve DePoe suggested that over the next year the FCAB should serve two functions regarding this issue. Stewardship Committee members agreed that these were appropriate roles for the FCAB:

1. The FCAB should develop more concrete recommendations or criteria to guide DOE on how to provide post-closure information to the community.
2. The FCAB should serve as "midwife" to a new organization that would assume community leadership on this issue. This could entail bringing interested organizations and individuals together to discuss their interest in managing outreach to the community.

Doug stated that the FCAB could work towards holding a workshop with interested parties in the next three to four months. This would require that someone develop relationships with potential attendees. The group suggested teachers, education institutions, cultural institutions, environmental organizations, municipal leaders, and site retirees as possible attendees of this workshop. Committee members discussed the need for the FCAB to clearly define community needs and set minimal criteria for what was acceptable to them before holding this workshop. Eric Woods stressed that any new or existing organization should maintain a relationship with the Grand Junction Office and natural resources steward for the site.

Steve stated that he envisions Fernald Living History, Inc. being involved with this issue, and that the organization would discuss the topic at its meeting on September 2nd. He noted that Fernald Living History had not yet obtained 501(c)3 status, but he plans to pursue it. He stated that providing information to the Fernald community is consistent with the organization's mission.

Doug stated that he and David Bidwell would work on a strategic plan for how the FCAB should address this issue and have it available at the September 11th Stewardship Committee meeting. Then, the topic would be discussed at the FCAB Annual Retreat on September 13.

### Next Meeting

The Stewardship Committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2003, in Trailer 214 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.



**FCAB RETREAT**  
Fitton Center

Saturday, September 13, 2003

**DRAFT AGENDA**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM   | <b>Breakfast</b>   |
| 9:00 AM – 9:15 AM   | <b>General Announcements</b>   |
| 9:15 AM – 9:30 AM   | <b>Review of Goal Accomplishment</b>   |
| 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM  | <b>Self-Evaluation of Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of positives and significant achievements</li> <li>• Identification of things that should be improved or changed</li> </ul>  |
| 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM | <b>Break</b>   |
| 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM | <b>FCAB Role in Future of Fernald</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy from Stewardship Committee</li> <li>• Review and approve comprehensive recommendation to DOE</li> <li>• Make specific commitments to effort</li> </ul>   |
| 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 1:00 PM – 1:45 PM   | <b>FCAB Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget size and what this means</li> <li>• Identification of possible cuts in activities</li> <li>• Planning for future cuts and loss of key site staff</li> </ul>  |
| 1:45 PM – 2:15 PM   | <b>FY04 Goals and Priorities</b>   |
| 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM   | <b>FCAB Structure and Calendar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership (Guards Union, Tom Wagner retirement)</li> <li>• Chair through closure</li> <li>• Vice-chair through closure</li> <li>• Committee structure through closure</li> <li>• Meeting days and times for FY04</li> </ul> |

Positive	Improve
Raised significant issues regarding cleanup, closure and stewardship	Attendance/commitment of FCAB members
Stayed in touch with the community through outreach (e.g., records workshop)	Understanding/communication on acceleration strategies
Focused on long-term stewardship	Don't let closure and LTS detract from cleanup; keep cleanup focus
Commitment and continuity of core FCAB members	Positive media coverage
Produced timely recommendations and comments on DOE documents and site issues	Relationship with elected officials
Remained flexible; able to address wide range of issues	DOE communication with the FCAB between meetings
Continuity of support staff and facilitator	CAB input on format of future technical roundtables
Cooperation with Fluor staff	Communication of monitoring results
Monthly meeting schedule	
Sponsored roundtable discussions	
Coordinated well with SSAB members at other sites	
Looked at "big picture" of DOE complex and environmental cleanup	

#### FISCAL YEAR 2003 FCAB GOALS

- Stay up-to-date on the Silos Projects, including schedule and changes to the project design. Provide input on the ESD and ROD amendment.
- Stay up-to-date on the handling and shipping of Waste Pits materials.
- Stay up-to-date on the Utah waste tax ballot initiative.
- Continue work on long-term stewardship. Meet with DOE LTS staff.
- Continue to monitor cleanup activities at the site.
- Stay up-to-date on restoration projects and activities of the Natural Resource Trustees
- Conduct an FCAB site tour, with frequent stops.
- Stay up-to-date on records management at the site.
- Stay up-to-date on Native American activities.
- Coordinate with the Grand Junction Office on long-term stewardship issues.
- Conduct or sponsor a Multi-use Education Facility feasibility study.
- Provide input on the site long-term stewardship plan (anticipated by January 31, 2003).
- Recommend to DOE, U.S. EPA, and Ohio EPA that the site develop a Long-Term Stewardship ROD.
- Explore potential site stewards and partners for long-term stewardship activities.
- Meet with community groups to discuss who will take the lead in advocating for and seeking funding for an education facility.
- Meet with DOE, Fluor, and regulators to explore their commitment to an education facility.
- Conduct an in-depth needs assessment for an education facility.
- Explore potential partners in developing or managing an education facility.



# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

T-214

Thursday, September 11, 2003

## DRAFT AGENDA

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- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 6:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. | Welcome and Announcements                                 |
| 6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Develop comprehensive recommendation on Future of Fernald |
| 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Develop plan and identify partners for Future of Fernald  |
| 8:30 p.m.             | Adjourn   |



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 25, 2003

Mr. James Bierer  
Chairman  
Fernald Citizens' Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Bierer:

The purpose of this letter is to reiterate the mission, objectives, and scope of the local Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) associated with nine Department of Energy (DOE) environmental clean-up sites, and also to restate my commitment to support the Boards activities.

The SSABs are organized and managed by the Office of Environmental Management (EM) and, in accordance with the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EMSSAB) authorized charter, provide me, the applicable Site Managers, and any other DOE officials that I designate, with information, advice, and recommendations relative to issues affecting the EM program at the various sites. Although the reporting responsibilities and authorities at a number of sites have changed recently - sites at which EM does not have a lead role - I expect the SSAB individual charters and objectives for those sites to focus specifically on EM program activities and issues, ensuring that the Board charter and activities do not include matters beyond these parameters.

The Boards represent a strong commitment by DOE to enhance its relationships with the communities surrounding DOE sites by considering community concerns and values in the Department decision-making processes.

If you have any further questions regarding my restatement of the EMSSAB charter provisions, or require additional information, please call Ms. Sandra Waisley, Acting Director of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability, at (202) 586-3087.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jessie Hill Roberson".

Jessie Hill Roberson  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

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**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

AUG 15 2003

Mr. James Bierer, Chair  
Fernald Citizens' Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 538704  
MS 76  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8704

Dear Mr. Bierer:

This is to clarify the guidance and direction provided in my letter, dated July 7, 2003, to the Department of Energy (the Department) site managers regarding the Office of Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs). I want to assure you that the Department views the SSABs crucial to accomplishing our cleanup mission.

The EM SSAB Charter's provisions require the Department of Energy (the Department) to provide the resources sufficient to conduct EM SSAB business. That support remains undiminished and the guidance calls for no reduction in funding. My objective is to insure that the SSABs' independence is maintained in their relationship with the Department. Accordingly, my memorandum is intended to increase the visibility and accountability of resources provided to support SSAB activities, and not intended to impact the effectiveness of the SSAB or other stakeholder activities.

Further, the guidance did not make any statements regarding elimination of information flow or exchange with the site contractors. We want to insure that the integrity of the SSABs is preserved, as well as the credibility of their work product. Only by insuring this independence will the optimum value be provided to the community while rendering an efficient cleanup operation for the American taxpayer. I believe we can accomplish both and we must continue to strive to enhance our performance in attaining that goal.

The SSABs represent a strong commitment by the Department to continue its relationship with communities surrounding the sites by considering community concerns and values in the Department's decision-making processes. It is our duty to manage these Boards responsibly, and ensure that they are structured and operate in a manner that maximizes their objectivity and successes.

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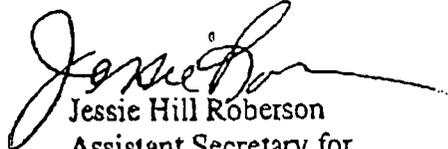
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If you have any further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Robert F. Warther, Manager, Ohio, at (513) 246-0018.

Sincerely,

  
Jessie Hill Roberson  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

cc:

Johnny Reising, DDFO, Fernald  
Gary Stegner, DDFO, Fernald

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*Chair*  
James C. Bierer

*Vice Chair*  
Thomas E. Wagner

*Members*  
Lisa Blair  
M. Kathryn Brown  
Blain Burton  
Sandy Butterfield  
Marvin W. Clawson  
Lisa Crawford  
Stephen P. Depoe  
Louis Doll  
Pamela Dunn  
Jane Harper  
Robert G. Tabor  
Gene E. Willeke

*Ex Officio Members*  
L. French Bell  
Gene Jablonowski  
Stephen H. McCracken  
Graham Mitchell

*Support Staff*  
The Perspectives Group

August 18, 2003

Mr. Bill Kurey  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
6950 American Parkway, Suite H  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-4132

Mr. Tom Schneider  
Ohio EPA  
401 East Fifth Street  
Dayton, OH 45402-2911

Mr. Pete Yerace  
DOE Fernald  
7400 Willey Road  
Hamilton, OH 45013-9402

Dear Sirs:

On May 8, 2003, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board hosted a roundtable discussion of the State of Ohio's Natural Resource Damages claim at Fernald and its potential settlement (Case No. C-1-86-0217). We appreciate the participation of each of the Natural Resource Trustees in this event and their willingness to discuss the issues with us. We gained a much greater insight into both the process and the status and have identified the major questions that must be resolved before settlement is possible. While we expected to identify such issues, we were quite surprised at the lack of a clear process or timeline for resolving these issues and reaching a settlement of the claim.

As a result of the workshop, the FCAB identified three major unresolved issues that present the greatest obstacles to reaching settlement. First, there is disagreement regarding the amount of time required to ensure that ecological restoration projects are established and how long DOE will be responsible for maintaining ecological conditions at the site. Second, it is unclear what is appropriate for DOE to pay as compensation for groundwater damages or how those dollars should be spent. Third, the Trustees have not determined the degree to which the construction or maintenance of educational and other public facilities (such as an education center, trails, or parking areas) could be supported by the settlement.

Each of these issues would have a profound impact on the Fernald community, because resolution of these issues will partly determine conditions of the site after remediation is completed. The Fernald community has repeatedly communicated its desire that the remediated site continue to serve as an integrated community resource and asset. This is an essential component of creating a legacy of community-based stewardship necessary for the long-term understanding and acceptance of the vast quantities of hazardous materials that the Department of Energy is leaving behind in our community. Therefore, the FCAB advocates that the following principles be used to guide the resolution of these issues:

- Public education remains the primary focus of the future of the Fernald site.
- Because cleanup levels at Fernald will require perpetual stewardship and federal ownership, any settlement of the Natural Resource Damages claim should ensure that resources are set aside to provide for the perpetual care for natural features of the site and any attendant public facilities to be constructed.

- The FCAB fully supports the placement of any monetary payments into an interest-bearing trust, which can be used to maintain ecological restoration projects and public facilities over the long term.
- Although DOE bears the ultimate responsibility for ongoing stewardship of natural resources at the site, the FCAB supports the development of partnerships with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and local governments in order to conduct necessary maintenance and other beneficial activities.
- The amount of any monetary compensation for damages to groundwater should be based on reasonable cost estimates for long-term support of the programs or activities, including long-term maintenance, that those dollars will be expected to support.

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board has a long history of constructive input to the Fernald site remediation. Our recommendations on cleanup levels and accelerated cleanup resulted in over \$2 billion of savings by DOE's own estimates. Not having to backfill excavated areas or bring in expensive topsoil is saving an estimated \$40 million more. We are concerned by DOE's recent shift in approach to its long-term responsibilities, which will leave the community with a site that, while presumably managing human health risks, serves no useful purpose. We believe such an approach will quickly lead to community backlash against the wastes that have been left behind, which is certainly not in anyone's interests.

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board looks forward to a continued relationship with the Natural Resource Trustees and to providing input on any potential settlement of the Natural Resource Damages claim. If you have any questions regarding the issues discussed in this letter or if there is any way that the FCAB can be of assistance to you or your organization, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jim Bierer  
Chair

cc:

The Honorable S. Arthur Spiegel  
Senator Mike DeWine  
Senator George Voinovich  
Representative John Boehner  
Representative Steve Chabot  
Representative David Hobson  
Representative Rob Portman  
SSAB Chairs  
Sandra Waisley  
The Honorable Jessie Roberson  
Jack Craig  
Anthony Eitreim  
William F. Hartwig  
Christopher Jones  
Timothy J. Kern  
Mary Knapp  
Graham Mitchell  
Mark Navarre  
Johnny Reising  
Bob Warther

August 17, 2003



The Honorable Jessie Hill Roberson  
Office of Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-0113

Ms. Roberson:

*Chair*

James C. Bierer

*Vice Chair*

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*Support Staff*

The Perspectives Group

Thank you for your April 21, 2003, response to the recommendations presented in our report, *Telling the Story of Fernald: Community-Based Stewardship and Public Access to Information*. We appreciate the feedback regarding both the management of federal records and the information on current efforts at DOE Headquarters to address the records management needs of closure sites. The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) will continue to work closely with Fernald site personnel on records management issues as the site prepares for its transition to long-term stewardship.

Records management issues recently become more complicated at Fernald, when the management of pre-1992 contractor records was removed from the renegotiated Fluor Fernald closure contract. At this time, it has not been clearly communicated to the public how and when DOE intends to tackle this work. We believe careful coordination between all levels of DOE management and Fluor Fernald will be critical to successful, careful disposition of all records at Fernald. The FCAB will continue to monitor this situation closely during FY2004.

We recently learned that DOE held a meeting this past April to discuss records management issues at closure sites, a significant focus of that meeting was the transition of records management responsibilities from the Office of Environmental Management to the new Office of Legacy Management. We believe that due to the scope of this issue and its importance to sites facing closure in 2006, DOE must soon provide its sites with guidance on how this transition will occur and with the resources that are needed to successfully complete the work. We also hope that DOE will seek input from its SSABs and other community members regarding this issue, since it will have a profound impact on what information is available regarding these sites after remediation is completed.

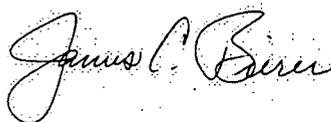
Technical records are important, but they alone will not meet the public information needs. Although federal records will continue to play an important role in long-term stewardship, the real message from *Telling the Story of Fernald* is that the community desires access to a broad range of information, presented in a user-friendly, accessible format. The protection of human health and the environment at these sites will require a high level of awareness in the community for as long as residual waste is present. We believe that this is only achievable through ongoing educational outreach. These needs cannot wait until the end of 2006, when management of the site is transferred to Legacy Management, to be addressed. By that point, it may be too late to preserve, describe, and catalogue some of the resources that are most important to the community such as photographs and historical artifacts.

Your April 21, 2003, letter responded only to Recommendations 7 through 10 of *Telling the Story of Fernald*, which were designated as "Steps that Need to Be Taken at a National Level." We are also interested in DOE's response to Recommendations 1 through 6, entitled "Steps that Need to Be Taken at Fernald." Several of these recommendations relate to information of a scope and format beyond what is required of federal records management, but we believe that they are necessary to ensure continued success of the remedies that will be in place at Fernald. Although these recommendations would have to be implemented at a local level, their fruition would require financial and political support from DOE Headquarters. In summary, these recommendations state that DOE should take the following steps to ensure public access to information:

1. Commit to supporting public access to site information on an ongoing basis
2. Manage site records in a way that meets the community need for information
3. Prepare stewardship information with community needs in mind
4. Develop information resources that are specific to community needs
5. Establish an outreach program to communicate to the community what information resources are available
6. Identify a long-term manager of public information and solidify a funding source for information-based activities

Through the end of this year and into FY2004, the FCAB will continue to work locally to identify important resources and provide input on the kinds of access that will be most beneficial. We will also continue to press for national leadership on this issue from the Office of Environmental Management.

Sincerely,



Jim Bierer  
Chair

cc:  
Mike Owen  
Sandra Waisley  
Senator Mike DeWine  
Senator George Voinovich  
Representative John Boehner  
Representative Steve Chabot  
Representative Dave Hobson  
Representative Rob Portman  
SSAB Chairs

# FLUOR FERNALD INJURY STATISTICS

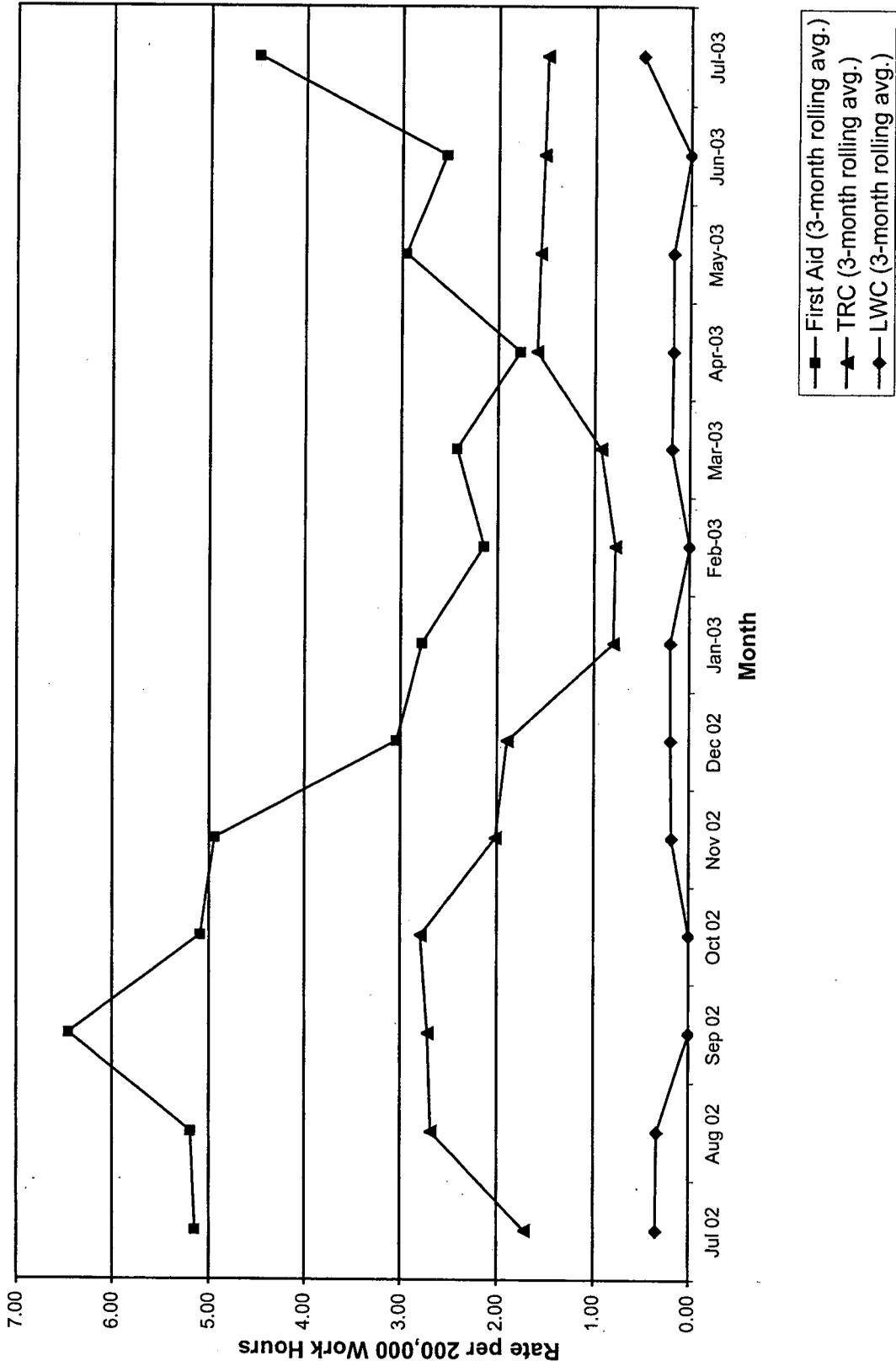
## CY JULY 2003

	Fluor Fernald Self-Perform	Fluor Fernald & Subs	Fernald Closure Project	Const Subs	Opert. Wage	Fluor Fernald Goal
Lost Time Days Away From Work Incidence Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restricted Work Day Incidence Rate	0.11	0.38	0.37	0.82	0.00	0.20
OSHA Recordable Incidence Rate	0.63	1.43	1.41	3.27	0.61	0.85
Total Effort Hours	1,901,383 (Jul 03)	2,654,486 (Jul 03)	2,704,490 (Jul 03)	732,955 (Jul 03)		
Safe Work Hours	1,452,923 (Feb 03)	2,051,660 (Feb 03)	2,088,401 (Feb 03)	6,679,554 (Dec 92)		

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Fluor Fernald - Fluor Fernald employees & temporary employees that are subject to direct supervision of Fluor Fernald  
 Fluor Fernald & Subs - Fluor Fernald employees, temporary employees, and all subcontractors  
 FEMP - Fluor Fernald employees, temporary employees, construction subcontractors, all other subcontractors and DOE-FN employees  
 Const Subs - Construction subcontractors only  
 Opert. Wage - Fluor Fernald wage employees (FATLC)

### Fernald Closure Project Safety Performance



August 20, 2003  
The Harrison Press  
Front Page

"Crosby voters asked to approve 3.5-mill fire levy"

# Crosby voters asked to approve 3.5-mill fire levy

By Tina Emmick  
Staff Writer

Crosby Township trustees agreed Monday, Aug. 11, to place a 3.5-mill fire levy before voters this November to improve emergency service in the township.

Township residents turned down the same levy last May. Trustees attribute the failure to low voter turnout and lack of education about the levy's importance.

Of the township's approximate 1,800 registered voters, just 351 cast votes last May. The levy failed by 25 votes. It was the first time township trustees had put a fire levy before voters since 1989.

"We were very disappointed with voter turnout," said trustee Jane Harper. "Basically, 188 people decided the fate of all township residents."

Levy advocates say additional

money is needed to run the department as the township faces anticipated growth. The township will no longer receive mutual aid from the Fernald Fire Department because cleanup of the former Fernald uranium processing plant is nearing completion. Cleanup is slated to be finished by 2006 and the facility will be closed.

Firefighters from the Fernald plant were often the first responders during an emergency in Crosby Township, according to trustees.

Without aid from Fernald, the Crosby fire department will have to rely mostly on volunteer firefighters who have an average response time of 8-11 minutes. About 75 percent of emergencies occur during shifts covered by volunteers who respond from their homes, said fire Chief Bruce Downard.

Downard would like to have two firefighters on duty around the clock at the

New Haven fire station. This would reduce response time to 1-2 minutes, he said.

The proposed levy could generate about \$200,000 per year, enough to provide 24-hour coverage, seven days per week.

The township's fire department is funded by an existing 4.5-mill levy that generates about \$170,000 annually. A 1-mill levy pays for a full-time emergency medical technician, the department's only full-time employee.

Billing nonresidents for emergency runs to Miami Whitewater Forest brings in about \$10,000 per year. The department is supplemented by about \$7,000 to \$10,000 per year from the township's general fund, said township clerk Melody Inman.

8808

August 14, 2003  
The Cincinnati Post  
Front Page

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*"And the tower comes tumblin' down"*

# AND THE TOWER COMES TUMBLIN' DOWN



JASON D. GEIL/for The Post

The 350,000-gallon, 269-foot West Water Tower at the Fernald site was brought down last weekend when it was imploded at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. The tower supported industrial and fire protection needs since 1963 at the former uranium processing facility, which closed in 1986. It took only about 15 pounds of explosives.

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August 24, 2003

The Cincinnati Enquirer

Page B1

"Fernald tower toppled"

# Fernald tower toppled

## Water tank was a landmark

By Dan Klepal

*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

**CROSBY TWP.** - It took less than five seconds to wipe out the skyline at Fernald.

The west water tower, easily the most dominant feature in the former uranium processing plant's skyline, was imploded with a series of quick blasts of nitroglycerin Saturday, then toppled over with a thud.

The 170-foot tower provided some 350,000 gallons of water for fire suppression at the plant since 1963.

The implosion was the latest step in the \$4.4 billion cleanup at the former nuclear foundry here, 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati in western Hamilton County.

That project is scheduled for completion in 2006.

Dennis Carr, the senior project director for Fluor Corp., the company managing the cleanup, said he's not sentimental about seeing the old tower taken down.

"I've been wanting to see this job get done since 1986," he said.

"This is one more step. The metal from the tow-

er will be scrapped in a 120-acre storage facility on the site that also will store low-level radioactive waste.

That portion of the site will remain under the care of the U.S. Department of Energy in perpetuity.

The rest of the 1,050-acre facility eventually will be turned into a park.

The tower originally was painted with a red-and-white checkerboard pattern that led many nearby residents to believe the secretive plant made dog food instead of the stuff of nuclear weapons.

Adding to that myth was the plant's name: It was called a "feed materials plant" because uranium was extracted from metal, then shipped as "feed" to other nuclear sites that produced bombs.

The water tower was painted with a blue-checkered pattern in the 1980s.

Fluor is under pressure to meet its 2006 deadline to finish the cleanup, moved up this year from 2010.

Moments after the tower fell, Carr joked: "All right, now get back to work!"

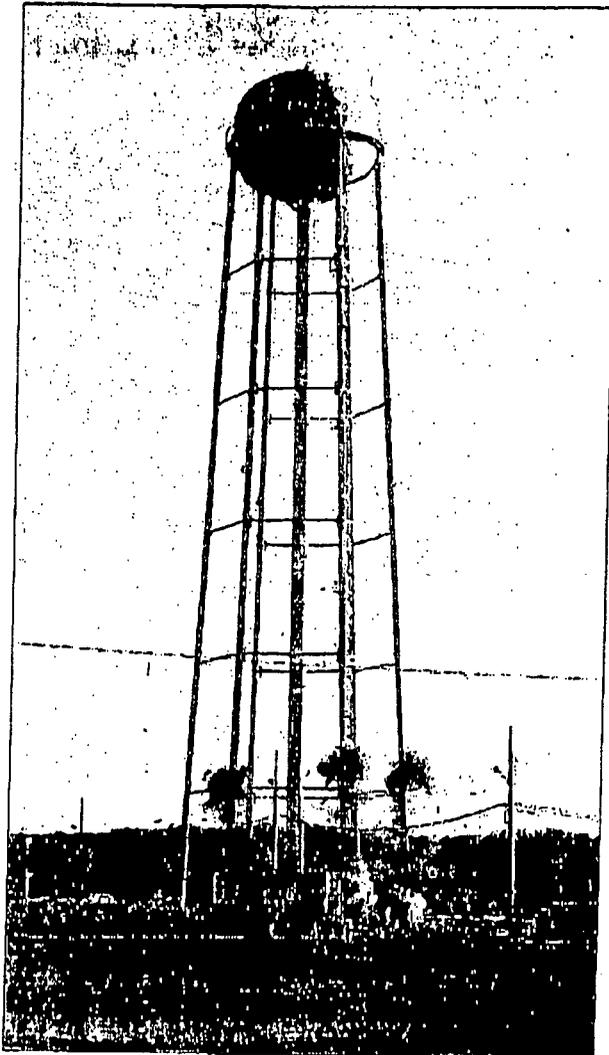
E-mail [dklepal@enquirer.com](mailto:dklepal@enquirer.com)

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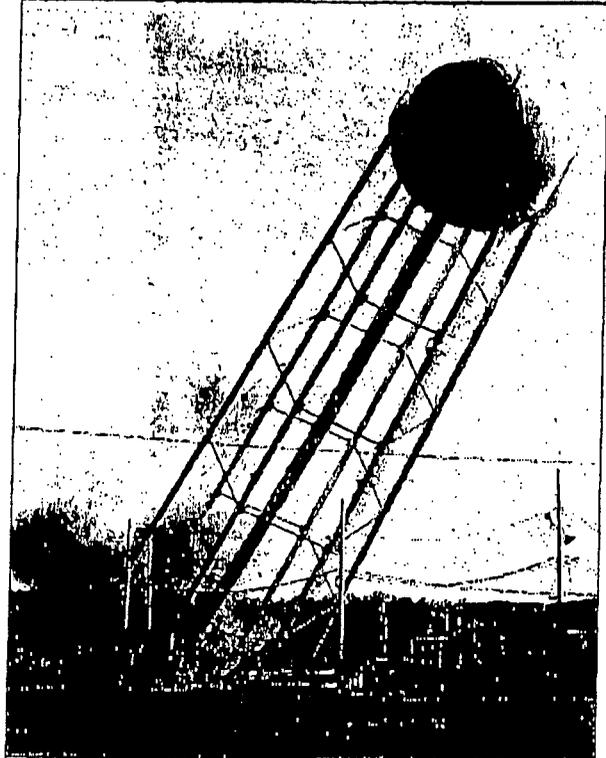
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August 24, 2003  
Hamilton Journal-News  
Page D9  
"Fernald landmark falls"

5036



### FERNALD LANDMARK FALLS



PHOTOS BY GREG LYNCH/JOURNALNEWS

The West Water Tower at the Fernald Closure Project was toppled Saturday morning. The 350,000-gallon, 269-foot high tower supported Fernald's industrial and fire protection needs since 1963. The checkered tower was once a symbol of the site's role in the nation's weapons production program for 40 years. Left, the initial blast from eight charges of nitroglycerin sever the metal legs of the structure. Above, the tower falls.

August 24, 2003  
Hamilton Journal-News  
Page D9  
*"Fernald landmark falls"*

Page 2 of 2

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The West Water Tower crashes to the ground Saturday morning at the Fernald Closure project.



Fernald workers take in the West Water Tower collapse Saturday morning at the Fernald Closure Project.

August 22, 2003

The Cincinnati Enquirer

Page B1

*"Fernald icon soon to be a memory"*

5036

# Fernald icon soon to be a memory

By Dan Klepal

*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

**CROSBY TWP.** - The most visible vestige of the former Fernald uranium enrichment plant will go out with a bang Saturday morning.

Actually, a series of eight small bangs will collapse the 270-foot west water tower at the 8:30 a.m. implosion.

The tower was completed in 1963 to provide water for fighting fires at the plant's new buildings, after the foundry was expanded in the late 1950s. Painted in red-and-white checkerboard, many neighbors were convinced the secretive plant was making dog food instead of making products used to make atomic bombs.

Bob Kispert, who started working at Fernald in 1954 and retired in 1992 but now works there on a part-

time basis, said that design was not an attempt to mislead neighbors.

"The tower was painted red and white according to federal aviation requirements," said Kispert, who now works as the site historian. "It had to be identified for low-flying aircraft. There was very little interaction between the public with the operations at the plant. So it was a natural association for them to make. They see the red-and-white checkerboard, they see the sign out front say 'Feed Materials Plant' and they associated it with livestock feed."

In reality, feed materials related to extracting uranium from raw ore. The uranium was then shipped to "feed" uranium to other nuclear facilities, which would make the bombs.

Eight charges of nitroglycerin will be used to cut through the six metal legs supporting the 350,000-

gallon water tank. A total of 15 pounds of explosives will be used at the implosion, which is not open to the public.

Crews have already pre-cut the tower's legs to ensure the tower falls south, similar to the way lumberjacks cut one side of a tree before chopping it down so it falls in a particular direction.

The charges won't blow up like normal explosives. They are designed to blow out on one side only, so the entire force of the explosion will be used to cut through the tower's legs.

"It's almost like taking a knife and cutting through hot butter," said Michael Stevens, manager of demolition projects for Fluor Fernald. "The explosives are wrapped and placed to make a precise cut right through the steel."

E-mail [dklepal@enquirer.com](mailto:dklepal@enquirer.com)



Enquirer file

The familiar red-and-white checkered water tower at the Fernald plant soon will be no more.

000027

August 14, 2003  
 The Cincinnati Enquirer  
 Editorial Page  
 "Get answers"

## Fernald cleanup | Extended again Get answers

Fluor Daniel officials have changed their cleanup timetable for the Fernald plant site yet again and now say removing radioactive tainted groundwater could take until 2020 – or longer. As recently as April, Fluor predicted the \$4.4 billion cleanup project would be completed no later than December 2006, and possibly by mid-2006. Fluor said in April that the aquifer cleanup was 65 percent complete. Now assistant project manager Bill Hertel says it will take at least 10 years longer than expected.

Tristate Congressmen have had to ride herd on Fluor almost since cleanup began in 1991 on the former Cold War uranium weapons plant. Rigorous oversight is needed again to make sure the contractor is not reiving the pitch for huge, open-ended federal contracts.

Fluor reported in April that since 1993 it had extracted nearly 12 billion gallons of contaminated water from the aquifer. Now the contractor says it needs at least a decade more time to bring uranium contamination levels in two huge underground "plumes" down from 500 to 800 parts per billion to 30 parts per billion, which Ohio EPA considers safe for drinking pur-

poses.

The cleanup process involves pumping out contaminated water from a series of extraction wells, decontaminating it, then pumping it back into the ground to force more contaminated water into the extraction wells. The plumes stretch over 170 acres. Laborious, repeated "washings" make it seem as if the process will take forever. But taxpayers should be leery of "forever." EPA and the Department of Energy also should be asking who plans to drink the allegedly safe drinking water if and when uranium content is lowered to 30 parts per billion.

Last month, Fluor raised suspicions among nearby residents and environmentalists when it released more than 2.9 million gallons of uranium-tainted rainwater into the Great Miami River. During heavy rains, Ohio EPA allows such discharges from holding basins at the cleanup site. Why are holding basins not sized to handle all but the most extraordinary series of storms?

Tristate members of Congress need to crank up scrutiny at Fernald to make sure speedy cleanup isn't coming undone again.

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August 14, 2003

The Cincinnati Enquirer

"Fernald safety faulted"

5036

# Fernald safety faulted

## Workers say priority is meeting deadlines

By Dan Klepal  
*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

Two nuclear safety reviews of the \$4.4 billion clean-up of Fernald say workers believe safety takes a back seat to completing the job on time.

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, a federal watchdog agency created by Congress, said in an Aug. 7 report that there have been five near-miss accidents in the last year that could have ended in death or environmental contamination.

Construction giant Fluor Daniel is supervising the nuclear cleanup at the site 18 miles north of Cincinnati for the U.S. Department of Energy, and the company stands to reap hundreds of millions in bonuses if deadlines are met.

### Timeline

Milestones in the history of Fernald. **A15**

The deadline for completion of the project was recently moved up from 2010 to 2006.

The agency's report said that the number of accidents, injuries and near misses at the site have increased, but did not give an exact number.

However, just last month, the government withheld \$100,000 of \$500,000 in bonus money from Fluor, citing repeated safety problems and near-miss accidents that occurred from April through June.

That deferral was a result of overhead work and falling

See **FERNALD**, Page **A15**

August 14, 2003

The Cincinnati Enquirer

"Fernald safety faulted"

Page 2 of 2

5036

# Fernald: Workers say they believe safety secondary

From Page A1

equipment. It was the second such deferral for the company in the past year.

"While Fluor's upper management places a strong emphasis on safety, information from project safety and quality personnel in the field indicates that many project and field managers believe ... meeting the schedule is the top priority," the safety board report says. "The board believes the safety culture of the contractor's project and field management needs to be improved."

A team of officials from the DOE's Fernald field office will have to appear before the board in Washington within 90 days to outline safety plans they will use to fix the problems.

"Although Fluor conducts numerous safety reviews, it has apparently been slow to react to safety problems with its subcontractors," the report says. "DOE has also been slow to request officially that Fluor pay more attention to working with subcontractors to improve safety."

The DOE commissioned its own safety review in May that reached many of the same conclusions. While the DOE-commissioned report says there are no "urgent safety issues requiring immediate action," it concludes that workers in the field think deadlines trump safety.

"The team observed what is best described as an easy-going complacency about safety at the Fernald site," the DOE report says. "There was a widespread view among the workers interviewed that meeting schedules was management's top priority and that the level of safety at the Fernald site is good enough."

"The team attended a safety meeting which had to be stopped in the middle due to video difficulties and people falling asleep," the report says.

Lisa Crawford, president of the Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health, which has been battling the government over the site for 19 years and won a class-action settlement of \$73 million in 1989, said the reports are

disturbing.

"If the workers are safe, the community feels safe," she said. "The last few years we've walked a fine line with safety. I understand the schedule is really important to them, but I don't give a damn if they walk out the door in 2006 or not. They need to get a handle on this."

The DOE report also says it is unclear why workers in the field think meeting the schedule is more important than safety, "but it was noted that the prime contract provides (financial) incentives for meeting schedules but not for meeting safety targets."

At least two former employees have filed complaints against Fluor, alleging they were fired for continually raising safety concerns that threatened to slow the clean-up.

But Jamie Jameson, president of Fluor Daniel subsidiary Fluor Fernald, said there is financial incentive for completing the job safely. If a worker is killed or the environment contaminated, the project will be shut down for an extended period of time. And that, he said, would make it impossible to complete the project by 2006 - and for the company to collect its incentive bonuses.

"Anyone on this project that feels that schedule is more important than safety, I'll wish them good luck on their next assignment," Jameson said. "We will not finish this job in '06 if it's not done safely."

Dave Kozlowski, former director of safety for the DOE at Fernald, said a team of about four DOE managers from the Ohio Field Office will travel to Washington and meet with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. Kozlowski was recently promoted to a supervisor position in the Office of Project Acceleration.

"Senior management is conveying a strong message of safety and of strong work performance," he said.

"I think that is not being carried through all of the sub-levels of management. Workers were not hearing that as a consistent message.

"But (Fluor has) taken several

## Key dates in the plant's history

Fernald, in Crosby Township, produced raw materials used in atomic bombs for more than 30 years before it closed. A cleanup of the site is under way, with some of the most complicated, and dangerous, work ahead.

**1953:** Fernald Feed Materials Production Plant begins operation - taking low-grade uranium and enriching the metal to be used in nuclear weapons.

**1989:** Foundry closes. Class-action lawsuit on behalf of 14,000 neighbors of the plant, alleging the government failed to notify residents of polluted drinking water and radon gas in the air, settled for \$73 million. Settlement also required lifetime health monitoring of people who lived around the plant.

**1992:** Construction giant Fluor Daniel selected as project manager of a massive cleanup of the 1,050-acre site, at a cost of at least \$4.4 billion before it's complete.

**1994:** Class-action lawsuit brought by former workers settled for \$15 million, becoming the first legal victory for any group of nuclear workers. The workers claimed they were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation without being informed of the risks.

**2003:** Fluor Daniel signs new contract changing completion deadline from 2010 to 2006.

actions that are effectively conveying that focus," Kozlowski said, adding that employees involved in an accident now must meet with the company's president and their supervisor to talk about what caused the accident and what they could do differently.

The safety board report acknowledges several new plans to increase worker safety, including additional training, performance reviews and improvements in training of new employees.

"However," the report says, "the plan has many of the same elements as previous plans that have not resulted in the desired improvements in safety."

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August 13, 2003

The Cincinnati Enquirer

Page B2

"Cleaning water beneath Fernald will take longer"

# Cleaning water beneath Fernald will take longer

## Process may go on until 2020

By Dan Klepal  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

**CROSBY TWP.** — Cleaning up the groundwater underneath the former Fernald uranium enrichment facility will take at least 10 years longer than expected, and perhaps more.

Bill Hertel, assistant project manager for Fluor Daniel, said the process of pulling contaminated groundwater out of the aquifer, treating it, and injecting it back into the ground could go on until 2020. Hertel made the comments Tues-

day during an annual update on the state of the environment at the \$4.4 billion cleanup on more than 1,000 acres.

There are two huge plumes of contamination in the groundwater under the facility, where the uranium measures between 500-800 parts per billion. It has to be cleaned to 30 parts per billion before the water is considered safe for drinking and the project is considered complete.

"Cleaning the aquifer is a lot like an ink stain in your shirt," Hertel said. "You have to wash it a bunch

of times to get it out."

This ink stain is about 170 acres large.

The process is complicated. First the water is pulled out through a series of extraction wells. After the water is cleaned, it is pumped back into the ground, pushing more contaminated water toward the extraction wells.

Hertel said the plumes have shrunk very little, but the levels of uranium contamination within the plumes have gone down.

There is also concern that heavy rains could push the uranium content higher in the groundwater after project managers think they've finished.

That's why the state will check those levels five years after the project winds down.

U.S. Department of Energy officials are talking with the state to determine whether the groundwater has to be cleaned to a level higher than 30 ppb to compensate for rain.

But is water with 30 ppb of uranium safe to drink? "According to the Ohio EPA it is," Hertel said.

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000031

July 31, 2003

Hamilton Journal-News

Front Page - C1 &amp; C2

"BizTech receives \$200K to remodel"

5036

# BizTech receives \$200K to remodel

**Official: New space  
will help newly  
formed businesses**

BY BRIAN ZIMMERMAN  
FOR THE JOURNAL NEWS

**HAMILTON** — BizTech Center, a business incubator, received \$200,000 on Tuesday from the Department of Energy and the Fernald Closure Project.

The funding will help in remodeling the center's office at 20 High St.

"The money will be used for our Phase I remodeling," said Marilyn Collmer, acting manager of BizTech.

According to Collmer, the remodeling will generate space and resources to help newly-formed small businesses.

"The purpose of a business incubator is to nurture young firms, helping them to survive and grow during the start-up period when they are most vulnerable," according to a recent BizTech statement. "Incubators provide hands-on management assistance, access to financing, training and orchestrated exposure to critical business and technical support services."

With Phase I completion, 10 tenant suites and a training and resources center will be available for occupation.

Also included will be managing offices and a conference room, according to Collmer.

"This (grant) puts the money back in the community," said Jeff Wagner, a spokesperson from Fluor-Fernald.

BizTech was created two years ago with a partnership between Hamilton's Department of Economic Development, the Certified

## HAMILTON Incubator funds to aid businesses

A business incubator received \$200,000 on Tuesday from the Department of Energy and the Fernald Closure Project. The funding will help generate space and resources to help newly-formed small businesses.

LOCAL C1

## BizTech Incubator receives \$200K to remodel

Continued from C1

Development Company of Butler County Inc., and the Fernald Community Reuse Organization.

According to BizTech officials,

the partnership is projected to generate more than 200 jobs, creating more than \$1 million for the community during the next three to five years.

"In addition to presenting an opportunity to spur economic development and create jobs, it retains homegrown entrepreneurs, develops the next generation of CEOs and creates wealth for the future," said Jenea Norris Allen, vice chairman of BizTech's Board of Trustees and Director of the Certified Development Company of Butler, Inc.

According to officials, BizTech Center tenants will receive a complete package of services included in their rental fee. Among these will be access to a digital photo copier, a fax, a postal meter, TV/VCRs, overhead projectors, a reception area, a work and dining area, phone and access to phone jacks, basic utilities and the use of a conference room.

July 31, 2003

The Cincinnati Enquirer

*"Accidents at Fernald result in deferral of \$100,000 in bonus"*

5036

# Accidents at Fernald result in deferral of \$100,000 in bonus

By Dan Klepal  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Repeated safety problems and near-miss accidents at the \$4 billion cleanup of the former Fernald uranium enrichment plant in northwest Hamilton County have caused the federal government to withhold \$100,000 in bonus money from the company managing the work.

Fluor Daniel, the California-based construction company managing the cleanup for the U.S. Department of Energy, was eligible for a \$500,000 bonus this quarter, which ran from April through June. Fluor's management was informed in a July 25 letter that a portion of its bonus was being deferred.

"The deferral is a result of incidents involving overhead work and falling equipment, which occurred

within the past 90 days," says the letter, signed by the DOE's on-site manager, Robert Warther.

It is the second deferral in the past year for Fluor Daniel. Safety issues were cited as the reason for a \$118,000 deferral for July through September 2002. In addition, \$36,000 was permanently withheld from Fluor, because of safety issues between January and March 2002.

Fluor Daniel is eligible to get the bonus money if:

- The company demonstrates the issues leading to the safety violations have been corrected.

- DOE oversight does not identify any additional safety issues from now until the end of the year.

- There are no additional hoisting/rigging incidents, or near-miss incidents before the end of the

year.

Fluor spokesman Jeff Wagner said the company is not contesting the deferral.

"We agree there are safety issues that need to be addressed, and we're working on those," he said.

Three safety incidents in particular caught DOE's eye and led to the cash being withheld: On April 23, a 4-inch pipe struck and injured a demolition worker; a week later, a 6-foot piece of steel rebar fell on a worker and injured him; and on July 9, a 24-foot steel beam fell from 20 feet during the building of a steel tower. Even though the last incident happened after the reporting period ended, DOE included it because it was the second "hoisting" incident within 90 days.

Gary Stegner, DOE spokesman, said the deferrals are meant to ad-

dress specific incidents. He said the 2002 deferral addressed different issues than this year.

"The issue this time was very specific, involving overhead work," Stegner said. "These three incidents all occurred in the (building demolition) project. I doubt that there is any kind of real trend. Safety issues will arise on a project of this size. If we think something is critical enough, we will deduct (a) fee from them."

A fee deduction in 2002 occurred after a worker was exposed to noxious fumes. Wagner said that incident resulted in the company putting in new safety standards. But there have been nearly a dozen incidents of contaminated respirators at the site in the past three months.

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000033

July 2003  
DOE This Month

5036

*"Fernald hosts final public tour of site"*

## Fernald hosts final public tour of site

The Department of Energy (DOE) and Fluor Fernald hosted its final public tour of the Fernald Closure Project (FCP) in Ohio on June 10, 2003. Nearly 600 interested neighbors, stakeholders, regulators, and former employees boarded buses to get one last glimpse of Fernald before it reaches safe closure in 2006.

The former Feed Materials Production Center was the first link in a chain of government facilities that manufactured the atomic bomb. During the Cold War years, workers were responsible for producing high-purity uranium for the nation's nuclear weapons complex. The site's mission shifted from uranium production to environmental restoration in the late 1980's. Building demolition began about 10 years later. Today, there is not much left of the former uranium production facility.

"I was a part of history and that's a good feeling," said Jim Anness, a

former 30-year Fernald worker. "Driving around here, all the memories came back and it almost felt like yesterday. I worked in every building, on every roof, and in every hole."

"Many good people have worked at this site through the years," said

DOE-FCP Acting Director Glenn Griffiths, who spent the evening grilling franks for the crowd and chatting with attendees. "This event is a great way to showcase our cleanup efforts and thank the folks who have been a part of Fernald's past, present, and future."



*Nearly 600 people gathered for Fernald's last public tour.*

Late this summer, crews will complete demolition of the last four production complexes and bring down the west water tower that was a site icon for more than 50 years. Restoration activities will create undeveloped green space that will become habitats for many native plants and animals. ♡

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July 16, 2003

The Harrison Press

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*"112 laid off at Fernald as cleanup progresses"*

## 112 laid off at Fernald as cleanup progresses

Fluor Fernald, cleanup contractor at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Fernald Closure Project, has released 112 wage employees in 16 job classifications defined in the collective bargaining agreement with the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council (FAT&LC).

Employees affected were notified of the planned action in early May. This is the first layoff under Fernald's 2006 site closure plan to target represented workers. The impacted job classifications include operations, maintenance and service positions.

Fluor Fernald will eliminate 60 salaried positions in 23 job classifications through voluntary and involuntary separations to create a leaner support organization and invest more cleanup dollars in field activities. Some of the impacted job classifications include engineering, human resources, support services and information management.

Although most cleanup projects are reaching midpoint or nearing comple-

tion, the Silos Project will require an increase in field support and staffing over the next three years as waste handling, treatment and shipping facilities are built.

The staffing changes are part of DOE's and Fluor Fernald's plan to complete cleanup of the 1,050-acre site in Crosby Township by December 2006 or sooner.

As cleanup projects, such as the waste pits and building demolition, are completed, Fluor Fernald will continue to adjust the workforce to meet the site's changing needs.

Since 2001, more than 400 employees have left the site through a combination of voluntary and involuntary separations, normal attrition, transfers and reductions in temporary staff. The current employment level, excluding subcontractors, is approximately 1,390 salaried and represented employees.

For more information, contact Gary Stegner, 648-3153 or Jeff Wagner, 648-4898.

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The Cincinnati Enquirer

"Fernald released tainted rainwater"

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# Fernald released tainted rainwater

By Dan Klopal

The Cincinnati Enquirer

**CROSBY TWP.** - More than 2.9 million gallons of rainwater tainted with uranium was discharged from the Fernald nuclear cleanup site directly into the Great Miami River earlier this month.

The water carried levels of uranium nearly three times the amount allowable for safe drinking water.

The discharge - which continued for 50 consecutive hours, July 10-12 - is permitted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. It was caused by hard rainfall and portions of the plant's water treatment facility being down for maintenance.

Officials with Fluor Daniel, the company managing the \$4.4 billion cleanup at the former uranium enrichment plant, say the discharge was necessary to prevent retention basins on the site from overflowing into Paddy's Run, a small stream that bleeds directly into the Great Miami Aquifer. The aquifer was contaminated while the plant was operating from 1953 through 1989, and purifying the underground water is one of the largest aspects of the cleanup.

Tom Schneider, Fernald supervisor for the OEPA, said the state would prefer that no contaminated water be discharged into the river. But, he said, that's not realistic.

"It's not the preferred situation, but it's one that's going to happen," Schneider said of the discharges. "Engineering systems have limitations, and when you exceed them you have to have a reasonable alternative. This is the best alternative."

The basins are designed to handle rainfall from all but storms so severe they only tend to happen once every decade. Despite that, the OEPA allows the site up to 10 discharges per year that don't count in the monthly averaging of the uranium content in the plant's water discharges - which are supposed to meet drinking-water standards of 30 parts per billion.

Bill Hertel, assistant manager of the aquifer restoration and wastewater project at Fernald for Fluor Daniel, said water in the basins has a uranium content of about 325 parts per billion. But that water was mixed with cleaned water as it was discharged into the river. "We discharge five to six mil-

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## Fernald: 2.9 million gallons of tainted rainwater dumped

From Page B1

lion gallons per day into the river," Hertel said.

That's not reassuring to environmentalists or neighbors of the plant.

Glen Brand, Midwest representative for the Sierra Club, said no uranium should be pumped into the river. He called for a study of the effect discharged uranium is having on fish and other wildlife.

"Direct dumping of uranium-tainted water into the Great Miami River is not acceptable, and the cleanup treatment system needs to be sufficient to properly treat all of the water," Brand said. "The system is not adequate and we can certainly do better. We should have capacity to hold water for all but the most freakish weather events."

Last year Fernald had six discharges, totaling 7.3 million gallons, which were exempt from their monthly uranium averages. They also had four days of exemptions when the water treatment plant was down for maintenance. Those discharges, also exempt from monthly averages, totaled more than 23 million gallons of tainted water.

Lisa Crawford, head of the Fernald Citizen's Advisory Board, said the plant's neighbors were notified that the discharges would happen. They are a part of life around the plant.

"It's a big deal, and nobody likes it," Crawford said. "But at the same time, we've had a ton of rain and there's nowhere else to take it. Anytime you get into a situation like this, you wonder are they doing the right thing, and are they only doing what they've reported to us."

"We don't have a 100 percent guarantee on that. We'd all like to see nothing go into the river, but that's not going to happen."

Fernald produced raw materials for atomic bombs for more than three decades. The plant produced high-grade uranium, which was

then shipped to plants that manufactured bombs. Cleanup of the 1,050-acre site started in 1992 and will cost taxpayers at least \$4.4 billion before it's complete in 2006.

A series of lawsuits resulted in more than \$90 million in payments by the government and lifetime health monitoring for people who live around the plant. The lawsuits and a newspaper investigation led to the conclusion that managers failed to notify workers of dangerous conditions and that the government failed to notify residents of polluted drinking water and radon gas into the air.

*E-mail dklepal@enquirer.com*

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July 19, 2003

Hamilton Journal-News

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*"Uranium plant dumps polluted rainwater into Great Miami River"*

# Uranium plant dumps polluted rainwater into Great Miami River

**Official: Fernald not in violation of federal standards**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CINCINNATI** — More than 2.9 million gallons of polluted rainwater was discharged into the Great Miami River from the site of a former uranium processing plant earlier this month, authorities said.

The uranium-tainted water from the Fernald site emptied into the river for 50 hours, but did not violate any environmental standards, authorities said. Heavy rains and maintenance at the facility caused the discharge.

The discharge into the river prevented retainage basins from overflowing into a small stream that bleeds into the Great Miami Aquifer, said officials with Fluor Daniel, the company managing a \$4.4 billion cleanup at the site.

That aquifer was contaminated when the plant operated about

18 miles northwest of Cincinnati from 1953 to 1989.

Tom Schneider, Fernald supervisor for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, said the discharge was hard to avoid.

"It's not the preferred situation, but it's one that's going to happen," Schneider said. "Engineering systems have limitations, and when you exceed them you have to have a reasonable alternative. This is the best alternative."

Lisa Crawford, head of the Fernald Citizen's Advisory Board, said the plant's neighbors were notified that the discharges would happen.

"It's a big deal, and nobody likes it," Crawford said. "But at the same time, we've had a ton of rain and there's nowhere else to take it."

Environmentalists expressed concern.

Glen Brand, Midwest representative for the Sierra Club, called for a study of the discharge's effect on fish and other wildlife.

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*"Fluor Fernald trims 100 jobs to meet 2006 cleanup and closure deadline"*

## Fluor Fernald trims 100 jobs to meet 2006 cleanup and closure deadline

Energy Department contractor Fluor Fernald last week laid off 112 union employees and said it would cut 60 more positions today (July 7) to create a leaner organization — a move company officials expect will free more dollars for ongoing accelerated environmental cleanup activities at the Fernald Closure Project in Ohio.

Officials said the staff reductions are part of Fernald's plan to complete cleanup of the 1,050-acre site by December 2006. Officials have said workers can expect annual staff reductions until 2006.

Last April, Fluor Fernald laid off 61 employees. Since 2001, more than 400 employees have left the site through voluntary and involuntary separations, normal attrition, transfers and reductions in temporary staff, the company said in a statement Tuesday.

The department hopes to complete contaminated soil and aquifer cleanup, as well as building demolition at the former uranium production site, by the end of 2006.

The company said the latest reduction attempts to better align the workforce with the remaining cleanup work at the site. The Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council was notified in May that positions would be eliminated. "As far as job placements, we haven't been able to accomplish that for all," FAT&LC President Gene Branham said in an interview Tuesday. FAT&LC represents 13 local unions at Fernald. "We had 546 [union employees at Fernald] and lost 112, and 16 to 18 of them retired. We now probably have a little over 400 union employees at the site right now."

In the fall, Fluor Fernald plans to again adjust the size and skills mix of the work force to meet the site's changing needs. "If you break down all of the ... numbers that will be excess, my first cut at it is they are too deep," Branham said. "We may be going to the well a little too often and a little too deep, both in management and labor," he said.

Branham said some of the 16 job classifications defined in a collective bargaining agreement with Fluor Fernald should be protected, such as people in charge of packaging and shipping transuranic waste to a low-level waste dump in Utah. "You can't run a remediation operation sitting in an office some damned place. Somebody's got to get in the trenches and find out what's happening, and that's my concern," he said.

DOE in 1992 hired Fluor Fernald to manage the site, once used to produce high-purity uranium metals for nuclear weapons. Those operations, which continued for 35 years, ceased in 1989. In 2000, DOE awarded Fluor Fernald a "closure contract" with the goal of completing the site's cleanup by 2006.

Last week, Fluor Fernald work crews also completed a major regulatory milestone. They helped clear the Plant 1 Pad, which once held more than 100,000 containers of waste. The majority of the waste was shipped to the Nevada Test Site. Recently, many of the containers were moved to the site's Waste Pits Remedial Action Project, where their contents were combined with waste pit material and shipped to Envirocare, a company spokesman said.

Although most environmental cleanup projects at Fernald are reaching or nearing completion, the Silos Project will require an increase in field support and staffing over the next three years as waste handling, treatment and shipping facilities are built. The project includes vacuuming dry low-level waste from the aging silo. Once the material has been removed, it will be packaged and shipped to NTS or a permitted waste disposal facility. — *Shawn Terry*

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*"Enhanced monitoring wells at Fernald aid aquifer cleanup"*

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## Enhanced Monitoring Wells at Fernald Aid Aquifer Cleanup

Ground water scientists at the Department of Energy's Fernald Environmental Management Project are using multilevel monitoring wells to assist in tracking the remediation of a 170-acre uranium contamination plume in the Great Miami Aquifer, which covers approximately 960,000 acres. The aquifer underlies the Fernald site and is one of the largest sole source aquifers in the nation.

The multilevel wells have lower installation costs than standard wells and provide data from a large cross-section of the plume so scientists can more closely monitor the performance of Fernald's ground water restoration program.

Multilevel monitoring wells allow scientists to monitor up to six different depth intervals per well and spot sample the bottoms of the wells. For large contamination plumes like Fernald's, which measures 40 to 50 feet deep in places, multilevel wells provide data from across the entire plume. With this additional



*A cross section of a multilevel well shows how Fernald scientists take multiple samples at different depth intervals. Scientists are using the additional data to track the restoration of the underlying aquifer.*

knowledge, scientists can determine appropriate extraction well pump rates.

Previously, Fernald scientists used repetitive direct push sampling, a process in which technicians "push" a sample rod into the ground to a desired depth, and multiple standard monitoring wells to monitor the portions of the plume that are thicker than 15 feet. Although both are proven ground water monitoring techniques, they are less effective with larger, thicker contamination plumes. Direct push sampling can provide sampling at discrete levels in the aquifer, but it requires a significant effort and cost outlay to resample at the same location, limiting the sample frequency. Six monitoring wells would be required to provide the six depth intervals obtained from one multilevel well.

"After more than a year of testing, multilevel wells have proven to be effective tools in tracking the cleanup of the aquifer," said Rob Janke, DOE-Fernald project manager.

For more information, contact Rob Janke at (513) 648-3124, or [rob.janke@fernald.gov](mailto:rob.janke@fernald.gov).

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## Fernald Rail Operation on Track for 2004 Completion

The most extensive rail operation in the Department of Energy (DOE) complex is enabling the Fernald site in Ohio to accelerate remediation and disposition of a 37-acre waste pit area that once contained over one million tons of low-level radioactive waste. Fernald is fewer than two years from completing the remediation.

In March 2003, Fernald workers shipped the 79th train of material to Envirocare, a licensed commercial disposal facility near Clive, Utah, as part of DOE's long-term cleanup plan for the Waste Pits Project, one of five remediation projects at the site.

The waste pit area contains six waste pits (which range in size from one to five acres and vary in depth from 10 to 40 feet), a burn pit and clear well. During past uranium production operations, Fernald disposed of solid and liquid processing material and refining residues in the waste pits and incinerated materials, such as laboratory chemicals and refining residues, in the burn pit. The clear-well

served as a settling basin for processing water.

Prior to initiating full-scale remediation of the waste pits, Fernald constructed an 11-track rail yard and procured 170 gondola railcars and three locomotives. Since the first train left the site in April 1999, Fernald has maintained a steady shipping cycle of one train every two to three weeks. As the waste is excavated, cleanup workers haul it by truck to onsite remediation facilities where they process and treat the waste to remove excess moisture, load it into double-lined railcars with secure lids, and assemble the cars into a unit train for shipment to Envirocare. Over a five-year shipping period, Fernald estimates it will transport 124 trains of waste to Envirocare. Each train consists of about 60 railcars and carries approximately 6,000 tons of waste.

As it nears its fourth year of operation, Fernald has shipped more than 500,000 tons, an equivalent of 25,003 truckloads, of an estimated 790,000 tons of processed waste to Envirocare and is on schedule to



*Fernald's train crew assembles G1 gondola railcars to make the 75th unit train to leave the site loaded with waste pit material. On average, each unit train carries 6,000 tons of waste.*

complete waste processing operations by the end of 2004.

"By excavating the waste pits, we are eliminating yet another source of ground water contamination to the underlying aquifer," said Dave Lojek, DOE Waste Pits project manager. "Every train that leaves our gates and arrives safely at the disposal facility brings us one step closer to completing this project."

For more information on the Waste Pits Project, contact Dave Lojek at (513) 648-3127 or [dave.lojek@fernald.gov](mailto:dave.lojek@fernald.gov).

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*Fernald's new technology reduces radon"*

## Fernald's New Technology Reduces Radon

After rigorous operability testing, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Fernald site tested a new radon control system in December 2002 that reduced the concentration of radon gas in two concrete waste storage silos by 95 percent. This is the first step in the removal of the silos' waste which is scheduled to be completed in May 2006.

Known as the K-65 Silos, the aging structures were constructed in the 1950s and contain 8,900 cubic yards of low-level, radium-bearing waste. "The new system

reduces radiation exposure levels so workers can safely remove the waste from the silos in preparation for treatment and disposal," said DOE Silos Project Manager Nina Akgunduz.

The Radon Control System (RCS) stands about 40 yards from the earthen-bermed silos. Fans within the RCS draw the radon-bearing air into the facility via a series of valves and piping connected to manways (like manholes) on top of the silos. The radon gas is removed by passing the air through filters containing activated carbon. Once the air has traveled through the carbon beds it passes through HEPA filters to remove any remaining particulate from the radon decay chain.

The next step in remediating Fernald's silos will begin in June 2003 when Fernald cleanup crews will initiate installation of waste retrieval equipment around the silos. Using water jets and slurry pumps, the crew will remove the clay-like waste from the silos and transfer it to four 750,000-gallon temporary storage tanks. Treatment plant operators will then blend the waste with cement to produce loose concrete suitable for safe packaging and offsite transportation.

For more information, contact Nina Akgunduz at (513) 648-3110 or [nina.ahgunduz@fernald.gov](mailto:nina.ahgunduz@fernald.gov).

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*"New Fernald stewardship web site"*

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## New Fernald Stewardship Web Site

The Fernald Closure Project has launched a new Web site describing the site's plans for post-closure surveillance and maintenance of the On-Site Disposal Facility and restored areas of the Fernald site.

Since the late 1990s, the Department of Energy (DOE) and Fluor Fernald have been working with stakeholders to prepare for the site's transition to long-term stewardship after site remediation is complete in late 2006. The Web site, <http://www.fernald.gov/Future/Future.htm>, includes Fernald's Comprehensive Stewardship Plan and information about records management requirements, funding, and the Department's stewardship policies and guidance documents. Information is also available on Fernald's final land use/public use plans and cleanup progress.

For more information, contact Gary Stegner at (513) 648-3153 or [gary.stegner@fernald.gov](mailto:gary.stegner@fernald.gov).

## **Last of weapons-grade plutonium is removed from Rocky Flats nuclear site in Colorado**

*August 21, 2003*

**By Jon Sarche, Associated Press**

GOLDEN, Colo.— Crews have finished removing the last of more than 12 tons of weapons-grade plutonium left at Rocky Flats, marking a milestone in a \$7 billion cleanup of the former nuclear weapons site that closed in 1989.

The 6,000-acre (2,400-hectare) site 25 kilometers (15 miles) northwest of Denver is slated to become a national wildlife refuge after the cleanup ends in 2006.

"Rocky Flats ... is no longer in the nuclear weapons business," Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said this week in a statement issued in Washington. Removal of the plutonium was finished 12 years ahead of schedule, Abraham said. The material will be shipped to a site in South Carolina for conversion into fuel for nuclear reactors.

For 40 years, Rocky Flats manufactured plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons. It was shut down in 1989 for safety violations, leaving more than 12 metric tons of the highly radioactive metal.

Gene Schmitt, the Energy Department's site manager, said with the plutonium gone, about \$2 million spent each month on security can be applied to cleanup work.

Linton Brooks, the Energy Department's undersecretary for nuclear security, said the last of the plutonium left Rocky Flats in late July.

The environmental group Greenpeace International on Tuesday criticized incentives for contractors to accelerate the cleanup, saying the South Carolina facilities have safety problems and were unprepared for the plutonium.

Rocky Flats still has lower-grade waste, such as contaminated equipment, that will be transported to a site near Carlsbad, N.M.

Source: Associated Press