



FRIDAY MAILING

7/17/98

INCLUDED IN THIS FRIDAY MAILING:

- Monthly Progress Report Summary – May 1998
- Newsclippings

CAB MEETINGS:

- ON-SITE COMMITTEE MEETING:** The next meeting of the On-Site Committee of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board will be on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. in the Alpha Building.
- OFF-SITE COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Off-Site Committee of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board will meet on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alpha Building.
- EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Efficiency Committee of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, September 10, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alpha Building.

OTHER MEETINGS:

- MONTHLY PROGRESS BRIEFING:** There will not be a Monthly Progress Briefing in August.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- SSAB SURVEY:** Judith Bradbury will be contacting members of the CAB by telephone throughout the summer to conduct a survey for DOE on the SSABs.

QUESTIONS:

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

[REDACTED]

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MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY

MAY 1998

OPERABLE UNIT 1 --- WASTE PITS REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT

Major Work Activities - May 1998

- Completed on-site rail infrastructure construction.
- Completed Shandon Yard upgrade.

OPERABLE UNIT 2 --- ON-SITE DISPOSAL FACILITY (OSDF)

Major Work Activities - May 1998

- OSDF
 - Awarded OSDF Phase II/Southern Waste Units excavation subcontract to Petro Environmental Technologies Inc.
 - Began moving containers of debris to OSDF Transfer Area (this activity to continue throughout construction of OSDF).

OPERABLE UNIT 3 --- FACILITIES CLOSURE & DEMOLITION PROJECT

Major Work Activities - May 1998

- Safe Shutdown
 - Performed various utility disconnects in Tank Farm Complex.
- Decontamination and Dismantlement (D&D)
 - Prepared structural steel surrounding two northern boilers for demolition in Boiler Plant/Water Plant.
 - Size-reduced and containerized precipitator breeching and support steel from Boiler Plant/Water Plant.
 - Began removal of exterior components such as pipe bridges/conduit from Building 78.
 - Began mobilizing site support subcontractor for Sewage Treatment Plant Complex.
 - Decontaminated and free-released 53 tons of rail as of May 29, 1998 as part of Recycling Supplemental Environmental Projects.
 - Inspected/prepared containers of shredded copper for shipment to recycling vendor.

OPERABLE UNIT 4 --- SILOS PROJECT

Major Work Activities - May 1998

- Submitted Draft Silo 3 Remedial Design Work Plan to regulatory agencies.
- Issued Silo 3 Request for Proposal (RFP) to potential contractors for bid on May 6, 1998; held pre-proposal conference May 27-28, 1998.
- Completed addressing comments from stakeholders, independent consultants, and regulatory agencies on Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project RFP; issued RFP for bid on May 26, 1998.
- Prepared for award of Silos 1 and 2 Proof-of-Principle Testing RFP contracts; awards in four technology families expected in early June.

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OPERABLE UNIT 5

Major Work Activities – May 1998

- **Soils Characterization and Excavation Project**
 - Initiated bioengineering stabilization of Paddys Run embankment in vicinity of Southern Waste Units retention basins; includes such efforts as installation of natural-fiber matting to encourage vegetative growth and mitigate embankment erosion.
 - Completed certification sampling in Area 8 Phase I (13-acre tract of Fernald property west of Paddys Run).
 - Submitted Precertification Project Specific Plans for real-time surveys and physical sampling to regulatory agencies for Area 9 Phase I (northern portion of off-site tract of land located east of Fernald's eastern property line).
 - Began design of On-Property Public Access Habitat Area.
 - Initiated two Ecological Research subprojects (American Chestnut Restoration and Identification and Control of Invasive Species).
 - Commenced public involvement process regarding final land use at Fernald with presentation at May meeting of FRESH.

- **Aquifer Restoration and Waste Water Project**
 - Completed Standard Startup Review of new Sewage Treatment Plant and commenced operations on May 8, 1998.
 - Completed construction activities for South Field Extraction System/South Plume Optimization System/Injection Demonstration combined projects on May 13, 1998.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Major Work Activities – May 1998

- **Low-Level Waste Certification**
 - Successfully completed Standard Startup Review for Movement of Above-Grade Debris to OSDF Transfer Area; initiated operations on May 13, 1998.

- **Mixed Waste Shipping**
 - Initiated plan for certification sampling of mixed waste eligible for shipment to Envirocare of Utah, Inc.

- **T-Hopper Repackaging System**
 - Total of 37 T-Hoppers repackaged as of May 29, 1998.

- **Organic Treatment Project**
 - Began investigating potential off-site treatment options, as well as the possibility of on-site use of thermal desorption technology (i.e., removal of contaminants via heat).

- **DOE Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for Activities Involving Enriched Restricted Materials**
 - Pre-start items were satisfactorily closed and verified complete on May 14, 1998, with authorization to restart activities given by DOE on May 20, 1998.

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July 11, 1998
The Cincinnati Enquirer
Page B1
"Ex-Reporter Faced Questions Before"
Associated Press

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Ex-reporter faced questions before

Existence of source challenged in 1986

The Associated Press



A former Cincinnati Enquirer reporter has been accused of stealing voice-mails in a series questioning the banana company's business practices has faced questions about his reporting before the FBI in 1986 challenged the existence of an unidentified source Michael Gallagher. Gallagher, now a drug smuggler in Michigan prisons. Mr. Gallagher and the State Journal stood by the stories at the time, saying the

source — an unidentified assistant U.S. attorney — was real. Gallagher, now a drug smuggler in Michigan prisons. Mr. Gallagher and the State Journal stood by the stories at the time, saying the

Chiquita: Ex-reporter challenged before

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not return calls seeking comment today.

Harry M. Whipple, president and publisher of the Enquirer, said the newspaper is reviewing what Mr. Gallagher has done since he joined the Enquirer in 1995.

Mr. Gallagher was fired June 26, 10 days before the Enquirer ran a front-page apology, renouncing his May 3 stories criticizing the Chiquita banana company's business practices.

The newspaper said it believes Mr. Gallagher illegally obtained Chiquita employees' voice-mails in pursuing the story.

The newspaper also agreed to pay Chiquita more than \$10 million to settle the case; Chiquita had not filed suit. A state grand jury is investigating whether property was stolen from Chiquita. Chiquita is suing Mr. Gallagher, who was not a party to the Enquirer's settlement.

Mr. Gallagher did not return mes-

sages seeking comment on Friday. His lawyer, Patrick Hanley, declined to comment.

In his 1986 stories, Mr. Gallagher quoted "an assistant U.S. attorney who asked to remain unnamed" as saying a grand jury had begun hearing testimony on alleged drug-smuggling in a Michigan prison and predicted that guards and supervisors would be indicted.

The FBI investigated after the stories ran and accused Mr. Gallagher

of fabricating the source. No grand jury had met, agents said. Mr. Gallagher and his newspaper defended the reporting; Mr. Gallagher later said he believed the FBI had started the investigation to discredit him because he had obtained information the FBI did not want publicized.

Dawn Moritz, an FBI spokeswoman in Detroit, said Friday she was familiar with the prison stories and could not comment.

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July 11, 1998
 The Cincinnati Post
 Page 7A
 "FBI Accused Reporter Before"
 Post Staff Reporter

FBI accused reporter before

Post staff report

A fired Cincinnati Enquirer reporter, charged in a lawsuit with stealing voice-mail from Chiquita Brands International, was accused by the FBI years ago of fabricating a source when he worked for another Gannett newspaper.

In 1986, the FBI charged that Michael Gallagher had concocted a nonexistent assistant U.S. attorney, then used him as an unnamed source for stories on prison drug smuggling that were completely false.

Gallagher wrote the stories for the Lansing (Mich.) State Journal and both he and the paper stood by the stories, insisting the source was a real person.

The source was quoted in at least four stories that alleged there was a multimillion-dollar drug trade in Michigan prisons that was aided and abetted by guards and prison administrators.

Roni Rucker Waters, man-



Michael Gallagher

aging editor of the Lansing newspaper, confirmed on Thursday to the Associated Press that Gallagher worked at the paper from 1985 to 1987 but declined to comment further. She was not with the newspaper at the time.

Then-editor Thomas Callinan, now editor at the Democrat and Chronicle in Rochester, N.Y., did not return calls seeking comment on Friday.

Enquirer publisher Harry M. Whipple said the newspaper is investigating what other staffers knew about the Chiquita section and also reviewing Gallagher's work since he joined the Enquirer in 1995.

On June 28, the Enquirer began a series of front page apologies to Cincinnati-based Chiquita for their May 3 special section, written by Gallagher and reporter Cameron

McWhirter, which sharply criticized the banana company's business practices.

In addition to the apology, the Enquirer also agreed to pay Chiquita more than \$10 million.

The Enquirer said its Chiquita section was based on stolen voice mail and "created a false and misleading impression of Chiquita's business practices" in Central America.

The paper also fired Gallagher, saying he had lied to them about the source of Chiquita voice-mail conversations upon which much of the 18-page special section was based.

A grand jury is investigating whether the voice-mail was stolen and Chiquita has sued Gallagher, charging him with violating federal and state wiretapping laws, fraud, defamation and other illegal acts.

The FBI also is investigating the case.

Gallagher did not return calls seeking comment. His lawyer, Patrick Hanley, declined comment.

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July 12, 1998
The Cincinnati Enquirer
Editorial Page

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Tell readers which allegations are true

I congratulate the *Enquirer* for its front-page apology to Chiquita Brands International Inc. due to errors and illegal information-gathering techniques. However, I am dismayed at the "\$10 million-plus" payment to Chiquita, and particularly, at the complete lack of explanation to your readers of the terms under which this payment was made.

Clearly, the reports about illegal and unethical activities in Central America were based on information about Chiquita which was at least partially factual. It is the *Enquirer's* responsibility, once allegations have been made in the comprehensive manner in which they were reported, to now attempt to clarify which allegations are factual, which are not, and which others cannot be verified by legal means.

If, as I fear, part of the settlement with Chiquita involved an agreement to no longer report on this matter in any way, then this would constitute an egregious violation of journalistic ethics, much worse than the actions of a few rogue *Enquirer* reporters. Why? Because this would represent an institutional decision to deny readers the truth, which we are relying on

the *Enquirer* to report.

Your readers deserve the following:

► A copy of the agreement you signed with Chiquita.

● An investigation to verify, point-by-point, the allegations made in your Chiquita report. A vague, blanket "renunciation" just doesn't cut it.

ROSS M. LEON
Western Hills

With apology came justice

I'd like to address the authors of letters to the editor published June 30 regarding the *Enquirer's* apology to Chiquita.

In no other country would they see such critical letters to the editor, published by the editor. Thank God for our country — and for the *Enquirer*.

Let's dig a little deeper here. The editor apologized for the unethical way in which the information was obtained, not for the information. Notice that (two letter writers July 1 did). I hope the banana people use some of that \$10 million to better the conditions of their employees.

Lord, please forgive the tendency we have in this country to jump on someone who is down. The apology "as published, the

\$10 million was paid, the reporter was punished. What more is necessary? Justice has been done. All of this was very providential. Who among us can cast the first stone?

MARY RUTH BOUDOT
College Hill

Recheck reporter's previous articles

Now that the *Enquirer* has admitted that reporter Mike Gallagher resorted to unethical and illegal activity in his Chiquita investigation, shouldn't Mr. Gallagher's previous efforts be subjected to this newfound editorial scrutiny and oversight? I refer specifically to the month-long "Danger and Deceit" series, endlessly trumpeted by the *Enquirer* as an expose of the truth about Fernald.

At the time, many individuals and organizations close to the Fernald cleanup effort contended that Mr. Gallagher's charges, including the existence and cover-up of unsafe working conditions, fraudulent billing and falsification of work schedules were based on the dubious use of anonymous sources, as well as Mr. Gallagher's selective, self-serving interpretation of public documents.

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7-12-98

July 12, 1998
The Cincinnati Enquirer
Editorial Page

Early in the series, you printed my letter to the editor challenging the *Enquirer* to do a follow-up report on the expense and findings of the various investigations prompted by the numerous allegations made in the articles. Likely, the most detailed and costly of these investigations was the one by the Government Accounting Office. While finding some room for improvement in the management of the Fernald operations, the resulting report determined that virtually all of the most serious charges made by Mr. Gallagher were unsubstantiated.

Again, I challenge the *Enquirer* to do that follow-up study. You owe it to your readers, the surrounding community and the proud work force at Fernald.

BILL WESTERMAN
Brookville, Ind.

Community shows support for Lindner

I was jubilant upon reading the front-page apologies to Chiquita. There are few more dangerous principles than irresponsible journalism, and I am sure that Chiquita's business as well as its employees have suffered irreparable harm.

It has always been difficult for me to understand the *Enquirer's* negativism toward the Lindner family, as they have been such a positive force in our community. We in the medical field join those in the business, sports and arts worlds, etc., in expressing our appreciation for the Lindners' continuing support and loyalty to Cincinnati.

DR. ROBERT H. OSHER
Indian Hill

Entire report should not be thrown away

Realizing that the phone tapes were accessed illegally, and that your paper was suffering real damage in the economic community from its expose on the multinational giant Chiquita, that you couldn't possibly stand behind the work of your reporters and considering how much it would cost you, wouldn't it be fair to allow for a follow-up which would sort out the information that could be ascertained without the use of the illegal recordings? What about all the eyewitness testimony from those "in the field?"

You've thrown away an outstanding piece of work because of a small, but, granted, significant flaw in the ethical proce-

dures of evidence gathering. The result was that you discounted the whole piece unjustly.

JOAN KRUEGER
Loveland

Unite to fight irresponsibility

The entire nation owes Carl Lindner a debt of gratitude. Only he had the ability to stand up against the kind of reporting not really interested in fact, but seeking headlines. The little guy has no protection against this onslaught. Combine reporters with attorneys general using the power of subpoena and our freedom is gone.

Attorneys general subpoena any records they choose, using threat of imprisonment. Then, with the information they gather, use that information to file suit against you. They know that you do not have to testify against yourself, but they do not inform you of this fact. This, of course, is a violation of our Fifth Amendment rights.

Attorneys general can close any church in this nation that they choose. They can subpoena any church records, then before you can file a "quash," they can force you, under threat of imprisonment, to submit your

records for review, costing you thousands of dollars in legal fees and other costs. They have, in fact, forced you to testify against yourself, a violation of the Fifth Amendment.

They can then use this information to file charges against the church. Congregational churches — such as Baptist, Christian or independent — are particularly vulnerable. All of this is in violation of the First Amendment: "There can be no law passed curbing or restricting the spread of religions."

U.S. District Judge James Robertson, dismissing the Hubbell charges, along with the action of Carl Lindner standing up against bully reporters, give us the two greatest acts in defense of our freedom in 50 years. Judge Robertson and Mr. Lindner will go down in history as two men who, more than anyone else, turned the tide from slavery to freedom.

We must all hang together against the ruthless reporters and arrogant attorneys general or we surely will hang separately. This nation under God must not change to read "This nation under arrogant and ruthless attorneys and irresponsible reporters."

BISHOP D. GERALD LACH
Pendleton

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July 11, 1998

Journal-News

Opinion Page

"Was Chiquita Just Replay of Fernald Ser"

By: Dirk Allen

Was Chiquita just replay of Fernald series

By Dirk Allen

It was deja vu all over again when The Cincinnati Enquirer apologized to Chiquita Brands International Inc. regarding a May 3 special section, "renounced" the series of stories, paid Chiquita in excess of \$10 million and fired reporter Michael Gallagher for sus-



Allen

pending newsgathering techniques. Chiquita officials complained that the stories were one-sided, ignored the comments of Chiquita executives and disregarded a raft of documents the company had provided.

The complaints mirrored those from officials at Fernald — both the contractor Fluor Daniel Fernald and its supervisor, the Department of Energy — regarding an earlier Enquirer series on the ongoing cleanup of the former uranium processing plant that continually ran under the breathless logo, "Danger and Deceit."

Same newspaper, same reporter. But with a major difference in this newsroom since we cover Fernald on a regular basis and the series constantly left us shaking our heads in, well, disbelief.

The other major difference, of course, is that Chiquita — and its venerable president, Carl Lindner — has a lot of clout in the Queen City and no compunction about shaking the trees to protect its reputation.

Fernald, on the other hand, is a polluter, a contaminator, a radioactive environmental blight that already carries negative baggage in the minds of the public. When its officials protest, there is a built-in credibility gap.

I asked the editor of the Enquirer, Lawrence Beaupre (he answered his own phone — style points for that), if the newspaper was reviewing its Fernald series based on the recent Chiquita debacle.

"I don't have any comment on that," Beaupre said Tuesday.

According to a report from the federal General Accounting Office quoted in a March 1997 Enquirer editorial, "Although many of the safety and health allegations in the Cincinnati Enquirer overstated the situation (my italics) at Fernald, the site did have serious problems."

John Bradburne, president of

articles caused him to "launch some pretty intense looks of my own to see if we had problems. I really needed to know that so I could get it fixed.

"After all of those looks, we could not substantiate the (Enquirer) allegations," he said Wednesday. "We did find some things that needed to be fixed, but not the willful things that were alleged."

Ken Morgan, director of public affairs for the field office of the Department of Energy, said it was not DOE's charge to evaluate news coverage of its operations — but noted that the department's evaluation of Fluor Daniel Fernald's performance should be apparent.

"We have extended their contract," Morgan said. "They have made remarkable progress in the cleanup, saved billions of dollars (from original cost projections) and shown dramatic improvements in most areas.

"Our goal is to make ourselves boring to the news media," Morgan added. "You do that by doing a good job."

responsibility in dealing with material that people need to know can have a tremendous detrimental effect.

John Bradburne
President, Fluor Daniel Fernald

Let's not pretend that anyone has a monopoly on virtue. Heck, this newspaper lost one that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. That was the Nov. 1, 1983, article on Daniel E. Connaughton, who was running for Hamilton Municipal Court judge.

Connaughton sued Harte-Hanks Communications Inc., our parent company at the time, for libel based on a similar complaint — that the Journal-News had ignored exculpatory material and basically done a hatchet job on him. When the matter finally found its way to Washington, the national media held its collective breath for fear the Supremes were going to revise libel laws with respect to the definition of a public person.

They didn't. On June 22, 1989, they simply said he wins, you lose, so pay the man. Period. (He sued for \$10 million and was awarded \$200,000.)

"I really feel strongly that a free press is so vital to the kind of society

Bradburne. "But a responsible free press is what we have to have ... not one that indiscriminately attacks for the sake of a news story. ... Irresponsibility in dealing with material that people need to know can have a tremendous detrimental effect."

"Yes, I think we were unfairly treated," Bradburne added of the "Danger and Deceit" series. "We provided all sorts of data, written responses. We bent over backwards to be honest and truthful. We supplied hours and hours of work. ... None of that got printed."

Bradburne said the series "had a very negative effect on the people here."

When Joe Feiertag, who did an outstanding job covering Fernald for this newspaper for five years, left the J-N in April 1996, he took a look at the ongoing cleanup in a final column.

An excerpt from his assessment:

"Recent revelations in the media tell us that the cleanup contractor cannot find 150 inspection logs (about 5 percent of the total). The contractor may even have mis-spent \$7 million to \$10 million (about 3 percent of the site's annual budget). We've also heard of shoddy workmanship involving a new waste treatment unit. (One of the main issues in question: the building's concrete floor.)

"I'm not suggesting that inspection logs aren't important, or that \$7 million to \$10 million is a paltry sum. But it's important to note that many of these revelations have been culled from public documents and from Fernald's efforts to police itself."

The public certainly understands what our job is all about. Sometimes, apparently, better than we do. A recent letter to the editor in the Enquirer said, in part, "It is appalling that newspapers in this country ... resort to such low tactics in order to soil newspapers and attempt to win awards. When will reporters and editors realize that this brand of 'got you' journalism destroys people's lives, careers and businesses? When will reporters and editors realize that not every fact and quote needs to be cast in a sinister light?"

The lesson from all of this is elementary: Play fair. Report the news straight. Give both sides. Write for the public — not for awards. In the end, "gotcha" journalism can come back to get ya.

Dirk Allen, opinion page editor

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July 15, 1998
 The Cincinnati Enquirer
 page B1
 "Banana Union Leader Pay Visit"

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Page 1

Banana union leaders pay visit

Chiquita doesn't rule out meeting

BY JOHN NOLAN

The Associated Press

Weeks after a newspaper renounced critical stories about Chiquita, union leaders representing employees of the banana company's Honduran subsidiary met with local activists.

They declined to reveal what they discussed.

Monday's meeting, in the city where Chiquita is based, was with a delegation from SITRATERCO, the union representing workers for Tela Railroad Co., the Honduran subsidiary of Chiquita Brands International Inc.

The Hondurans declined to talk directly with reporters. Community activists said they could not comment about why the delegation came.

Chiquita President Steven Warsaw said he had not been aware of the visit, but would be willing to meet if it could be arranged.

Chiquita is involved in contract negotiations with the union, but the talks are handled in Honduras, Mr. Warsaw said.

In May, *The Cincinnati Enquirer* published stories questioning Chiquita's business practices in the Central American countries, including Honduras, where it obtains bananas for worldwide export.

On June 28, the newspaper renounced the stories, fired a

reporter and said it was paying a settlement of more than \$10 million to Chiquita. Management of the Gannett Co.-owned newspaper said the reporter illegally obtained tapes of Chiquita executives' voice-mail messages upon which the stories were based.

The FBI, Hamilton County sheriff and a state special prosecutor are investigating whether property was stolen from Chiquita.

Harry M. Whipple, the Enquirer's publisher and president, said he was unaware of the Hondurans' visit.

At a meeting Monday night, the Hondurans told Cincinnati activists that they support the newspaper's reporting about Chiquita.

"Their big point was that there was some truth to those stories, and they wanted everyone to know that," said Scott Campbell, a spokesman for the Central American Task Force. The group includes Cincinnatians who have visited or worked in Central America and are sympathetic to the conditions of workers there.

"They just talked about the history of their union, what things were like in Honduras ... just trying to catch us up on what their experience was," Mr. Campbell said. "I think they're being pretty secretive about what they're doing."

Chiquita has said the newspaper's stories were inaccurate.

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July 16, 1998
Inside Energy
Page 8

"Envirocare Obtains Long-Delayed Contract For Fernald Waste Disposal"

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1588

ENVIROCARE OBTAINS LONG-DELAYED CONTRACT FOR FERNALD WASTE DISPOSAL

DOE last week awarded a long-delayed contract to Envirocare to dispose of low-level waste at the department's Fernald Environmental Management Project in Ohio. Soon after the decision was announced, Waste Control Specialists, which had filed a lawsuit that had delayed the contract, asked DOE for a briefing on the award.

Under the contract, Envirocare will accept and dispose of soil contaminated with low-level radioactivity from Fernald and DOE's Mound Plant, also in Ohio, and its West Valley site in New York, according to Ken Alkema, director of government affairs for Envirocare, Clive, Utah. The contract is potentially worth about \$66 million over 10 years.

The award resulted from a decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals May 14, in which it threw out an injunction that had barred DOE from awarding any commercial low-level or mixed-radioactive waste disposal contracts. The ruling reversed and dismissed a decision in October by a federal district court judge in Texas granting the injunction sought by WCS, of Houston. WCS and DOE had disagreed on whether the agency had the discretion to require WCS to obtain a state permit for a dump in Texas before it would allow the company to bid on the Fernald contract. WCS sued DOE after the department denied it the disposal contract for the Fernald site.

On July 6, the District Court granted a motion by WCS to dismiss the case. WCS spokesman John Kyte said the company realized "that our claim was premature and ... that WCS can pursue its due process and procedural claims against DOE [later] should WCS so choose."

WCS also had sued Envirocare, alleging libel and antitrust violations. That suit is still pending.

Alkema said the first waste shipment from Fernald is expected in April 1999. The total tonnage to be shipped from Fernald over the first year is roughly between 68,000 and 70,000 tons, a DOE official said.

For now, Fernald site officials are moving forward with plans for a \$23.5-million waste processing facility. The Environmental Protection Agency approved design plans for it last month. Ground breaking, officials said, could come as early as the end of this month.

Once the facility is built, officials can make an assessment about whether the waste materials need to be crushed, shredded or dried. The facility also will measure and monitor the radiological levels in the waste and determine whether they are acceptable to the waste criteria for disposal. Ultimately, the goal is to produce a railcar unloading facility as the material is processed. CSX Transportation railroad runs a branch line that feeds into the Fernald site, an official said. The facility will be adjacent to the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project (WPRAP) in the northwest corner of the site. IT Corp. will build and operate the facility.

For the Fernald project, about 1 million tons of soil contaminated with uranium and thorium and some chemical contaminants, such as arsenic and lead, will be disposed of.

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