

FERNALD FACT SHEET ~ WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT



From 1952 to 1989, the Fernald site produced 500 million pounds of pure uranium metal products for the nation's Cold War defense program. When the site ceased operations in 1989 because of declines in demand for Fernald's products and increasing environmental concerns, 31 million net pounds of nuclear product, 2.5 billion pounds of waste and 2.5 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris remained on site. Since then, Fernald workers have been dedicated to the environmental remediation of the 1,050-acre site.

During the site's transition from uranium metal production to remediation, Fernald management faced three main issues: identifying the magnitude of both on-site and off-site contamination; developing cleanup plans to address that contamination; and long-term disposition of nuclear materials. In 1996, Fernald resolved the first two issues when it completed a 10-year environmental site investigation to determine contamination levels and develop cleanup plans. The investigation resulted in Records of Decision, or final cleanup plans, for five operable units. Operable Unit 3 (OU 3), which is the former production area, included nuclear material disposition, which is the focus of the Waste Management Project.

The plan for OU3 includes removing nuclear materials from the ten major processing plants; safe shutdown, which entailed cleaning out process lines, pipes and equipment and isolating utilities; decontaminating and dismantling buildings; and disposal of most demolition debris in an engineered On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF). Fluor Fernald completed safe shutdown of the processing plants in 1999, two years ahead of schedule and \$7 million under budget.

PHOTO: A technician packages uranium slugs, one of Fernald's products during the processing years, in preparation for off-site shipment (7368-D0097).

WASTE MANAGEMENT