



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

3624

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Bob Taft, Governor
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April 16, 2001

Ms. Kimberly Tate
Contract Specialist
U.S. DOE - Ohio Field Office
P.O. Box 3020
Miamisburg, OH 45334-3020

RECEIVED
B-1124
APR 16 9 26 AM '01

RE: FERNALD COST RECOVERY GRANT AWARD NUMBER DE-FG24-99OH20096

Dear Ms. Tate:

Attached please find Ohio EPA's Quarterly Report for the period January 1, 2001 through March 31, 2001 detailing activities related to the Cost Recovery Grant.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Schneider
Fernald Project Manager
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight

cc w/o enc: Graham Mitchell, Chief, OFFO
Pat Campbell, Fiscal Officer, DERR
John Brown, Fernald Site Auditor
Steve McCracken, DOE Fernald
Jim Beaton, Grants Administrator, Fiscal
cc w/ enc: Kathi Nickel, DOE Fernald

1

**Ohio EPA Office of Federal Facilities Oversight
Cost Recovery Grant Quarterly Report
for the
Second Quarter of FFY01**

JANUARY 2001

HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Collected routine ground water samples from three residential wells near Fernald on January 30th.
- Collected 12 (out of 12) hi-vol samples for airborne particulates from hi-vol monitors at Fernald. Note, some samples weren't collected until the first week in February.
- Continued monitoring for radon and publishing real-time data to the Internet from three locations near the silos and at a background location. Data is not being posted consistently on the web, but data is adequate for monitoring projects.
- Kelly Kaletsky continues to receive community and media attention following his return from a 9 month adventure at the South Pole. He gave a presentation to a brown bag luncheon at Central Office (25 people) and to their adopted school, Lindberg Elementary (50 students). He also made a presentations at St. Bridgid's Elementary in Xenia (35 students) and to the Dayton Chapter of the Kiwanis Club (28 people). He granted another interview to the Dayton Daily News. The story that is to run on 2/1/01 will be more inclusive of day to day life at the South Pole.
- Ohio EPA staff went to SWDO's adopted school, Eastmont Elementary, to discuss opportunities for a native vegetation planting exercise this spring.
- Tom Schneider and Joe Bartoszek submitted two abstracts to the 2001 Annual Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration.

DOCUMENT APPROVALS

- Provided Ohio EPA approval on the following document: 1) A1P3 Implementation Plan; 2) A9P1 PreCert Summary Report (Pending Legal approval); 3) Rqst for Ext. Of Eco Rsrch Reports; 4) A1P3 Part 2 Cert Report; 5) WAC Attainment Rpt for 3A/4A piles; 6) EPLTS DCNs -031, -032,-033; 7) EPLTS DCN-034; 8) Oct. 2000 Reinjection Rpt; 9) A1P3 V/FCN 20720-PSP-0001-4; 10) Silo 1 & 2 AWR Updated Construction Activities; 11) Rock Fill Calcs for Biointrusion Barrier.

DOCUMENT REVIEWS

- Provided review and/or comments to DOE on the following documents: 1) Draft Background Soil Factsheet; 2) AWR Pre-Final Remedial Design; 3) EPLTS Tie-In Plan; 4) Q32000 IEMP Report & Various RTC.

MEETINGS

- One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings:
- Weekly Project Managers conference calls (4); Radon conf. calls (4); OFFO staff meeting; Fernald Team meetings; FCAB Stewardship meeting; FCAB meeting; Progress Briefing; FRESH bi-monthly meeting; Portsmouth tour of Fernald; water

handling capabilities update; Natural Resources meeting; Natural Resource Trustees meetings (3); ISST Meeting; conf. calls on Fernald budget (3); ITRC conference call.

FEBRUARY 2001

HIGHLIGHTS/SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Collected routine surface water samples from seven locations on February 20th.
- Collected (out of 6) hi-vol samples for airborne particulates from hi-vol monitors at Fernald.
- Continued monitoring for radon and publishing real-time data to the Internet from three locations near the silos and at a background location. Collected very little radon data in February because memory was erased from monitors at Paddys Run and Crosby.
- On February 5th, USEPA, DOE, Fluor Fernald and Ohio EPA met to discuss DOE's new baseline for budget and schedule using the \$290 million flat line scenario. \$290 million is substantially below all previous estimates utilized to plan the work at Fernald. DOE did not request adequate funds from Congress to meet it's current obligations under agreements with Ohio and US EPA. This lower funding profile will result in numerous missed milestones as well as jeopardizing the tentative agreement on NRDA settlement between Ohio, Department of Interior and DOE. Additionally, DOE's new contract with Fluor requires Fluor to develop a new baseline optimizing cost and schedule. Fluor's current proposal calls for stopping work on the On-Site Disposal Cell and other successful projects while prioritizing the K-65 Silos project which has been plagued with failures. At the public meeting held the same night, several members of the public were requesting USEPA initiate enforcement actions against DOE.
- On February 5th, OFFO staff participated in the FCAB meeting on the proposed re-baselining at Fernald under the new \$290 million funding profile. See additional details above.
- OFFO staff gave presentations on native wildflowers and grasses to Ross and Crosby Elementary Schools near Fernald, as well as SWDO's Adopt-A-School, Eastmont Elementary in Dayton. The presentations were followed by planting seeds the students will grow. At Ross and Crosby schools, OFFO staff will take the students to a restored area at Fernald to plant them in May. At Eastmont Elementary, the native plants will be used in a project OFFO is working on with the school to develop a prairie garden in the school courtyard. OFFO staff spent a Friday afternoon removing overgrown shrubs and English Ivy from the Eastmont courtyard.
- On February 8, several SWDO staff participated as judges at Eastmont Elementary's Science Fair.
- Kelly Kaletsky made presentations on his Antarctica adventure Feb 5 - Kemp Elementary (35 attendees); Feb. 6th - South Dayton Prep (80 attendees). On Feb.

6th, he met with Dr. Jerri Nelson during an on camera meeting at Channel 2 in Dayton. Dr. Nelson recently published a book on her ordeal with breast cancer during her winter over at the South Pole.

- Excavation was initiated and completed within Area1PhaseIII to remove miscellaneous debris disposal piles. Post construction stabilization (recontouring & seeding) will be completed in March.
- Received report of a broken line between bio-surge lagoon and the AWWT. Uranium contaminated water was released to the pilot plant drainage ditch.
- OFFO, SIU, and DHWM conducted a waste drum management investigation following a complaint from a former Fernald employee.

DOCUMENT APPROVALS

- Provided Ohio EPA approval on the following document: 1) RtC HPGe Core Counter Calibration Rpt; 2) EPLTS DCN DCN-20111-035; 3) EPLTS DCN DCN-20111-036; 4) OSDF Phase III RCI-20103-002R; 5) Nov. 2000 Reinjection Rpt; 6) EPLTS DCN DCN 20111-037; 7) ARASA DCN 924; 8) OSDF Phase II DCN 1702-112; 9) A9P1 CDL; 10) A9P1 Certification PSP; 11) RtC for EPLTS Tie-In Plan; 12) RtC on Rock Fill for Biointrusion Barrier; 13) OSDF Phase III DCN 20103-011.

DOCUMENT REVIEWS

- Provided review and/or comments to DOE on the following documents: 1) Eco Research Report - A8P1 Reveg Plots; 2) Eco Research Report - A1P1 Prairie Grass; 3) Eco Research Report - A1P3 Invasive Control.

MEETINGS

- One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings:
- Weekly Project Managers conference calls (4); Radon conf. calls (4); OFFO staff meeting; Fernald Team meetings; FCAB Stewardship meeting; FCAB meeting; Progress Briefing; budget meeting; Advanced Waste Retrieval conf. call and meeting(2); ITRC conf. call; Eastmont planning meetings; Rad Team conf. calls (2); groundwater MCL conf. call.

TRAINING

- Donna Bohannon attended a Native Plant Symposium.
- Donna Bohannon, Joe Bartoszek, Bill Lohner, Tom Schneider and Michelle Waller attended ORAM v5.0 training at Ohio EPA's Groveport field facility.

MARCH 2001

HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Set and retrieved amphibian/macroinvertebrate funnel traps at 12 locations;

4

- Conducted vegetation monitoring on SP3 test plots.
- Collected 12 (out of 12) hi-vol samples for airborne particulates from hi-vol monitors at Fernald.
- Continued monitoring for radon and publishing real-time data to the Internet from three locations near the silos and at a background location. Collected very little radon data in February because memory was erased from monitors at Paddys Run and Crosby.
- Ohio EPA sent a letter to the DOE Fernald Site Manager expressing our concerns with their proposed re-baselining scenario under the \$290 million flat-line budget. Our concerns include the proposed ceasing of operations at the On-Site Disposal Facility, discontinuation of Natural Resource Restoration, and the path forward for the Silos remediation. USEPA sent a similar letter outlining concerns with DOE's rebaselining.
- Graham Mitchell attended the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) meeting on Saturday, March 10. Overall this meeting was disappointing because, for the first time, the regulators and the FCAB appear to be on different paths. This is mainly because the FCAB accepts the flat funding as reality and is trying to deal with that. From a regulatory standpoint we believe that DOE has never told Congress what they really need for cleanup so the funding process established in our cleanup agreements (both USEPA and OEPA) has never had a chance to work. We also have significant concerns about stopping the On Site Disposal Facility (OSDF), "temporary closure", impacts on ground water, stopping projects that are successful for others that have had problems, as well as CERCLA regulatory issues that require continuous remediation to occur.
- Donna Bohannon, Michelle Waller, Tom Schneider and Joe Bartoszek attended a Watershed Conference in Columbus sponsored by ODNR.
- The 35th train of waste pits materials left for disposal at Envirocare in Utah.
- The above WAC excavation in the production area (3A/4A) began. Soils will be brought to the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project for loading on to trains to Envirocare of Utah.
- Fluor Fernald issued a voluntary reduction in force offer.
- A1P3 debris excavation was started and completed.

DOCUMENT APPROVALS

- Provided Ohio EPA approval on the following document: 1) V/FCN 20200-PSP-0004-4 Area 3A/4A; 2) V/FCN 20402-PSP-0002-19 A2PI; 3) New Monitoring well for South Plume; 4) EPLTS DCN 20111-040; 5) Reinjection Demo Report & RtC; 6) EPLTS DCN 20111-038; 7) OSDF Phase III DCN 20103-012; 8) RtC USEPA and OEPA on A8P2 Research Plan; 9) 2001 IEMP Rev.2 & RtC; 10) A2P2 Part 3 SP3 Footprint Cert Report; 11) Addendum to Background Soil Study; 12) A2P1 AFP Cert Report; 13) A1P2 Cert Report; 14)

EPLTS DCN 20111-039.

DOCUMENT REVIEWS

- Provided review and/or comments to DOE on the following documents: 1) NRDA Letter to DOE; 2) Re-Baseline Letter to DOE; 3) SEP Addendum for background conc.; 4) A8P2 Project Completion Report & Lesson Learned; 5) Am. Chestnut Research Report 2000; 6) RtC for Prescribed Burn Plan; 7) Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Report.

MEETINGS

- One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings:
- Weekly Project Managers conference calls (4); Radon conf. calls (4); OFFO staff meeting; Fernald Team meetings; FCAB Stewardship meeting; FCAB meeting; Progress Briefing; FRESH bi-monthly meeting; STCG meeting; OSDF Vegetation Test meeting; ITRC conference call; OU4 conference call; A9P1 conf call.

TRAINING

- Several OFFO staff participated in the required CPR/First Aid training.
- Donna Bohannon and Michelle Waller attended Brain Power training at Columbus Community College.
- Visual Basic 1 & 2 training was attended by Bill Lohner & Steve Allen.

PRESENTATIONS

- Kelly Kaletsky presented an account of his South Pole adventure to the Dayton Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (30 people) and to the Survival and Flight Equipment Association (SAFE) (55 people).
- Bill Lohner and Tom Schneider presented native restoration information to a representative from the Miamisburg Mound Community re-use Initiative (MMCIC).

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Interviewed internal applicant for Contracts Administrator Position.
- Jim Coon was promoted from Programmatic Issue Coordinator to Network Administrator 2.
- Severe weather destroyed GPS base station antenna requiring replacement.

OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ACTIVITIES

- OEMA continues to review and update the State of Ohio Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Plan and attached USDOE Annex for the FEMP facility. Ohio EMA hosted a meeting of several state agencies to review and revise the plan and sent the plan to 28 state agencies for written comments:

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- Butler County reported that they continue to attend the Cooperative Planning and Training meetings, that they hosted a two day exercise design course, taught six Emergency Response Guidebook courses, and hosted four County Terrorism Threat Assessment Team meetings, which included discussion on the possible threat to Fernald.
- Ohio EMA personnel continues to attend the Cooperative Planning and Training meetings at the Ross Fire House.
- OEMA is working with EPA offices and the counties on the implementation of the DOE funding grant. OEMA continues to administer the CMOG funding program for reimbursement of money to the counties. OEMA continues to track and coordinate the time of all EMA employees that work on issues that relate to DOE facilities.
- Butler County continues to purchase new equipment to upgrade their capabilities in this area, including the new "Communicator Emergency Notification System."
- OEMA continues to upgrade the State EOC as a central notification point and information clearinghouse for incident assessment. Computer software is continuously updated (i.e. CAMEO) with chemical inventories, hazards analyses information, emergency contacts, transportation routes, resources, etc., for responding to incidents or exercises with FEMP.
- OEMA continues to have internal working group meetings to coordinate all OEMA activities regarding DOE facilities, including the shipping of radiological wastes.
- Butler County reports that they continue to purchase equipment for the county's new EOC.
- Ohio EMA continues to receive and disseminate all notifications of shipments to Butler and Hamilton Counties.
- Ohio EMA has requested that Fernald provide a copy of their "Empirical Radon Model" to Ohio EMA and ODH for use in the State of Ohio's Emergency Operations Center Assessment Room. This would increase the capability of the state to assess potential releases of radon from the silo area. As of April 10, 2001, DOE's legal staff is reviewing the request.