



FRIDAY MAILING

8/29/97

INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING ARE:

- Draft Agenda for the September 20, 1997, Meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
- Newsclippings

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Waste Management Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 16, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jamtek Building, 10845 Hamilton Cleves Highway. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the upcoming RFPs for the Silos.
- STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:** There will be a meeting of the Steering Committee on September 17, 1997, at 5:30 p.m. at the Jamtek Building, 10845 Hamilton Cleves Highway to discuss roundtable topics for the September 20, 1997, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.
- EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Efficiency Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 17, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jamtek Building at 10845 Hamilton Cleves Highway. *Please note that the time has changed from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.*
- FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:** The Citizens Advisory Board's next meeting will be Saturday, September 20, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. in the Alpha Building. *Please note that the time has changed from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.*

QUESTIONS:

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

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 Doug FAX: 648-3629 E-MAIL: [REDACTED]



BI-MONTHLY MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

September 20, 1997

Jamtek Building, 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, OH

Please note that the meeting will begin later than usual.

9:30 a.m.
10:00-10:10
10:10-10:30
10:30-10:40
10:40-12:30
12:30 p.m.

Breakfast (optional)
Chair's Remarks and New Business
Committee Reports
Opportunity for Public Comment
Roundtable Discussion on Citizen Advisory Board Membership and Organization. *Please note: The public is invited to attend but this will be a working session of the CAB.*
Adjourn

983
6-710

Other risks at Fernald?

Advisers want to expand health study

BY TIM BONFIELD
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Several members of a Fernald health advisory committee are questioning whether the public wants or needs another multi-million-dollar study focusing on lung cancer risks linked to the former uranium processing plant.

Instead, they want more information about whether Fernald caused other health problems

such as cancers of the kidney, breast and colon, miscarriages, birth defects or learning disabilities.

"I cannot see the benefit (of another lung cancer study)," said Edwa Yocum, a Harrison resident and member of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee. "I feel that we need something that would be of more value to the community."

The 17-member subcommittee met Wednesday and Thursday at the Plantation banquet hall in Harrison. The group was formed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other government agencies to

give advice about what sorts of Fernald-related health studies should be conducted.

At stake are several million dollars in public studies and answers to continuing health questions about Fernald. After more than a year of meetings, serious debate about the studies is just beginning.

From 1951-88, the Fernald plant processed uranium ore into uranium metal, which was then shipped to other plants for use in making nuclear weapons. Experts estimate that Fernald neighbors during those years were exposed to about 340 tons of uranium dust and 170,000

curies of radon gas emitted from the plant.

A "dose reconstruction study" released last year in draft form reported that the pollution caused an increased cancer risk for people who lived near the plant for many years. The big culprit was the radon gas, and experts say the biggest risk from radon gas is lung cancer.

What scientists do not know is how many Fernald neighbors developed lung cancer. Getting an answer requires an epidemiologic study, which tries to identify

(Please see FERNALD,
Page C5)

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August 22, 1997
 Cincinnati Enquirer
 Metro, C1
 "Other risks at Fernald?"
 Reporter: Tim Bonfield
 continued

Fernald: Advised to widen scope

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

all the people who lived near the plant, count how many contracted lung cancer, then see if those who did also were exposed to high doses of radon gas from Fernald.

Such an effort would take several years and would cost several million dollars, said Dr. Owen Devine, a member of the CDC's radiation studies branch. In fact, it will take until February just to determine whether the study is feasible.

The question the health committee debated this week was: Why bother?

One of the biggest benefits from an epidemiological study would be data about the health effects of low-level, long-term radiation exposure. Few studies have been done, Dr. Devine said.

But Dr. Larita Frazier-O'Bannon, a family physician who practices near Northgate Mall, said people with current health problems cannot afford to wait for another multi-year study, especially one that focuses exclusively on lung cancer. What Tristate doctors really need is quick, specific information about what to look for when treating patients who lived near Fernald.

Changing the focus of the health studies can be done, Dr. Devine said. But if the committee wants risk estimates for illnesses other than lung cancer, the CDC would need to put off work on the lung cancer study. "We have limited resources," Dr. Devine said.

Committee member Robert Hanavan, a Fernald neighbor, said a few million dollars for an epidemiological study "would be peanuts" compared to the billions spent building nuclear weapons and cleaning the polluted production sites.

"It was fine to spend all that money before, but now when we're talking about the people who were affected, you're pinching pennies. That's ridiculous," Mr. Hanavan said.

Adding another wrinkle to the debate, several former Fernald workers complained that the health studies discussed so far have focused on neighbors, while excluding workers.

"What about the people inside the fence line?" said committee member Louis Doll, a Fernald union representative.

At least one study has linked lung cancer to workplace exposures at weapons plants, CDC officials said Thursday. To learn more, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health plans a bigger study of lung cancer involving several weapons sites.

However, it has not been decided whether the study will include Fernald workers.

August 14, 1997
Dearborn County Register
2-A, News Briefs
"Fernald meeting slated"

Fernald meeting slated

The Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee will meet Wednesday, Aug. 20, to discuss Centers for Disease Control information on radiation and health effects and the National Academy of Sciences' review of the draft Fernald dose reconstruction report.

There will be an afternoon session from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (DST, fast time), and an evening session, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Both will be at The Plantation, 9660 Dry Fork Road, Harrison.

August 22, 1997

Cincinnati Post

16A

"Fernald group broadens focus"

Reporter: Associated Press

Fernald group broadens focus

Associated Press

A committee looking into health effects of radiation from Fernald's uranium processing operations has decided to focus on general health problems.

The committee had been discussing the possibility of a full epidemiological study into lung cancer among Fernald's residents. But after fielding questions from the public, the committee said Thursday it decided to put the study on hold.

The committee of federal investigators and residents met Wednesday and Thursday in Harrison to discuss the project.

James Smith, a health physicist and chief of radiation studies for the Centers for Disease Control, said the meetings were a success.

"We really feel that this meeting shows public participation at its finest," he said.

Fernald-area residents raised questions about other health risks and decided with the committee to pause.

"We're going to assess the risk for all cancers," and not just lung cancer, Smith said.

Edwa Yocum, a member of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH), said an epidemiological study would generate data for scientists. A risk assessment would be more useful to residents, she said.

Focusing on all health effects "allows us to look for help, or relieve health concerns of community members, in a shorter time," Mrs. Yocum said.

Smith said an epidemiological study would be complicated. A committee fact sheet stated that it would require the extensive gathering of historical records, interviews, medical records and populations records.

The committee, formed in spring 1988, meets in the Fernald area four times a year. The next meeting will take place in November.

Various agencies are investigating the public health impact of radon from Fernald operations from 1951 through 1988.

August 27, 1997

The Cincinnati Post

11A

"Fernald neighbors want confession"

By Associated Press

Fernald neighbors want confession

Associated Press

HARRISON, Ohio — Neighbors of the Fernald nuclear materials processing plant believe Energy Department officials should go to Congress and admit they missed radioactive waste cleanup deadlines.

The Energy Department was fined \$100,000 for missing the deadline and nearby residents want regulators to insist Congress be asked to allocate money to pay the fine which was levied by the EPA.

"It's just the embarrassment factor," said Vicky Dastillung, vice president of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health. "They have to go back before Congress and headquarters and say they need more money — and why they need the money."

Federal regulators also said it was unlikely the Energy Department will meet its 1995 promise to clean up the site by 2005.

August 27, 1997

Journal News

Front Page

"Neighbors of Fernald 'peeved'"

Reporter: John Nolan, Associated Press

Neighbors of Fernald 'peeved'

Group upset at not being consulted on fine

By John Nolan
The Associated Press

HARRISON, Ohio

Neighbors of a former uranium-processing site complained Tuesday that federal regulators did not consult with them before deciding how to punish the U.S. Energy Department for falling behind schedule on cleaning up the site.

"My organization is still upset," said Lisa Crawford, president of FRESH — Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health.

Crawford spoke Tuesday night at a public meeting with officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Decisions were made ... and we were all sort of told," she said. "We're a little peeved about that."

The EPA has proposed fining the Energy Department \$100,000 and making it pay for five research grants totaling \$1 million for ecological restoration of the site.

The DOE has fallen behind negotiated schedules to remove and treat radium wastes stored in concrete silos on the 1,050-acre site in southwest Butler County and northwest Hamilton County.

The Fernald plant processed uranium for the government's nuclear weapons from 1951 to 1989.

The Energy Department, which owns the site, has missed several deadlines it negotiated with the EPA to remove, treat and dispose of hundreds of thousands of tons of radioactive waste.

The agency's current problem resulted because of the failure of its test plant to encapsulate wastes in mar-

ble-sized glass chunks for disposal at the Energy Department's test site in Nevada.

Jack Saric, an EPA regulator overseeing the Fernald cleanup, promised to provide area residents with more information about the proposed fine.

Saric said, however, that the proposal likely will not have to be changed much and will be made final in October.

Vicky Dastillung, vice president of FRESH, said the fine, while not huge, will work.

"I don't think the fine has to be particularly large," Dastillung said. "It's just the embarrassment factor. They have to go back before Congress and (Washington) headquarters and say they need more money and why they need the money."

The EPA has proposed fining the Energy Department \$100,000 and making it pay for five research grants totaling \$1 million for ecological restoration of the Fernald site.

August 29, 1997

Journal News

A4

"N.J. company to demolish buildings"

Reporter: The Associated Press

N.J. company to demolish buildings

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI

A government contractor cleaning radioactive waste at the former Fernald uranium processing plant has awarded a \$5 million contract to a New Jersey company for a building demolition job.

National Service Cleaning Energy Services, of Thorofare, N.J., is to dismantle 11 buildings within two years, officials at the Fernald site said Thursday.

August 29, 1997
Cincinnati Enquirer
Metro, C6
"More Fernald buildings to fall"
Reporter: Tim Bonfield

More Fernald buildings to fall

N.J. firm will demolish Plant 9

BY TIM BONFIELD

The Cincinnati Enquirer

CROSBY TOWNSHIP — Fluor Daniel Fernald, the company overseeing the cleanup at the former Fernald uranium processing plant, has awarded a \$5 million contract to a New Jersey company to demolish another set of buildings at the plant.

National Service Cleaning Energy Services, of Thorofare, N.J., is expected to take about two years to raze Fernald's Plant 9, a complex that was used to process and store uranium and thorium.

The project involves tearing down seven structures, including the Plant 9 building, four warehouses and two decontamination buildings. Work is to begin in October.

The Plant 9 job is the fifth major demolition project at Fernald. Contractors have imploded Plants 1, 4 and 7, and have begun tearing down a former boiler plant.

Standard demolition techniques will be used for Plant 9, instead of implosion, because the buildings aren't tall, said Fluor Daniel Fernald spokeswoman Julie Doering.

The Fernald plant, known for-

mally as the Feed Materials Production Center, processed uranium ore and thorium as part of the nation's nuclear-weapons program from 1951 until 1989, when it was closed for cleanup.

Since winning a \$2 billion contract in 1992 to run the cleanup, Fluor Daniel's efforts have included demolishing several buildings, starting treatment of contaminated groundwater, and shipping thousands of barrels of low-level radioactive waste off site.

However, problems and delays have plagued the job, and have cost the contractor more than \$26 million in penalty fees and lost performance bonuses.