



FRIDAY MAILING

10/24/97

INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING ARE:

- ARASA News Release "Fernald Awards Cleanup Subcontract to Remediate Waste Pits"
- Draft Agenda for the November 15, 1997, Fernald Citizens Advisory Board meeting
- Memo from John Applegate to CAB members Re: Closure Projects
- Excerpts from Conference Committee Report "Energy and Water Development Appropriation Bill and Report Summary (H.R. 2203, Report 105-271)" on Closure Projects
- Newsclippings

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:** The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board will hold its next meeting on November 15, 1997, at 8:30 a.m. in the Alpha Building.
- COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION MEETING:** The monthly CRO meeting will be held on November 18, 1997, at 6:00 p.m. in the Ross High School Media Center, 3425 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.
- WASTE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Waste Transportation Committee of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board will meet on November 24, 1997, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jamtek Building, 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.
- NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Natural and Cultural Resources Committee of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board will meet on November 24, 1997, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Jamtek Building.
- FERNALD MONTHLY PROGRESS MEETING:** The Fernald Monthly Progress Meeting will be held on November 25, 1997, at 6:00 p.m. in the Alpha Building, Classroom D. The first part of the meeting will consist of the regular monthly briefing and the remainder of the meeting will focus on the Silos.
Please note: The meeting is not being held on the normally scheduled second Tuesday of the month because November 11th is Veteran's Day.

QUESTIONS:

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

John Fax: 281-3331

E-Mail: john.applegate@law.uc.edu

Doug Fax: 648-3629

E-Mail: [REDACTED]



Fernald Environmental Management Project
P. O. Box 538704
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8704
FEMP Web site: <http://www.fernaid.gov>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 21, 1997

NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS

Gary Stegner
DOE-FEMP Information Officer
513-648-3153
gary_stegner@fernaid.gov

Tricia Thompson
Fluor Daniel Fernald Public Affairs director
513-648-4068
tricia_thompson@fernaid.gov

Fernald Awards Cleanup Subcontract to Remediate Waste Pits

CINCINNATI, Oct. 21, 1997 -- Fluor Daniel Fernald has awarded a \$122 million, eight-year subcontract to International Technology (IT) Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pa., to plan and implement on-site remediation activities for six waste pits, a clearwell and a burn pit at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP).

"After excavating the waste pits and surrounding contaminated soils, IT will then process the waste materials to meet strict waste acceptance standards, and load the materials into railcars for off-site shipment," commented Dave Lojek, DOE-FEMP Project Manager.

Following an extensive competitive proposal process, Fluor Daniel Fernald awarded the subcontract to IT, the best overall evaluated offeror. In addition to evaluating the offerors' total project cost, Fluor Daniel Fernald evaluated several technical factors, including: overall understanding of the project and operational scheme; health and safety program and performance records; experience of proposed key personnel; and experience in employing thermal treatment technology.

"IT, who selected Babcock and Wilcox Nuclear Environmental Services, Inc. (B&W-NESI) as its teaming partner, has thermally treated more waste materials than any other firm in the remediation business," commented Fluor Daniel Fernald Project Director Bob Fellman. "Both IT and B&W-NESI also have hands-on experience working at Fernald."

"The subcontract is unique to the Fernald site because the remedial action subcontractor must finance construction and capital investment costs up-front, with reimbursement from Fluor Daniel Fernald after receipt of the product," said Fellman. "This approach places more responsibility for performance on IT by focusing the subcontractor's efforts and giving it a real stake in the project's success. Compared with the traditional project approach, our preliminary projections show that there will be a cost savings by proceeding this way."

IT will begin planning and design activities in October 1997; construction is scheduled to begin in July 1998; and waste excavation, processing, and railcar loading will start in March 1999. The project is scheduled to be complete by May 2005, including decontamination and dismantling of the waste pit remediation facilities.

-- MORE--

Operable Unit 1 waste pits cover approximately 37 acres of the 1,050-acre Fernald site and range in depth from 13 to 30 feet. More than 1 million tons of contaminated materials are associated with the cleanup of the waste pits.

The Fernald Environmental Management Project is a DOE site being remediated under a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act agreement between the DOE and EPA. Fluor Daniel Fernald is managing the cleanup under contract with DOE.

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BI-MONTHLY MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

November 15, 1997

Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, OH

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (optional)
8:30- 8:40	Opening Remarks
8:40- 9:00	Committee Reports
9:00- 9:15	Review of Site Tour
9:15- 10:15	Prioritization and Long-Term Planning
10:15- 10:30	Break
10:30- 11:45	Overhead Cost Reduction
11:45- 12:00	Public Comment
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn



MEMORANDUM

TO: Citizens Advisory Board Members
FROM: John Applegate
SUBJECT: Closure Fund
DATE: October 23, 1997

Following this memo are excerpts from the Conference Committee report "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill and Report Summary (H.R. 2203, Report 105-271)." This report reflects a new approach to appropriations at Fernald. Under this plan, Fernald and Rocky Flats has been shifted into a separate grouping under the Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management budget, entitled the Defense Facilities Closure Projects. The reason behind this move is to ensure that appropriate funds are allocated and that these sites maintain their visibility. Under this plan, Fernald has been allocated \$258 million for FY98. This amount is several million dollars less than they had requested, but these funds do not rely on privatization funding. Additionally, Congress has requested that DOE produce a report within 60 days with the intent to limit the amount of bureaucracy through which closure projects must report to make decisions.

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funding, \$4.0M is provided for the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP). The conferees agree that the Department is to provide to the Committee on Appropriations a list of each research grant that has been funded, a description of what cleanup problem is to be addressed, and how the grantee is to interact with the Department and field sites to address the specific problems.

Environmental Management Privatization. An appropriation of \$200.0M is recommended for the environmental management privatization initiative. This funding is to be allocated consistent with the direction provided in the FY 1998 National Defense Authorization Act. An additional \$32.1M for the two privatization projects proposed for Fernald, Ohio, has been provided in the Defense Facilities Closure Projects account.

The conferees support statements in the Senate committee report on the importance of the tank waste remediation system (TWRS) privatization project. TWRS is an absolutely essential cleanup priority for the Hanford site. The conferees further believe that the funds provided by the conference agreement are sufficient for TWRS to proceed on schedule. Combined with last year's appropriation, the total budget authority provided by Congress for TWRS underscores the commitment to see this project completed.

The conferees also recognize the importance of meeting cleanup milestones at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in the court-ordered settlement agreement between the Department and the State of Idaho. Adequate funds should be provided for this purpose.

Program Direction. The conference agreement provides \$345.0M for program direction activities. The Department will carry unobligated balances into FY 1998 which will increase the funding available in this account.

Economic Development. The conference agreement maintains the current policy that no cleanup funds are to be used for economic development activities. The conferees have provided \$61.1M in the Worker and Community Transition program which was established and authorized to fund such activities, and expect all economic development activities to be funded from that program.

Defense Facilities Closure Projects. The conferees have appropriated \$890.8M for the Defense Facilities Closure Projects account. The Department requested \$15.0M for closure projects as part of the Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management appropriation account. The conference agreement has established a separate appropriation account for closure projects to provide maximum visibility and accountability for program activities.

The conferees are pleased that the Department now supports a 2006 closure date for the Rocky Flats site in Colorado. With a relatively small increase in funding over the budget request in FY 1998, it is anticipated that total project costs of \$1.0B can be saved. The Department's budget included \$598.9M for Rocky Flats in various program accounts including \$44.0M funded in the Weapons Activity account for safeguards activities. The conference agreement consolidates all of

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this funding and provides an additional \$33.2 for a total of \$632.1M for cleanup activities.

Current cost projections indicate that closing the Fernald, Ohio, site by 2006 would cost approximately \$2.5B, while closing it by 2011 increases costs to approximately \$2.8M. The conferees' recommendation of \$258.7M provides the budget request from the environmental restoration program, \$1.2M for safeguards from the Weapons Activities appropriations, \$25.2M for the Waste Pits Remedial Action project, and \$6.9M for the Silo 3 Residue Waste Treatment project.

As part of the FY 1999 budget submittal, the Department is directed to provide adequate detail showing the cost, scope, schedule, and technical assumptions which support these project closures by 2006. The Department is directed to ensure that the budget justifications provide adequate detail to permit Congress to track closure projects on an annual basis.

The current management and organization structure in the Environmental Management program at the Department does not lend itself to the successful management of dynamic projects with established completion dates and fixed price costs. Federal management of such projects requires skills quite different from the level of effort activities often performed at DOE sites. The Department is directed to provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 60 days of enactment of this bill with a detailed plan outlining a proposed project management structure which reduces the numerous layers of Federal bureaucracy through which closure projects must report.

Other Defense Activities. An appropriation of \$1,666.0M is recommended by the conferees for other defense activities. The conference agreement includes the Senate language providing that funds are available until expended.

Nonproliferation and National Security. The Conference agreement provides \$658.3M for nonproliferation and national security activities. Within the funding for arms control, a total of \$29.6M is provided for the Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention (IPP). The House language requiring a separate report on the IPP program is eliminated. However, the conferees expect the Department to ensure that these funds are used only for activities directly related to preventing the exodus of nuclear weapons scientists from the former Soviet Union. From within available funds for arms control, the conference agreement provides \$10.0M for nuclear material security at a site in Kazakstan.

Security Investigations. An appropriation of \$30.0M, an increase of \$10.0M over the budget request, is provided for this program. The conferees are aware that the Department's budget request was not sufficient to support the necessary number of security clearances required in FY 1998.

NN Program Direction. The conference agreement provides \$82.9M for program direction activities. The conferees direct the Department to meet the Strategic Alignment Initiative personnel ceilings which have been established for the nonproliferation and

October 24, 1997
 Cincinnati Enquirer
 Front Page
 "Fernald, DOE get another F"
 Reporter: Paul Barton

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Fernald, DOE get another 'F'

Nuclear cleanup effort scorned

BY PAUL BARTON
 Enquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A watchdog group charged Thursday that the Department of Energy is still largely failing in its efforts to clean up radioactive wastes at Fernald and other former Cold War production sites.

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research of Tacoma Park, Md., recently examined waste management efforts at Fernald and Hanford, Wash.

It also looked at the handling of plutonium and plutonium-related wastes at other sites to get a feel for the effectiveness of the nationwide effort.

"Our analysis has led us to the conclusion that the prospects of DOE succeeding are poor, despite the billions of dollars that DOE spends every year," said Marc Fioravanti, staff engineer for the institute.

The nationwide cleanup budget is close to \$5.6 billion annually.

At Fernald, the IEER examined the pilot effort to vitrify, or turn into glass, nuclear waste kept in three large silos.

"It has so far been an utter failure by any reasonable set of criteria," the group concluded.

"DOE and its contractor, Fluor Daniel, have shown a lack of basic engineering judgment, improper design and construction procedures and weak oversight. The waste was not well characterized and the treatment technology was not well-tested," the study found.

The Energy Department's Fernald office did not reply to a request for comment.

The IEER report is the latest criticism of the Fernald cleanup since the problems were uncovered by the *Enquirer* in a series of stories that began in February 1996. As a result of the articles, the U.S. General Accounting Office investigated the cleanup. In May, the Energy Department stripped Fluor of the vitrification part of the project, citing findings of the GAO that confirmed the *Enquirer* reports.

October 22, 1997

Journal News

Front Page

"Firm to treat Fernald waste"

Reporter: Nicholas G. Jonson

Firm to treat Fernald waste

\$122M cleanup contract awarded



Submitted photo

Fluor Daniel Fernald announced Tuesday that a Pittsburgh environmental engineering firm will treat 1 million tons of radioactive waste stored in pits seen at top of photo.

By Nicholas G. Jonson
Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Fluor Daniel Fernald, principal cleanup contractor at the Fernald plant, awarded a multi-million dollar contract Tuesday to treat more than a million tons of radioactive waste.

Fluor Daniel officials awarded the eight-year, \$122 million contract to Pittsburgh-based International Technology Corp., an environmental engineering firm.

International Technology

spokesman Richard R. Conte said the company will design, build and operate a thermal drying facility to treat about 140,000 tons of waste per year.

Once treated, the waste will be loaded onto rail cars for shipment to a disposal facility yet to be chosen.

Fluor Daniel project director Bob Fellman said contract to IT was unique to Fernald, because IT must first finance the construction and capital investment as part of the agreement.

Fluor Daniel Fernald will buy treated waste from IT for off-

site disposal only after the company has met U.S. Environmental Protection Agency waste-treating standards.

"This approach places more responsibility for performance on IT by focusing the subcontractor's efforts and giving it a real stake in the project's success," Fellman said. "Compared with the traditional project approach, our preliminary projections show that there will be a cost savings by proceeding this way."

U.S. Department of Energy spokesman Gary Stegner said IT engineers will begin the project's planning and design phase later this month, with

construction scheduled to begin in July 1998.

Waste excavation, processing and rail-car loading will start in March 1999, Stegner said. Project completion is expected in May 2005.

Fluor Daniel engineers have been preparing the waste pit area for the final remediation since April 1996.

IT will excavate, pre-treat and dry 1 million tons of low-level radioactive waste from six pits, a burn pit and a retention basin on the site.

The waste pits, in the northwest corner of the site, cover 37 acres and range in depth from 13 to 30 feet.

October 22, 1997

Journal News

Front Page

"Couple shows folks still care"

Reporter: Lee Fletcher

Couple shows folks still care

By Lee Fletcher
Journal News

HAMILTON

Good samaritans still exist. Fluor Daniel Fernald employees Joe and Theresa Schomaker are proof.

While driving home on New Haven Road the evening of Sept. 15, they passed a teen-age boy who was in-line skating.

"I remember turning to my husband and saying that the boy might get hurt, because it was getting dark, and I noticed that he didn't have any protective gear on," Theresa said.

She turned around and saw that the boy was down by the side of the road.

"Our first thought was that he had been hit by a car," she said.

The couple immediately pulled over.

Theresa, a trained emergency medical technician, went to assess the boy's condition while Joe ran to their house a few doors away to get her medic bag and call for an ambulance.

"I thought he was unconscious

EVERYBODY HAS A STORY

at first but then he started to move. I immediately immobilized him," Theresa said. "He had a hematoma, or swelling, on the right side of his head, and he complained of back and hip pain. The boy was skating at a pretty good speed. He thought a car had passed him and spooked him, causing him to fall."

The boy, 14, was transported to the Franciscan Medi Center in Harrison. Theresa went with him.

He received X-rays and was diagnosed with a twisted back and a bruised head.

"This was the first time I've had to stop when I'm not on duty. That's just what you do when you're an EMT, or you work with the fire department. It's just a natural reaction," she said.

Joe commented, "We're just glad he's OK. I think anybody would have done what we did. It's times like these when Theresa's being an EMT can really make a difference."



Submitted photo

Joe and Theresa Schomaker of Crosby Township recently stopped to help an injured skater.