



FRIDAY MAILING

1/23/98

INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING ARE:

- Letter from Tom Wagner to Jack Craig (re: White Metal Box Incidents)
- Newsclippings

MEETINGS:

- COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION MEETING:** The next CRO meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ross High School Media Center, 3425 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.
- FERNALD CLEANUP PROGRESS BRIEFING:** The February Fernald Monthly Cleanup Progress Briefing will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.

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]



January 17, 1998

Mr. Jack Craig
US Dept. of Energy- FEMP
PO Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253

Dear Mr. Craig:

I am writing to transmit the concerns and preliminary recommendations of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board with regard to the recent incidents of leaking white metal boxes. I want to thank you for the rapid notification of the CAB and area stakeholders and for the thorough briefing we received from your staff.

Based on our understanding of the incidents, we feel that the potential risk to public health appears minimal. However, we are extremely concerned about the consequences of this event on the ability to meet the cleanup goals at Fernald in a safe and cost-effective manner. While we recognize that it is easier to look back and judge what "should" have been done, than to try to account for every possible contingency, we believe there are some areas of real concern here. The problems that are of greatest concern point to system failures that we feel must be overcome.

As such, we believe it is essential that the current type B investigation fully explore not just the technical explanation of what occurred, but a much fuller explanation of why it occurred and the identification of the reasonable measures that need to be taken to provide additional safeguards for future shipments. We have no desire to add greatly to the already significant costs of responding to this incident, but an incomplete report at this time will only lead to a much more expensive and time-consuming second investigation, further delaying our ability to resume off-site shipment of Fernald materials. For this reason, we offer the following areas for which clear information and recommendations are needed.

Chair
John S. Applegate

Vice Chair
James C. Bierer

Members
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pamela Dunn
Constance Fox, M.D.
Darryl D. Huff
Dan McElroy
Robert G. Tabor
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

Ex Officio
L. French Bell
Jack Craig
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell

- 1) **The design of the white metal boxes.** In our discussions this week, it was immediately apparent to several members of our committee that the design of the box at the point where the runners were attached was faulty. By stopping short of the edge of the box, the runner clearly would concentrate stress at one of the weaker points on the box. Adding a spot weld at this point appears to only further decrease the structural integrity of the box. When questioned, no one who provided our briefing knew how the boxes were actually designed or by whom. Though the manufacturer had to meet certain specifications, it appears likely that the runners were treated as a functional aspect of the design but not considered in the actual structural design. Instead, the structural design probably focused on the materials and welding of the box itself. It does not appear that, as a practical matter, anyone was in charge of ensuring the integrity of the overall box and was the design and attachment of the runners specifically considered.
- 2) **The testing of the white metal boxes.** We understand the boxes were thoroughly tested, but again it appears that the tests largely focused on weld strength using sudden impact tests. What was done to try to simulate the repetitive stresses associated with truck travel?
- 3) **The lack of redundant systems.** Trouble with the white metal boxes is not new. It was known by experience that they can and will leak. The risks associated with these leaks given the materials we are shipping are relatively minor. However, the political ramifications of potentially contaminated water leaking from the rear doors of a trailer in Kingman, Arizona, are potentially disastrous. Given that waste was placed directly in these single-walled boxes that have leaked in the past and nothing was done to contain potential leaks within the vehicle is a gross oversight in our minds. Even worse, given that these vehicles are not owned by the DOE, placing these boxes directly on a porous surface such as the wooden-floor trailers that are used, presents a greater risk of spreading contamination well beyond the original container. Obtaining trailers with a pan-type floor is apparently very easy given a history of leaks, why was this simple precaution not taken?
- 4) **Moisture content in the contaminated materials.** Some of the materials being transferred contained relatively high amounts of moisture which was effectively separated from the solids over the course of transport. We do not know enough to suggest that this moisture content presents additional risks to the disposal of this

material at NTS, however the presence of this moisture certainly necessitates a different approach to the packaging of materials for transport. Even the smallest of holes in a container as large as these boxes will result in a leak of liquids that would not occur with solid materials. It would appear that this probability was not given adequate consideration.

- 5) **Systems planning approaches and learning from mistakes.** All of the above issues point to gaps in the overall planning of this project. We know how diligently the site works at creating a safe work environment. We also know how easily small gaps in oversight and system design can undermine all that hard work. Several such gaps appear to be in place here. In addition, it does not appear that the site responded to problems that occurred previously to avoid the kind of event that happened in Kingman. There seems to be very little information available about the two previous leaking boxes discovered in Nevada. What investigations were done, who was empowered at the receiving site to do investigations and make recommendations? Even without knowing how the boxes leaked, what consideration was given to incorporating redundant systems or changing the flooring materials in the trailers to prevent future leaks from presenting a problem?

The CAB has long been a proponent of greater integration of project activities across the site and for taking a big-picture view of site remediation. The results of the current investigation may provide insights that could benefit a review all site operations from a systems point of view to ensure that we have the right systems and personnel in place to keep the site remediation on track. The CAB will be discussing this incident further as more information becomes available and would like to assist DOE in any way we can to overcome this issue and resume shipping from Fernald. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I you have any further questions regarding CAB activities.

Sincerely,



Thomas Wagner

Chair, Transportation Committee

January 22, 1998
Journal News
Local/State, A3
"DOE, Fluor Daniel agree to wider options"
Reporter: Nicholas G. Jonson

DOE, Fluor Daniel agree to wider options

New treatment choices could delay cleanup of Fernald

By Nicholas G. Jonson
Journal News

CROSBY TOWNSHIP

In a decision that stands to delay the cleanup of the former Fernald uranium processing plant, officials have decided to give waste-disposal companies additional options for treating several tons of low-level radioactive waste stored in one of three silos.

The decision, made by officials from the U.S. Department of Energy and its principal cleanup contractor, Fluor Daniel Fernald, came in response to allegations

by a citizens group that the DOE and Fluor Daniel had narrowed the options available to potential cleanup contractors.

Lisa Crawford, president of the Fernald Citizen Advisory Board, said at a recent board meeting that a request for cleanup proposals issued in December neglected to mention that the 3,900 cubic yards of waste in Silo 3 could be treated off site.

Instead, the request limited the number of treatment options available to potential contractors

by requiring them to treat the waste at Fernald using existing systems developed by Fluor Daniel.

"You've limited the options available to them," said Pam Dunn, a member of the advisory board. "You've narrowed the scope."

Johnny Reising, a senior DOE official, said after the meeting that although vendors were asked to provide input on the viability of treating the waste off site, the request itself

focused on treating the waste at Fernald.

Only three of the 16 vendors that responded to the request provided input on the off-site treatment option, Reising said.

Nina Akgunduz, Silos Project team leader for the DOE, said that before any waste could be transferred to an off-site treatment facility, it first would have to be pretreated at Fernald.

Additional funds would be needed to construct the pretreatment facilities, and Fluor Daniel

and DOE officials would be required to monitor the off-site treatment, Akgunduz said. The resulting costs would offset any advantages in treating the waste at another site.

For those reasons, the off-site treatment option was not included in the original request she said.

Because of the revision, Akgunduz said it was unclear when the final request would be issued. Tentative plans called for the request to be released in March.

"We don't have a good feeling yet on the time line," Akgunduz said.

January 22, 1998
The Cincinnati Enquirer
Page B13

"2 minority firms to be feted tonight"... "CMSDC: Minority firms feted tonight"
By Lisa Blank Fasig

2 minority firms to be feted tonight

BY LISA BLANK FASIG
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Building and design are fitting themes for a ceremony honoring companies that strengthen minority business. At tonight's annual Awards and Kick Off Banquet of the Cincinnati Minority Suppliers Development Council Inc., two such providers will be recognized.

Hats off to Phyllon Marketing Communications and TYS Construction Services Inc., which will be honored as minority suppliers of the year in two sales categories. North Avondale-based Phyllon has sales of less than \$1 million, and TYS in Bond Hill reports sales in the \$1 million to \$10 million range.

A third category, for companies with sales in excess of \$10 million a year, received no nominations.

Fiur Daniel Fernald will accept the 1997 Corporation of the Year award for the relationships it has developed with minority-owned companies.

CMSDC, an affiliate of the

If you go

► **What:** CMSDC's Annual Awards and Kick-Off Banquet.

► **When:** 6 p.m. today, dinner at 7.

► **Where:** Hyatt Regency Cincinnati.

► **Admission:** \$45.

Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, develops economic links between minority-owned companies and major corporations.



T. Stuckey

"These companies represent, actually, role models, in terms of what we consider viable minority businesses," said Darraugh C. Butler, president of CMSDC.

● TYS is familiar with the win.
(Please see CMSDC, Page B13)

CMSDC: Minority firms feted tonight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B14

ner's circle. In September, the local and regional chapters of the Cincinnati Minority Business Development Center nominated it for the national Minority Business Enterprise of the Year award.

Owner Tyrone Stuckey said getting that close is a testament to his staff's dedication. "The local recognition again reflects the hard work of the employees at TYS," he said.

In the past year, the 9-year-old TYS has worked with the University of Cincinnati, Procter & Gamble Co. and Warm Bros. Construction Co. Projects include Louisville Redbird Stadium, Fountain Place and the Indiana Pacer's arena in Indianapolis.

► A deal with Toyota drove home

the award for Phyllon Marketing, owner Kevin Armstrong said he thought.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing contacted Phyllon to promote an annual trade fair that links its suppliers with minority business owners. The show, in Cincinnati for the first time in November, attracted 220 suppliers and 1,100 minority businesses.

"It was the kind of an assignment an entrepreneur both dreams of and fears," said Mr. Armstrong, a former writer and editor with Time Life Books. "It was a huge, huge undertaking."

But it has led to further prospects. Namely, continuing to work with Toyota and the trade show.

Mr. Armstrong founded Phyllon seven years ago.

January 19, 1998

Journal News

Local/State, A3

"Waste retrieval plan at Fernald approved"

Reporter: Nicholas G. Jonson

1237

Waste retrieval plan at Fernald approved

By Nicholas G. Jonson
Journal News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Waste management experts at Fernald have approved an accelerated cleanup plan for two of the four silos at the former uranium processing site. A team of public and private experts studying the proposal said the accelerated plan would cost \$16 million more than the amount currently budgeted to clean up the silos. But team members said the strategy could cut the time for final closure of the Silos Project by as much as six years.

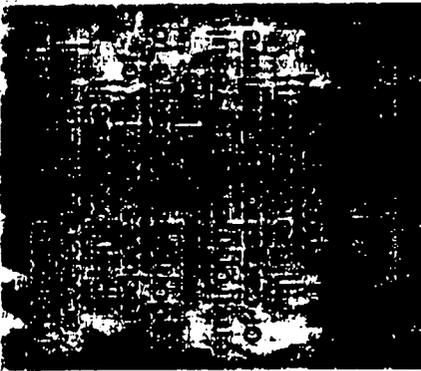
The accelerated retrieval process would involve extracting almost 10,000 metric tons of radium-bearing waste stored in Silos 1 and 2. The material would then be processed and

stored in 10 steel-encased holding tanks, ready for disposal once the chosen method of treatment is decided upon, according to team members.

The waste stored in Silos 1 and 2 has been releasing radon gas since the plant's production years. A study released in 1997 by the Centers for Disease Control said the greatest threat of radioactive contamination to residents living around the site came from inhaling radon gas.

Once the radioactive material is stored in the tanks, the soil surrounding the silos can be excavated and the silos themselves can be leveled.

Richard Maurer, Silos 1 and 2 project manager for Fluor Daniel Fernald, the U.S. Department of Energy's principal cleanup contractor for the site, said moving forward with the accelerated



plan is the first step in bringing the silos project to a close.

Because engineers will have to retrieve the waste anyway, the question is whether to retrieve it sooner and have it ready for treatment vs. waiting until a

waste disposal contractor is hired to retrieve and process the waste for shipment, Maurer said.

Chemical engineer Gail Bingham, one of the waste management experts to review the proposal, said one of its major drawbacks was that it would incur additional cost for the building and maintenance of holding tanks.

Nevertheless, the team endorsed the accelerated retrieval plan because it reduces the risk of radon gas exposure to humans and the environment as a result of catastrophic failure in the treatment process, Bingham said.

DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald engineers are drafting a proposal for the treatment of Silo 1 and 2 waste.

The final proposal is expected to be released in late spring.

January 12, 1998

Weapons Complex Monitor

Page 3

"Fernald Still Leads All Other Sites for LLRW Shipments to NTS"

FERNALD STILL LEADS ALL OTHER SITES FOR LLRW SHIPMENTS TO NTS

The Fernald Environmental Management Project continues to lead all other sites for the number of shipments and total volume of low-level radioactive waste sent to the Nevada Test Site in FY98, despite a suspension of deliveries from Fernald while the Department of Energy investigates the Dec. 16 leak of a shipment en route to NTS (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 8 Nos. 50 & 51, 52). Fernald has sent 35 shipments totaling 62,885 cubic feet of waste this fiscal year. Rocky Flats has sent the second-highest amount—13 shipments totaling 19,076 cubic feet of waste. Nevada Operations Office has released a summary of the LLRW received by NTS through the week ending Dec. 28 (*see chart*): NTS has received 89 shipments totaling 116,878 cubic feet of LLRW from eight sites in FY98. ◀

January 12, 1998

Weapons Complex Monitor

Page 2

"Fernald to Stop Shipments to Envirocare in March"

1237

FERNALD TO STOP SHIPMENTS TO ENVIROCARE IN MARCH?

Mixed-waste shipments to Envirocare from Fernald may be in jeopardy come March. The U.S. District Court injunction prohibiting the Department of Energy from refusing Waste Control Specialists bids to accept waste (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 8 Nos. 37 & 38) may mean DOE cannot automatically renew the Envirocare contract, which expires in March. Since contracting with Envirocare in 1994, DOE has automatically renewed the contract annually. However, each one-year extension might be construed legally as a new contract. If this is the case, and DOE is forced to begin entertaining competing offers from WCS, "we'll have to stop shipping in March," explained Fluor Daniel Fernald's Keith Sparks. "We will have no option for disposition." He added that FDF would continue preparing and packaging waste for shipment, while awaiting a new arrangement for acceptance. ◀

January 12, 1998
Weapons Complex Monitor
Page 10

"At Fernald.....Funds to Support Entrepreneurial Companies"

AT FERNALD FUNDS TO SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPANIES

The Fernald Community Reuse Organization has applied for a \$50,000 grant to the Ohio Department of Development, to subsidize would-

be entrepreneurs within the communities surrounding the site. If approved, funding could be available to the CRO in March.

January 14, 1998
 The Harrison Press
 Page 2B
 "Township happenings"
 Reporter: Gary Storer

1237

Township happenings

It's time to make your new year's resolution. I, as well as Mr. Timothy I. Ingram, health commissioner, encourage you to take charge of your health. Cancer is a local newsmaker, and with good reason. It is the second leading cause of death in Hamilton County. Many cases are preventable. *Scientific American* states that "More than half of the cancer deaths in the U.S. — perhaps even 60 percent can be attributed to tobacco smoke and diet. According to the Cancer Research Foundation of America the following steps could reduce your risk of cancer: eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain breads and cereals, reduce dietary fat, control weight, exercise regularly, always wear sun screen with at least 15 SPF, avoid all tobacco products, and limit alcohol consumption to a moderate level. Try one a month, and by mid summer you will have fulfilled your promise to yourself. Our guess is that you will feel better by the end of the year and you may be on your way to cheating Father time. Now that's an accomplishment worth celebrating. Happy New Year!

This year, 1998 brings to a close, a very unique situation in Crosby Township. Warren Strunk, Sr., and Warren E. Strunk, Jr., have both served as Crosby Township trustees in back to back consecutive terms. I have been fortunate to serve with both gentlemen. I wish both men the best of luck for themselves and their families in the future, and I want to thank them for their service to Crosby Township.

The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the trustees in between the regular meeting dates during the month of December:

Dec. 2 - trustee Gary Storer attended the monthly Fernald Community Reuse organization meeting. The public participation plan was discussed. This document is available for review until Feb. 3, 1998 at the FEMP public info center. Call 527-3150 for a copy.

Dec. 9 - trustee Storer attended the December Fernald cleanup progress briefing. Feature topics included authorized release of Fernald scrap metal and copper to burial or recycling and the silos projects.

Crosby Corner

Gary Storer

Dec. 11 - trustees Jane Harper and Storer attended the Hamilton County Township Association meeting. Speakers included Senator Richard Finan, president of the Ohio Senate, and Joan Beardmorwe, president of the Ohio Township Association.

Dec. 18 - trustee Harper attended the Crosby Township Historical Society meeting.

Dec. 22 - the board of trustees met with fire chief Miller to discuss new fire equipment needs. A new ambulance and a new fire pumper are among the requests.

Dec. 23 - trustee Storer met with Ohio Department of Transportation supervisor District 8 concerning placement of blue roadway fire hydrant indicators on State Route 128.

Trustee Storer met with Bob Sanker, western division of the Hamilton County highway department, concerning mud on River Road at Forest Green in New Baltimore is directly responsible for the cleaning. If Hamilton County Highway Department cleans the road, a bill is sent to the business that is responsible for the mess. Please call the Hamilton County highway department or the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department for immediate action.

Dec. 23 - trustee Storer met with GSM&I Recycling concerning the removal of the Dodge from the property at the new Baltimore Fire House.

The criminal investigation section of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department reports four cases were assigned and two cases were closed in the Crosby Township. There was no stolen property recovered during the month of November.

Hamilton County Environmental services reports that between Thanksgiving and Christmas there is 25 percent more waste produced than at other times. The 1997 third quarter incentive award for Crosby Township is \$461.05. Good job, Crosby Township. Keep using those red bins, did you recycle your live Christmas tree? In 1996-97, Hamilton County recycled 7,000 trees at 20 pounds per tree and saved 140,000 lbs. of waste from landfills. Also if your club or organization is interested in litter prevention regarding "Adopt-A-Roadway" program, please call 333-4732 for info.

The Fernald On-Site Disposal cell (OSDF) was certified for and received its first placement of impacted soil on Dec. 23, at 1:30 p.m. The soils being moved are from the east field area at the site. Railroad improvements including modifications to Shandon yard, and rail switches will resume in January 1998.

The Crosby Township Trustees will meet in January on the 12th and the 26th.

Crosby Corner is written by Gary Storer in an effort to improve communication between the trustees and the citizens of Crosby Township.

Eighty percent of all fatal crashes occur at speeds less than 40 miles per hour. Please remember to buckle up and drive safely.

"The church is the only place where someone speaks to me and I do not have to answer back." .. Charles de Gaulle

- Gary Storer is a Crosby Township trustee.

January 20, 1998
The Journal-Press
Page 2-A
"Leaking truck report"

Leaking truck report

The Type B Accident Investigation Board should have a report on leaking trucks that carried low-level waste from the Fernald Environmental Management Project, near Harrison, to a disposal site in Nevada by Saturday, Jan. 31.

The final report on remediation of Silo 3 should be completed by the end of January. Meanwhile, the facility's dismantling and demolition of the boiler plant is on schedule, said Gary Stenger, United States Department of Energy spokesman.

Stabilization of the Paddys Run embankment should be completed by February, he said.

February work at Fernald includes removing uranium dust from duct work in the former ore refinery plant, and removal of uranium dust from collectors in the former recovery plant, said Stenger.

The Fernald Community Reuse Organization's draft public participation plan can be reviewed through Tuesday, Feb. 3, at the Public Environmental Information Center, Delta Building, 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, near Harrison.

For more information, call 1-513-648-7480.