



FRIDAY MAILING

3/27/98

INCLUDED IN THIS FRIDAY MAILING:

- Monthly Progress Report Summary- February 1998
- Newsclippings

CAB MEETINGS:

- EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL:** The Efficiency Committee will hold a conference call on Thursday, April 9, 1998, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the FY2000 Priorities List. If you need call-in information please contact the office.
- OFF-SITE COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Off-Site Committee will meet on Monday, April 13, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. in the Jamtek Building, 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.
- ON-SITE COMMITTEE MEETING:** The next meeting of the On-Site Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. in the Jamtek Building.
- EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Efficiency Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 15, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. in the Jamtek Building.

OTHER MEETINGS:

- SILOS PROJECT PUBLIC WORKSHOP:** On Wednesday, April 1, 1998, a workshop will be held to discuss (1) the technical requirements document and (2) the evaluation criteria and (3) the statement of work for the accelerated waste retrieval project request for proposal. The workshop will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Alpha Building, Classroom D.
- COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION MEETING:** The next CRO meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ross High School Media Center, 3425 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.
- APRIL MONTHLY PROGRESS BRIEFING:** The April Monthly Progress Briefing will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 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]



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 1998

OPERABLE UNIT 1 --- WASTE PITS REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT

Major Work Activities - February 1998

- Awarded contract for construction of rail and access road lighting.
- Incorporated DOE comments into Transportation and Disposal Plan.

OPERABLE UNIT 2 --- ON-SITE DISPOSAL FACILITY (OSDF)

Major Work Activities - February 1998

- OSDF
 - Began construction of OSDF Material Transfer Area and Decontamination Facility.
 - Performed regular inspections of seasonal cover; no maintenance required this month.
- Leachate Conveyance System
 - Operated system and performed routine maintenance as required.

OPERABLE UNIT 3 --- FACILITIES CLOSURE & DEMOLITION PROJECT

Major Work Activities - February 1998

- Safe Shutdown
 - Isolated underground sewage line and fire suppression system, and performed selected holdup material removal activities in Plant 8.
 - Sealed up Rolling Mill area in Plant 6.
- Decontamination and Dismantlement (D&D)
 - Completed window removal at Boiler Plant.
 - Completed demolition of Process Water Break Tank.
 - Began demolition of Boiler Plant and Coal Handling Area.

OPERABLE UNIT 4 --- SILOS PROJECT

Major Work Activities - February 1998

- Issued Request for Proposal (RFP) for Silos 1 and 2 Proof of Principle Testing.
- Received DOE-OH approval for Final Silo 3 Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) and submitted document to USEPA for signature.
- Revised Silo 3 Draft RFP to incorporate off-site treatment; initiated internal DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald review.

OPERABLE UNIT 5

Major Work Activities - February 1998

- **Soils Characterization and Excavation Project**
 - Completed field activities for Phase II of Paddys Run Embankment Stabilization Project; only minor checklist items remain prior to demobilization.
- **Aquifer Restoration and Waste Water Project**
 - Completed Construction Acceptance Testing, System Operability Testing and Standard Startup Review on Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWWT) Resin Regeneration System.
 - Started property pipeline installation for South Plume Optimization Project.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Major Work Activities - February 1998

- **Neutralization/Precipitation/Deactivation/Stabilization Project**
 - Neutralized 47 drums during February; total of 724 drums treated in project as of 2/24/98.
- **Nuclear Materials Disposition Operations**
 - Total of 15 truckloads of low enriched uranium materials shipped as of 2/27/98.
- **Liquid Mixed Waste Project**
 - All shipments of waste in this project are on hold; note that per order of the Governor of the State of Tennessee, no new shipments are being accepted for treatment at the Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, until the issue of Oak Ridge National Laboratory's access to disposal of wastes at the Nevada Test Site is resolved.
- **T-Hopper Repackaging System**
 - Began operations on 2/17/98; packaged total of 11 drums of uranium oxide as of 2/27/98.

March 16, 1998
Weapons Complex Monitor
Front Page

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"Press Conference: New Labor Pact at Fernald"

Press Conference: New Labor Pact at Fernald
Flour Daniel Fernald and the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council signed a new five-year labor agreement this past week, retroactive to March 1, putting in place a workplace infrastructure reflecting Fernald's transformation from a production to a remediation site. The new pact is being lauded by both sides. In a exclusive interview with the *WC Monitor*, FDF President John Bradburne, FATLC Vice President Gene Branham, and FATLC President Bob Schwab provide the details on the pact. 8

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Press Conference

THE NEW FLUOR DANIEL FERNALD-ATOMIC TRADES & LABOR COUNCIL LABOR PACT

The following briefing was conducted by Exchange/Monitor Publications President Edward L. Helminski and WC Monitor Managing Editor Michael W. Hopps.

First—John, Gene—how many employees does this agreement affect?

(Gene Branham) The Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council represents about 650 employees.

(John Bradburne) That's out of 2,000 at the site.

So what is the wage package?

(JB) A 4.0 percent across-the-board increase in the first and second years of the contract, followed by a 3.5 percent increase in the third year, and 2.0 percent increases in the fourth and fifth years. Plus each employee gets a \$500 signing bonus on March 19.

What in your view is the primary significance of this new pact?

(GB) The fact that we jointly agreed to a pact that would accommodate remediation from the outset. Both management and labor realized we were working under an old production contract that needed to be changed. Now things have totally changed. We've built in mobility and flexibility. The agreement recognizes that we deal with materials now that are located in pits and silos and rivers—a lot of excavation. We must go to the work. Before, we didn't have the ability to go to the work.

When Fernald was a production site, we performed the work under roofs, in buildings. We don't do that any more. We have to go to the pits and silos, where the byproduct has been deposited. We could do that before, but we didn't have the capability before this contract to do that in sufficient numbers. We do now.

Gene, Bob, what did the Labor Council have to give up to reach this pact?

(GB) I honestly don't feel like we gave up anything, unlike in previous contracts. What we had to do was make a mental adjustment to what we needed in order to accomplish the mission. In doing that, I think we gave Fluor Daniel a contract they can hold up anywhere in this country because it's totally dedicated to remediation.

John, from Fluor's perspective, what's the most important thing in the contract?

(JB) As Gene said, we have converted from a production contract to remediation, and ultimately we'll get to a closure contract. At the end of the five-year period, we'll be very close to having finished our work at the site.

One of the toughest problems to resolve at sites that are going from production facilities to being shut down and just cleaned up is that the on-site labor workforce is generally skilled, getting high wages, and the real need is for less skilled workers that can perform cleanup tasks at much lesser wages. Does this new pact recognize the lesser need for skilled workers and therefore lower wages?

(JB) On the contrary. The kinds of skills that are needed to bring about remediation, safe shutdown, separation of the residues, and putting them into the right waste forms, as far as I'm concerned, are very high. The standard kind of activities that you see in the construction world will continue to be handled by the construction trades. But when production was stopped at the sites, it was stopped with all the materials that had been in the process lines and trains right there in place. It takes special skills to deal with putting those process lines into safe shutdown mode. We are probably 30 percent through that process, and we need the very highest skills and a knowledge of the plants themselves. We were getting it done through the old contract, but frankly it was a struggle. But we're in position now that that work gets the right skills and experience matched up to the tasks we've got to do there.

What provisions are there for layoffs, rehiring, and preferential treatment in rehiring?

(JB) Well first let me explain that we are going to manage downsizing primarily through attrition. Our attrition rate runs about six percent per year. The challenge will be to keep the people here who have the necessary skills mix for as long as we need them to complete the job.

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"Press Conference: New Labor Pact at Fernald"

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(GB) We have a two-year window for a person whose job status is reduced in layoffs. Prior to employees getting laid off, we will evaluate their capabilities and the potential need for those capabilities and try to reassign them. Then if they *are* laid off, we have a two-year window to call them back.

(Bob Schwab) We're aware that the jobs are going to go away. We've factored in some training through the Career Development Center to give people opportunity for life after Fernald. This gets people trained and retrained and gives them an opportunity when they have to leave. We put the CDC together jointly with Fluor and labor, and we're incorporating people in there who would like to expand their capabilities in other areas to get training in other fields and perform other work.

How broad is that training?

(JB) They can go to any school to learn another trade—get a master's degree, if they choose—while they're still employed here, and the Department of Energy through Fluor will fully reimburse them for tuition fees. And they get paid up front, not when they finish the course. There's latitude in the program so individuals get what they need. DOE would also pay for a breadwinner to move his or her family cross-country to take another job.

(GB) Fluor Daniel also has made available a craft certification program, through which all of our journey

men would have an opportunity to upgrade their skills to another status. And when this plant downsizes, they will be given preferential hiring at other Fluor Daniel locations, and there's 32 of them in all. That's a great opportunity for a journeyman.

When a new project is identified, as there recently was on the excavation of the pits, we put together our training people to develop a program to make sure we have the manpower and the skills readily available when the contractor comes onsite. That way nobody misses a step. That's one thing the training center has already gotten a good hold of.

John, you are working to be here at Fernald four or five years and close the site. Right?

(JB) Definitely.

But what would happen under this contract if somebody else were to win a recompetete three years down the line?

(GB) We have a successor clause in the contract. But I want to emphasize that we have a good working relationship with John Bradburne and his staff, and we have made known at the top levels in Washington that we support their efforts and we intend to give it our best shot to accomplish the mission—that is closing the site, cleaning it up by the 2006 deadline. ◀

March 26, 1998
Cincinnati Enquirer
Page B16

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"Fernald CRO receives \$50,000 Ohio grant"

Fernald CRO receives \$50,000 Ohio grant

The Ohio Department of Development's Office of Defense Adjustment has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Fernald Community Reuse Organization for an entrepreneurial assistance program.

The grant will be used to help firms that might hire Fernald workers who will lose their jobs in its downsizing and closure. It also is for Fernald employees interested in starting a business.

The Community Reuse Organization (CRO) will work with Small Business Development Centers to select participants, but details regarding screening and selection aren't expected to be developed until May.

The CRO also has applied for a \$265,000 grant from the Department of Energy to go toward a plan to help workers and the community adjust to job losses.

March 20, 1998
Business Courier
Page 10

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"Fernald union OKs contract"

Fernald union OKs contract

Fluor Daniel Fernald, the waste-management company cleaning up the Fernald uranium-processing site in northwest Hamilton County, said the company and members of the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council have agreed to a five-year collective-bargaining agreement. About 600 workers are covered by the new contract.

March 25, 1998
Cincinnati Enquirer
Page A12
"Fernald headline was sensationalized"
By: Michael Burba

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Fernald headline was sensationalized

The headline, "Fernald will cause 85 cancer deaths" (March 19) is sensationalized and teetering on the edge of being untrue; it should have a front-page correction. The study in question is a draft study that has not been scientifically reviewed and, in the small print, you even say everything is estimated. The quote insert, "This proves what we've been trying to show," is not attributed to anyone on the front page. As stated, it sounds like an expert's opinion, which it isn't.

The study does not prove anything yet, as the interviewed citizens noted. They understand the issue better than your headline writers. The headline writers either made mistakes or you intentionally wanted to sensationalize the issue. A front-page correction is in order stating the study only showed Fernald "may" cause 85 deaths. There is a big difference between these two words.

MICHAEL BURBA
Green Township

Mortality study confirms Fernald fears

CDC earns praise from Crosby activist

Post staff report

The leader of a Crosby Township citizens group concerned over radiation leaks from the former Fernald uranium processing plant said this week's federal report documents the danger they had suspected for years.

Lisa Crawford, president of the Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH), said Thursday that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's draft report predicting 85 people in the area around the plant will die of lung cancer was no surprise.

"It pretty much validates the problem for us. We've been saying this all along," said Ms. Crawford, whose family lives 1 1/2 miles from the site.

Officials from the CDC told more than 30 residents and members of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee that during Fernald's operation from 1951 through 1988 enough air-borne radiation was released into a 6.2-mile radius around the Crosby Township plant to have caused an estimated fatal lung cancer infection rate of 1 to 12 percent higher than among those outside the radius.

The danger is greater for those who lived closer to the plant, smokers and residents who lived within the 6.2-mile area of Crosby Township prior to 1988, which was the year that radioactive sites at the site were sealed.

The risks also were higher for those who lived on the eastern half of the radius, which is usually downwind from the former uranium plant.

But the CDC's Dr. Owen Devine warned that "the numbers I am presenting to you tonight are estimates . . . and



Lisa Crawford

they are uncertain." The study, and formation of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee, were prompted by a long history of citizen complaints that radon and other radioactive material from the plant have caused an abnormally high rate of cancer and other illnesses.

Ms. Crawford praised CDC officials for their detailed work in constructing a study methodology to document the complex problem.

"We haven't always agreed with the CDC but they have put their best foot forward here," she said.

"Our people need to know this stuff," she said, adding that she believes the CDC should broaden its study to include other forms of cancer.

Vicky Destilling, vice president of FRESH, said despite the dire mortality prediction, the report was needed.

Besides, Ms. Destilling said "statistical models are not reality . . . but all we can do is hope."

Becky Robinson grew up near the plant, worked there periodically for four years and was left shaken by the CDC's initial report on her chances of contracting fatal lung disease.

"I'm definitely more fearful. When I was a kid I swam in the creeks around here. I ate the corn from the fields," said the 31-year-old Ms. Robinson.

U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, of Cincinnati, asked the federal government to expand the risk assessment study to include communities near Fernald that were excluded from the review.

"I feel it is imperative that we learn the potential effect in these areas as well," the congressman said.

March 20, 1998

Journal News

Page C1

"Fortune give Fluor Corp. top ranking"

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Fortune gives Fluor Corp. top ranking

Journal-News staff report
ROSS TOWNSEND

Fortune magazine has identified the Fluor Corp., the parent company of Fluor Daniel Fernald, the principal cleanup contractor of the Fernald uranium processing plant, "as the world's most admired public company" in the construction and engineering industry.

The rating, which came out in the magazine's March 2 issue, marks the fifth consecutive year the

company has received the recognition,

Peter Fluor, Fluor Corp. chairman, said, "We are very proud to have been selected again as America's most admired engineering and construction company. Our employees work very hard to deliver value to Fluor's two most important constituencies - our clients and our stakeholders - and this designation recognizes their efforts."

John Bradburne, Fluor Daniel Fernald president,

said "I am very proud of all Fluor Daniel employees for adding to the success of Fluor Corp. Fluor Corp. is successful when thousands of projects located throughout the world are successful - including Fluor Daniel Fernald."

The criteria used by Fortune to rate the company included: innovativeness, quality of management, investment value, products and services, financial soundness, talent, corporate responsibility, and use of assets.

March 21, 1998
Cincinnati Enquirer

Page B1

"DOE to move silo waste"
By: Paul Barton

DOE to move silo waste

2 structures vulnerable to tornadoes

BY PAUL BARTON
Enquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Energy Department assured a watchdog group Friday it is addressing the potential for structural collapse of radioactive waste silos at Fernald, which are seen as vulnerable to tornadoes as well.

The department said it plans to transfer wastes from

Silos 1 and 2, which emit cancer-causing radon, into temporary storage tanks, although that option could prove controversial.

The announcement came just two days after the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicted that about 85 people who lived near Fernald while it was in operation will die of lung cancer.

From 1951 to 1989 the plant processed materials used to make nuclear weapons.

DOE officials issued their comments as part of a formal response to a report that the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research issued in

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October (IEER).

The IEER, based in Takoma Park, expressed concern about Fernald's waste silos in a 309-page study of what it saw as remaining problems with the cleanup of former nuclear weapons sites.

Department officials and representatives of IEER held a joint press conference Friday to address issues raised in the document.

"The risks posed by the

waste are increased by concern over the structural integrity of the silos in which they are stored," the IEER report said. "Cracks and seepage of waste have been noted since the 1950s."

In addition, the institute said, the type of structural collapse that might occur during a tornado would release amounts of radon that would significantly increase already existing risks of cancer.

Of the four concrete-reinforced silos at Fernald, Nos. 1 and 2 are of the most concern because they contain waste generated from the processing of uranium ore. They

are better known to area residents as the K-65 silos.

IEER officials contend the best response to the structural decay of the silos would be to cover them with a tornado-resistant enclosure and possibly build just one new storage tank instead of several.

But the Energy Department is planning to build new tanks to hold those wastes.

"We have concerns about increased handling of wastes," said Marc Fioravanti.

Energy Department officials, in a written response to the IEER report released at the press conference, said they are confident that building new

tanks is the right plan.

"This approach provides several benefits: addressing the uncertainty associated with silo integrity, allowing DOE to work out potential retrieval problems and uncertainties before remediation, and placing waste in a more homogenized form, thus reducing uncertainties associated with treatment," the department said.

Energy officials added, "The (new) storage tanks will be designed to meet the requirements identified by the safety analysis, which addresses the possibility of a tornado."

March 20, 1998
The Cincinnati Post
Local, Page 18A

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"Fernald's grim forecast: 85 cancer deaths"

Fernald's grim forecast: 85 cancer deaths

By Michael D. Clark
Post staff reporter

An estimated 85 people who lived near the former Fernald uranium plant will die from lung cancer caused by exposure to radioactive material leaked into the air during almost four decades of the weapons facility's operation.

That was the striking preliminary finding of a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention report presented during a public forum in Harrison Wednesday evening.

Officials from the CDC told more than 30 residents and members of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee that during Fernald's operation from 1951 through 1988 enough airborne radiation was released into a 10-kilometer radius around the Crosby Township plant to have caused an estimated fatal lung cancer infection rate of 1 to 12 percent higher than among those outside the radius.

The danger is greater for those who lived closer to the plant, those residents who smoked and residents who lived within the 10-kilometer area of Crosby Township prior to 1979, which was the year that radioactive silos at the site were sealed.

The risks also were higher for those who lived on the eastern half of the radius, which is usually downwind from the uranium plant.

But Dr. Owen Devine of the CDC warned area residents that "the numbers I am presenting to you tonight are estimates . . . and they are uncertain."



DOROTHY JOHNSTON/for The Post

Dr. Owen Devine explained the lung cancer-threat statistics from Fernald radon exposure.

Devine described the complex method used to calculate the estimate of 85 lung cancer deaths predicted for the area's population of approximately 40,000 to 53,000 who lived near the plant between 1951 and 1988, when the plant was shut down.

"There can be a very long time between exposure and the expression of the cancer risk," he said.

"Unfortunately there is nothing we can do about those exposures to residents that happened between 1951 and 1988."

The death estimate includes the number of those who already may have died of lung cancer — but are unknown to researchers due to inadequate medical records or a resident's move from the area — and the prediction of the number of deaths that may occur in the future as the population ages.

The total estimated statistical range for the number of lung cancer deaths is from 20 to 300 deaths for residents between 1951 and 1988.

But Devine said if Fernald had never existed there would still have been an estimate of 2,601 lung cancer deaths the same year, based on Ohio state-wide estimates.

The total of 85 was the median estimate of lung cancer deaths for the population and the most statistically credible at this point, said Devine.

The CDC's study does not include workers at Fernald but only residents within the 10 kilometer or 6.2-mile radius of the former weapons plant.

The study, and formation of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee, was prompted by a long history of citizen complaints that radon and other radioactive material from the plant has caused an abnormally high rate of cancer and other illnesses among residents.

Robert Hanavan lives two miles from the plant.

Hanavan, 47, told CDC officials that comparing residents' exposure to radon to that of miners exposed to the hazardous gas is problematic.

Residents, he said, had nearly 24-hour exposure to radon while mine worker's contact was only during job shifts.

"Our exposure was chronic exposure," Hanavan said.

"It's like comparing apples and oranges," said Hanavan, whose mother — a longtime Crosby Township resident — died of ovarian cancer.

A spokesman from U.S. Rep. Rob Portman's office said he was "very disturbed by the CDC's report."

March 20, 1998
Cincinnati Enquirer
Metro, B1
"Value of further study questioned"
By: Tim Bonfield

Value of further study questioned

Tornadoes may kill more, scientist says

BY TIM BONFIELD
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Even though pollution from the Fernald plant may have been fatal to dozens of people, some experts say the public health threat may not be big enough to justify spending millions on a full-blown epidemiology study.

A study released Wednesday by the federal Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention estimated that 85 people have died or will die from lung cancer caused by radon gas emitted by wastes stored at the former uranium foundry. That's about a 3 percent increase over the 2,600 lung cancer deaths that would be expected in the area.

The death estimate spans a period from 1951 — when construction started at Fernald — to 2088 — when infants born the year production stopped would be 100 years old.

Critics of the Department of Energy, which for years denied that Fernald posed a health hazard to neighbors, saw vindication in the death estimates. Yet

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the relatively low number of deaths also may provide some public reassurance.

"We're talking about less than one extra case of cancer a year. There are lots of bigger public health threats out there," said Ralph Buncher, an epidemiologist with the University of Cincinnati's Department of Environmental Health.

"Tornadoes probably will kill more people in the next 10

years. And 1-75 will do its share," Dr. Buncher said.

The big question now is what to do with this information. Should more money be spent for another lung cancer study, one that counts real people rather than using mathematical models? Should the CDC sponsor a public education campaign about Fernald's health risks?

Should new studies focus on other health concerns, such as estimating the risks posed by toxic non-radioactive chemicals used at Fernald? Or all of the above?

The Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee, a 15-member

'We're talking about less than one extra case of cancer a year. There are lots of bigger public health threats out there.'

— Dr. Ralph Buncher, UC Department of Environmental Health

group of health experts, residents and others, has been meeting since 1996 to make recommendations to the CDC about what kinds of health information the community wants about Fernald.

The committee must decide whether to recommend conducting a full-blown epidemiology study.

Unlike the model-based estimate released Wednesday, an epidemiology study would involve a rigorous counting of actual cancer deaths among Fernald neighbors, which could be compared to national or local norms.

After counting real cancer deaths among Fernald neighbors, scientists would plot

where the cancer victims lived and for how long. Then they would use data about Fernald's pollution releases to estimate how much of a radiation dose each person received.

Then researchers could determine whether there really was a strong correlation between cancer deaths and long-term, low-level radiation exposure. Such a study could have worldwide medical value because most information about radiation risks is based on studies of small groups of people who faced high exposures, such as atomic bomb and nuclear

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Cincinnati Enquirer

Metro, B1

"Value of further study questioned"

By: Tim Bonfield

continued

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Fernald: No intense cancer study justified

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

accident survivors and uranium miners.

But such a study would cost several million dollars and take years.

"Is one death a year worth spending the kind of dollars we're talking about?" Dr. Buncher asked.

In addition to policy questions, a Fernald epidemiology study faces several technical hurdles, said Dr. Owen Devine, chief of the CDC's risk assessment division. For example, it may not be possible to trace lung cancer victims, their medical records, their place of residence, their smoking habits, and other factors all the way back to the 1950s.

The margins of error in an epidemiology study could exceed the 3 percent increased lifetime cancer risk that experts now say the average Fernald neighbor faced. That means the study may not be able to find what it's looking for, Dr. Devine said, even though the health risk is real.

Several committee members have suggested launching health education projects to help long-time Fernald neighbors reduce their lung cancer risks.

Smokers who quit can dramatically reduce their health risks. So can people who repair homes with high levels of indoor radon gas. Regular medical checkups also may help improve survival times for potential lung cancer victims, by catching the disease early.

These steps, plus advances in medical science, could change the results of the Fernald lung cancer study.

"You may now have some cells in your body that given the opportunity may turn into a cancer. But if you eat a healthy diet and lead a healthy life, that exposure is less likely to cause you a problem," Dr. Buncher said. "(Meanwhile) In the next 25 years, there may be a cure for lung cancer. That would certainly change the death estimates."

March 20, 1998

Journal-News

Front Page

"Fernald may boost cancer risk"

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Fernald may boost cancer risk

By Nicholas G. Jonson
Journal-News

HARRISON TOWNSHIP

People who lived around the former Fernald uranium processing plant during the plant's production years face a higher than average risk of developing lung cancer, according to a federal study released Wednesday.

Using computer models, researchers with the Centers for Disease Control estimated that 20 to 309 lung-cancer deaths will occur among the 40,000 to 63,000 people who lived around the plant at any time from 1951 to 1988.

That number includes lung-cancer deaths that may have already occurred among the population as well as deaths that may occur through the year 2088 as the population ages.

For smokers who lived near the site, the chance of developing lung cancer jumped an additional 3 percent.

The study also concluded that the potential number of lung-cancer deaths was likely to be higher for people who lived closer to the site or those who lived downwind.

(Please see FERNALD, Page A2)

Fernald

(Continued from Page A1)

"We need to re-emphasize that these are estimates," said Dr. Owen DeVine, chief of the CDC's risk assessment branch, at a meeting of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee.

"We don't know the exact dose (residents may have received). We don't know the risk associated with that dose. And we are uncertain of the number of people who experienced that dose.

"These (numbers) are an application of the best knowledge available on the risk of lung cancer," he said.

The CDC study builds on data gathered in an August 1996 study by the Radiological Assessments Corp. of South Carolina. That study concluded the greatest health threat to residents living within six miles of the plant came from the inhalation of radon gas.

The gas was produced from decaying radium stored in two silos in the western half of the site.

Because corrective measures were taken in 1979 to better seal the silos, the risk of lung cancer for people born after 1979 or those who moved to the area after 1979 is considerably less, DeVine said.

"There's nothing we can do

about those exposures from 1951 to 1988," DeVine said, referring to the years that Fernald processed uranium. "But because we are a public health agency, we believe there are things that can be done."

DeVine recommended that people who worked at or lived near the plant stop smoking. In addition, residents should check their homes for naturally occurring radon.

Information about reducing the level of naturally occurring radon in the home can be obtained by calling the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency at (800) 523-4439 or the Ohio Department of Health at (614) 466-0061.

A final version of the CDC study is scheduled for release later this year, DeVine said.

Dr. James Farrell, chairman of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee, said the federal study "gives us a picture of the impact on the entire population.

"But we're still left with the individual trying to assess his personal risk after seeing this data," he said.

DeVine said CDC researchers will work with the subcommittee to assess other possible health outcomes that may be related to exposure to Fernald emissions.

March 23, 1998
The Cincinnati Post
Page 9A

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"Environment.....Fernald Workshop"



FERNALD WORKSHOP: The U.S. Department of Energy is sponsoring a public workshop Wednesday, April 1, focusing on how the silos will be cleaned at Fernald. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Alpha Building, in classroom D, at 10967 Hamilton Cleves Highway. Copies of the proposal are available at the Public Environmental Information Center, 10965 Hamilton Cleves Highway, Harrison, OH 45030. Call 648-7480 for information.

March 23, 1998

Inside Energy

Front Page

"CDC Finds Higher Cancer Risk Near Fernald"

CDC FINDS HIGHER CANCER RISK NEAR FERNALD

Radiation released from DOE's Fernald Site between 1951 and 1988 will likely lead to between 25 and 309 additional deaths from lung cancer among the more than 40,000 residents who lived within six miles of the plant, according to a draft study released Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report is the first in a planned series of studies CDC is conducting for DOE in an effort to determine the health risks residents living near Fernald face from past exposures to radioactive materials released from the site when it was an active part of DOE's nuclear weapons production complex. CDC will also examine whether releases from the site contributed to additional cases of kidney and bone cancers.

The study is a followup to CDC's Fernald Dosimetry Reconstruction Project, a nearly six-year effort to estimate the amount of radioactive materials released from the site into air, surface water and groundwater. That analysis, issued in August 1996, found that the primary path for residents' exposure to radioactive materials came from breathing radon decay products from the site and concluded that residents may face an increased lifetime risk of fatal cancer.

Last week's study supports those initial conclusions. In the report, CDC estimated that between 40,000 and 53,000

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individuals lived within 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) of the plant for some time during the 38 years the facility was in operation.

According to summary of the report, CDC said that because it could not identify lung cancer deaths actually caused by Fernald exposure, the estimated number of such deaths connected with the site is uncertain. But, based on reconstructed releases, the report estimates that lung cancer deaths caused by the plant may range from 25 to 309, with a median estimate of 85 additional deaths between 1951 and 2088. The latter date was selected to allow those residents potentially exposed during the last year the plant was in operation the opportunity to reach an age of 100 years.

In comparison, the study said lung cancer deaths from all causes could be expected to range from a low of 2,257 to a high of 3,014 for the same population between 1951 and 2088.

The study further estimated that roughly half the number of lung cancer deaths potentially related to exposure to radioactive materials from Fernald have occurred or will occur by 2000, with the remaining number predicted to occur between 2001 and 2088.

Leah Dever, manager of DOE's Ohio Field Office, in a statement issued after the study was released Wednesday night to the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee, a local advisory group, made no mention of the study's conclusions, and instead reaffirmed the agency's commitment to complete environmental cleanup at the site quickly.

A spokesman for Ohio Republican Rep. Robert Portman, whose district includes Fernald, Thursday said the congressman was "disturbed" by the report's findings. "We are going to be working very closely with the CDC and DOE as they develop a strategy to deal with this situation and get the word out to people in the affected areas," the spokesman said.

In particular, the spokesman said Portman wants to ensure the study's findings get into the hands of local health care providers.

**Summary of Fernald Silos Project
Public Involvement Workshop
April 1, 1998**

On Wednesday, April 1, 1998, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) held a public workshop to discuss issues pertaining to the path forward of the Silos Project (Operable Unit 4) at the Fernald Environmental Management Project. Fernald representatives gave a presentation on the Accelerated Waste Retrieval Project. Approximately 30 people attended the workshop including representatives from the following affiliations:

--DOE	--FRESH
--Fluor Daniel Fernald	--Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
--Ohio EPA	--COGEMA Engineering
--Battelle	--Parsons
--Local residents	--Professional Radiological Services

The workshop opened at 6:30 p.m. with brief remarks from Mike Jacobs, DOE-Fernald Public Affairs. He presented the meeting agenda and mentioned the handouts. After the March Silos Workshop, stakeholders were mailed documents to review including Part 6 of the Statement of Work, the Evaluation Criteria, and the Technical Requirements Document.

Nina Akgunduz, DOE-Fernald Silos Project Team Leader, talked about the project background and the project's intent -- the safe transfer of the contents of Silos 1 & 2 to the new Transfer Tank Area for staging prior to treatment and disposal off site. This will be accomplished by contracting with an experienced vendor to design, build, test, and operate commercially proven technologies including:

- Waste Retrieval System
- Radon Control System
- Transfer Tank Area
- Decant Sump Waste Retrieval System
- Transfer Tank Area Waste Retrieval System

Next, Dave Yockman, DOE-Fernald Silos Project Engineer, continued the presentation by explaining each of the 10 sections in Part 6 of the Statement of Work.

The three major components of the Draft Accelerated Waste Retrieval Technical Requirements Matrix are:

- Waste Retrieval System
- Radon Control System
- Transfer Tank Area

Each component has several critical project elements that are identified in the matrix under FDF performance requirements in the RFP and either defined in the vendor proposal or detailed design. Dave also talked about how the evaluation team will look at and evaluate all vendor proposals. A technical expert review team including Todd Martin, Bob Roal, Gail Bingham, David Nearing, and the EPAs are also reviewing and commenting on the material. The team's feedback will be summarized at the April 14 Cleanup Progress Briefing.

A time line has been developed for the Accelerated Waste Retrieval (AWR) Project. The upcoming milestones are:

- Comments on the material mailed to stakeholders due April 22
- Issue AWR RFP for bid June 1998
- Received proposals through August 1998
- Award the contract in January 1999

Throughout the meeting there was a lot of discussion and the Silos Project representatives answered their questions. A stakeholder requested that the areas of discussion be submitted as comments from the public.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The handouts and the information presented at the meeting is available at DOE's Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC) located at 10845 Hamilton Cleves Highway; (513) 648-7480.