



FRIDAY MAILING

7/25/97

INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING ARE:

- Announcements
- Meeting Minutes from May 10 Task Force Meeting
- Public Involvement Workshop and Recycling Methodology Summaries
- Newsclippings

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE AND PEIC NOTICE:**
Please note that the Citizens Advisory Board Office and the PEIC have moved. The new location of the Citizens Advisory Board Office is in the Jamtek Building. The PEIC is now located in the Delta Building. The Citizen's Advisory Board phone number and fax will remain the same. Please call with any questions.
- SILO 3 PUBLIC WORKSHOP:** There will be a Silo 3 Public Workshop at the Alpha Building on Tuesday, July 29, 1997 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The tentative agenda will address response to the request for deliverables made during the Silo 3 Workshop on June 16th and the effort to continue narrowing the technology option to be presented in the Silo 3 Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD).
- SOIL AND WATER PROJECTS PUBLIC WORKSHOP:** The Soil and Water Projects Public Workshop will take place on Thursday, August 7, 1997, from 7:00 -8:00 p.m. at the Alpha Building. The agenda will include updates on groundwater and soil remediation strategies.

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]



FRIDAY MAILING

7/25/97

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued):

- ❑ **DOE COMMUNITY MEETING:** There will be a DOE Community Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 1997, at the Plantation from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Current status will be presented on all projects at the site.
- ❑ **FERNALD HEALTH EFFECTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:** The Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee Meeting will meet on Wednesday and Thursday, August 20-21, 1997, at the Plantation. The meeting on Wednesday will take place from 1:00 - 9:00 p.m., and the meeting on Thursday will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ❑ **EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Efficiency Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 20, 1997, at 6:00 p.m. at the Jamtek Building at 10845 Hamilton Cleves Highway.
- ❑ **COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION:** There will **not** be a CRO meeting in the month of July. Individual committees will meet, but the regularly scheduled full CRO Board will not meet again until August. In addition, please note that the new CRO message line (648-4168) has recordings of the latest news and changes in CRO meetings. If you have any questions, you can also leave a voice message, and someone associated with CRO will return your call.

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]



Chair
John S. Applegate

Members
James C. Bierer
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pamela Dunn
Constance Fox, M.D.
Darryl D. Huff
Thomas B. Rentschler
Warren E. Strunk
Robert G. Tabor
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

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

Minutes from the May 10, 1997 Meeting

The Fernald Citizens Task Force met from 8:32 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. on May 10, 1997, at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and open to the public. Time was reserved for public input. At the conclusion of the meeting, members toured the site.

Members Present:

John Applegate
French Bell
Jim Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Jack Craig
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn
Constance Fox
Darryl Huff
Gene Jablonowski
Dan McElroy
Graham Mitchell
Robert Tabor
Thomas Wagner
Gene Willeke
Thomas Rentschler
Warren Strunk

Members Absent:

None

Designated Federal Official Present: Gary Stegner

EPA Headquarters: Jim Saric

Task Force Staff Present: Tereza Marks
Crystal Sarno
Douglas Sarno

About 20 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE, Fluor-Daniel Fernald, and FRESH.

1. Call to Order

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

2. Announcements and New Business

Applegate announced that the March minutes will be distributed for review in the next Friday mailing.

It was announced that Jack Craig was replacing Phil Hamric on the Task Force for DOE.

Since the Task Force last met, the General Accounting Office report on safety issues and finances at Fernald was released. Everyone received a copy. Applegate stated that there was not much for the Task Force to work on with this document, but if members saw a continuing role for the Task Force, to please let him know.

Lisa Crawford distributed materials recently prepared by the Military Production Network containing several mentions of Fernald. Graham Mitchell distributed the Ohio EPA Annual Report.

Applegate noted that the Ten-Year Plan for the entire complex will be released on May 21, and comments will be due in 60 days. He asked that the Transportation Committee take a look at the plan and report back to the Task Force with comments.

Applegate suggested that the July meeting be held on a week night, instead of on a Saturday morning. It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, July 9.

3. Committee Reports

Transportation Committee

Tom Wagner, Committee Chair, gave the update on recent road changes.

On Route 128: There are new traffic lights installed at the intersection of Route 128 and I-74. Resurfacing of SR 128 is underway from I-74 through Ross. The repavement will be completed in September, and will require lane closings until then. A right turn lane is to be constructed at Willey Road. An upgrade of a small bridge south of Ross is scheduled for 1999 and will also require lane closings.

On Route 126: A new right turn lane is under construction at the Old North Site entrance.

On Willey Road: Hamilton County plans to resurface Willey Road in late 1997.

On Site: The North Access Road will be closed on July 1. The rerouted North Access Road will be open in October. The site is looking at ways to limit traffic and emergency response delays by putting a traffic cop at Willey Road, by adding a right turn lane on SR 128, by proposing alternate routing, and by implementing staggered shifts.

Due to road changes, Emergency Response Teams will require as much as five additional minutes to respond to emergencies in some areas.

Wagner indicated that the committee was confident that a lot of careful thought has gone into managing these transportation issues.

Monitoring and Recycling Committee

Pam Dunn, Committee Chair, noted that there will be a meeting on May 21, to look at revisions to the recycling protocol, the monitoring results from Area 1 Phase 1, the status of the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan, and soil certification.

Natural Resources Committee

Committee Chair Jim Bierer reported that on May 25, there will be a reburial of the Native American remains and a special ceremony. He reported that, in response to committee recommendations, DOE will produce a bi-weekly publication to keep the public informed on what will be happening on site starting within the next two weeks. This report will be mailed. DOE is proposing to implement tree plantings as aesthetic barriers along SR 126 and Willey Road.

4. Budget and Schedule Issues

Doug Sarno noted that the July 1995 Task Force Recommendations endorsed an accelerated clean up plan that was based on a certain budget level. Since then the budget has decreased. The Fernald budget for next year is based partially on privatization funding which is uncertain. Also, the site has run into some technical difficulties. This is natural for a site of this size, but the Task Force now has to address how these changes affect the previous recommendations and decide what the Task Force's role is in helping with these issues.

Jack Craig said that much of the drummed waste will be removed by the end of the calendar year. As these wastes are removed, there will be less oversight required and, therefore, less cost. Half of the enriched uranium on site has been sold to the private sector. However, DOE has not found a purchaser for the depleted uranium, although they have been trying for several years. If DOE cannot find a purchaser, they will have to declare that material waste and it will be shipped to Nevada. This will probably cost several million dollars, which has not been budgeted. In fact, the budget includes the projected income from the sale of this material. All other legacy waste projects are on schedule and some are even ahead of schedule. The project to overpack the thorium drums is well ahead of the scheduled completion in April 1998. There will be extra funds as a result. Plant 5 has been shut down ahead of schedule, as well.

Applegate noted that in projects that have a repetitive nature, Fernald seems to get better with each repetition. Jack Craig said we could hope for more projects with a learning curve. These projects save money as the work progresses.

Graham Mitchell said that if the privatization money is cut, it would result in a significant budget cut. Jack Craig expects the site to get one half of the \$41 million in privatization money budgeted.

John Bradburne commented that the loss of \$41 million is a significant reduction in the budget. Jack Craig explained that privatization funding requires private contractors to put up the initial costs of construction to be paid later on by the government as results are achieved. If that money is not made available by Congress when it is due, then the site will have to pay it out of the operating expenses.

An audience member asked which plant is to be razed next. The boiler plant will be razed, followed by Plant 9. He noted that in Plant 8, there is a kiln that can be used to dry out materials.

Doug Sarno suggested three ways for the Task Force to get involved in budget issues: 1) provide input for technical decisions, 2) keep the site high profile to protect the budget, and 3) give direct recommendations on efficiency issues, i.e., define inefficiencies and find ways to deal with them. Sarno asked if giving direct recommendations is something in which the Task Force would like to be involved. He said the Task Force was already providing input for technical decisions and keeping site profile high.

Doug Sarno noted that DOE is counting on increased productivity over the life of the project in order to meet its budgets. If the Task Force were to become involved in efficiency issues, it would create a committee to examine these issues over a long period of time.

Gene Willeke said that the Task Force is committed to an accelerated clean up and that we should be working to move the site in that direction.

James Bierer said that the Task Force is extremely important in what is happening on the site. It is imperative that the Task Force take a very high profile position in upcoming decisions.

Pam Dunn said that for this issue, it is important for DOE to be open and honest, and lay issues on the table. She also noted that before we take this on, we need a commitment from DOE to that effect. Dunn said that we would need more detailed financial information. Applegate asked Jack Craig, as a DOE representative, if that was a problem. Jack Craig answered no. Craig replied that, in fact, the Task Force pushing for this information would help to move things along. Some of the changes to obtain this information need to occur in Washington DC, and some need to happen on site. John Applegate said they would definitely require the assistance of the regulators. Tom Rentschler said that he had written a letter long ago, requesting financial information. He did not receive an answer for a long time, finally getting only a partial answer. Vitrification wound up costing five times the amount projected. He is not confident that we will get accurate information, or be able to use the information that we do get.

Lisa Crawford suggested a new committee be established to handle this issue. It was agreed.

5. Silos

Doug Sarno discussed the events that have occurred since the Operable Unit 4 ROD was signed, including the difficulties with the vitrification plant, then asked Jim Saric to discuss US EPA's proposed path forward.

Saric announced that EPA has decided that a ROD amendment is needed for Silos 1 and 2, but an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) is all that is necessary for Silo 3. Saric explained that in the decision to award a ROD, EPA must consider, scope, technology and cost. Any of these factors could represent changes from the existing ROD. In this case, the difference in cost from the original estimate is enough to make the ROD amendment for Silos 1 and 2 necessary. With Silo 3, the scope has remained the same, the technology is basically the same, and the cost is in the same ball park. Thus, the ESD will be sufficient for Silo 3. This explains why there are two regulatory processes being done, the ROD amendment and the ESD.

Gene Willeke asked who makes this decision. Saric replied that it is an agency decision. Saric stated we are looking at a 12 - 18 month time frame for the ROD amendment.

John Applegate pointed out that it seems as if we will be doing a lesser evaluation on Silo 3 with just the ESD. Saric said that is not the case; the ESD will look at all of the relevant factors. Applegate asked why one will take over a year and one will take only a few months. Doug Sarno explained that the ROD had more formal comment periods between DOE and the regulators, adding the extra time to that process, commenting that both the ESD and the ROD are thorough processes.

Lisa Crawford asked for an official written statement from EPA headquarters, explaining how they came to the decision about the ROD and the ESD. She expressed concern that this might be a way to avoid vitrification.

Pam Dunn asked if we had any information from the state of Nevada on whether they would accept cementation waste from Silo 3. Nina Akgunduz said that she has just returned from Nevada, and the indication from the DOE Nevada office seemed very favorable. There have not been any public meetings yet. Fernald staff is in regular contact with NTS, and will provide a workshop to the citizens' groups there within the next few months. Lisa Crawford said we need to work with the Nevada CAB and their public relations people. She would like to have the Nevada people come here and talk to us. The Nevada CAB will be discussing transportation at their next meeting, and Tom Wagner is going to meet with them. John Applegate would like to invite someone from the Nevada CAB to join our Waste Management Committee.

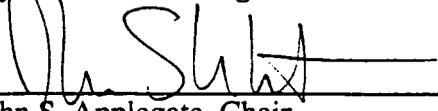
Lisa Crawford asked Jim Saric if all major work was going to stop during the period during which the ROD is amended. Saric answered yes. While small things will be done, and waste removal studies will continue, no waste removal from Silos 1 and 2 will occur.

John Applegate suggested that the Waste Management Committee look at the IRT and value engineering reports and make a recommendation to the group as to how to proceed. It is important that everyone on the Task Force be involved in this issue.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45. Task Force members conducted a tour of the site to review recent progress. An itinerary of the tour is attached.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the May 10, 1997, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Task Force.



John S. Applegate, Chair
Fernald Citizens Task Force

7/8/97
Date



Gary Stegner
Designated Federal Official

7/15/97
Date

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP MEETING SUMMARY

July 14, 1997, 6 p.m., Alpha Building

DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald held a public workshop on July 14 to propose a new strategy to integrate stakeholder input into the public involvement planning process. Thirty-seven people attended the workshop, including Fernald Envoys; representatives from FRESH, Fernald Citizens Advisory Board members, the Community Reuse Organization, and local township trustees; three Ohio EPA representatives and two U.S. EPA representatives.

Gary Stegner opened the meeting with a review of the three public involvement elements -- management involvement, person-to-person communication, and public information -- which serve as the foundation for Fernald's public involvement program. He explained that the objective of the workshop was to agree on a public involvement process that is responsive to stakeholder's needs and allows cleanup progress to continue.

Terry Hagen provided an overview of public involvement activities during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, and explained the transition of public involvement during Remedial Design/Remedial Action.

Tricia Thompson introduced the new public involvement strategy which is designed to minimize the burden of so many monthly meetings and still provide opportunities for stakeholders to become part of the planning process. The new approach involves monthly "Cleanup Progress Briefings." Each briefing would involve the following:

- a big picture review of current and upcoming cleanup actions, design plans and field work for each project;
- a discussion on a specific, timely topic of interest (i.e., Category 5 materials, free release, etc.);
- an opportunity for stakeholders to voice concerns, issues and interests with site decision makers; and,
- the chance to shape and direct Fernald's public involvement initiatives.

Stakeholders seemed to embrace the new proposal and were willing to support the briefings. All participants agreed to hold the briefings on the second Tuesday of every month, beginning at 6 p.m., (location to be determined). The first briefing will be on Tuesday, September 9.

Tricia then requested stakeholders to participate in a survey of the FEMP's communication tools. Stakeholders provided oral and written feedback on 15 existing communications tools, such as: the *Fernald Report*, project specific fact sheets, the Internet, and public meetings. Tricia explained that Public Affairs will target other stakeholder groups over the next month before any decisions are made on the tools.

A court reporter transcribed the workshop. A copy of the formal transcript will be placed in the Public Environmental Information Center. A listing of specific action items is attached.

Attachment I

ACTIONS FROM 7/14 PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Cleanup Progress Briefings:

- Stakeholders agreed to hold the Cleanup Progress Briefings on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning September 9. The briefings will begin at 8 p.m.
- The issue of integrating Community Meetings with the briefings was discussed. A decision was made to hold the August Community Meeting as planned, but consider integrating future Community Meetings with the briefings. Special meetings to discuss specific topics, such as the Silos, will continue as needed.
- Use briefings to identify documents that will be available for public review.
- Prior to each briefing, provide a fact sheet, agenda or issue sheet with background information and potential questions so stakeholders can prepare for the briefing.
- After each briefing prepare meeting minutes summarizing topics, issues and decisions from briefing.
- Involve U.S. EPA, OEPA and project managers in planning briefings -- they know what's important or potentially controversial. Use the weekly OEPA, U.S. EPA, DOE, Fluor Daniel Fernald conference call to help plan briefings.

Other Actions:

- Check mailing list to determine why several stakeholders have not received *A Look Ahead*.
- Advertise the PEIC move and new hours more.
- Postcard announcements of the availability of documents for review need to be improved. Postcards should explain what the document is, not just the title.
- Begin to include the CRO and township trustees in the Customer Review Process.
- Pam Dunn requested documents on disk.
- Begin Tool Box in September.
- Provide long-term (outyears) status of cleanup for the CRO (not part of Cleanup Progress Briefings).
- Add Transportation to the list of topics for future cleanup progress briefings.
- Send Sue Pastor, U.S. EPA, the Fernald Community Mailing List on disk. Also, assist Sue in locating a meeting room for U.S. EPA's workshop in late August.

RECYCLING METHODOLOGY PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING SUMMARY

July 8, 1997, 7 p.m., Alpha Building

DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald held a public workshop to review the changes to the Draft *Final Decision Methodology for Fernald Material Disposition Alternatives* based on public comments, demonstrate the application of the Methodology, and discuss free release. Twenty-one people attended the workshop, including eight "stakeholders" representing FRESH, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Pete Yerace recapped public involvement activities on the Methodology to date, including two public workshops in June 1996 and November 1996 and two public review periods. Pete then described the major changes to the Methodology: adding a cost threshold phase; removing Envirocare and NTS as disposal alternatives; better defining the scoring process for subjective performance measures; and standardizing weighting factors. Although Envirocare and NTS are no longer evaluated in the Methodology as disposal alternatives, DOE committed to continue evaluating off-site disposal as an option.

Bob Lehrter discussed application of the Methodology. He first presented results of the Plant 4 Case Study, which identifies the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF) as the selected disposal option since other alternatives did not pass the 25 percent cost threshold. (The Methodology states that an alternative must first be within 25 percent of the cost of placing materials into the OSDF before it can be evaluated.) He discussed the standardized weighting factors, noting that since the Methodology is a living document, there will be an opportunity to go back and readjust the weights if needed.

To demonstrate the actual decision and analysis phase of the Methodology, Bob presented a *hypothetical* case study, based on Plant 4 materials, which assumed the disposal alternative passed the 25 percent cost threshold. A stakeholder said that the first time the FEMP actually applies the Methodology and runs an alternative through the analysis phase, then the FEMP should ask the public whether the performance measures still make sense.

Bob also used 2.5-foot and 1-foot diameter mill rolls to demonstrate the application of the Methodology. A stakeholder commented that there may be times the public would consider the 25 percent threshold criteria too restrictive, noting that if material disposal costs are \$3K and recycling costs are \$6K then it still may be worth evaluating recycling options. Kathy Yuracko, Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Oak Ridge National Lab, followed with a summary of how the decision phase was applied.

Bob then presented future applications of the Methodology in future decontamination and dismantling implementation plans, such as the Maintenance Complex and Tank Farm Complex, as well as other potential material categories, such as mill rolls, copper ingots, etc. A stakeholder asked whether DOE would re-evaluate the disposition of steel in interim storage after a period of time. Pete said that over time, the FEMP will re-evaluate recycling options for materials in interim storage which are slated for disposal in the OSDF since recycling costs, new technologies and economies of scale may change.

A stakeholder asked about the status of the Oak Ridge Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for using steel to manufacture storage boxes. Initial BNFL study results indicate it will cost \$4K to make a white metal box versus the normal cost of \$600. Pete said he expects to learn more about the MOU in the near future and committed to providing an answer to this question.

Pete discussed free release of materials, which has been a topic of interest for stakeholders during past public workshops. Stakeholders expressed an interest in a focused roundtable discussion on this subject. A stakeholder recommended that the FEMP compare disintegrations per minute using common sources, such as smoke detectors, to make this more clear to the average person. Also, stakeholders offered to help DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald identify questions and issues on free release to prepare for future discussions. Yerace provided an information sheet on FEMP metal recycling efforts, and stakeholders suggested adding periodic updates on this topic in the *Fernald Report*.

Pete asked for any additional comments on the Methodology by Friday, July 11. DOE intends to incorporate comments and issue the final document by July 15. A stakeholder asked when the Category 5 material decisions from past workshops will be closed. Gary Stegner said any open Category 5 issues will be addressed in a future public session.

A court reporter transcribed the workshop. A copy of the formal transcript will be placed in the Public Environmental Information Center.

921

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP MEETING SUMMARY

July 14, 1997, 6 p.m., Alpha Building

DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald held a public workshop on July 14 to propose a new strategy to integrate stakeholder input into the public involvement planning process. Thirty-seven people attended the workshop, including Fernald Envoys; representatives from FRESH, Fernald Citizens Advisory Board members, the Community Reuse Organization, and local township trustees; three Ohio EPA representatives and two U.S. EPA representatives.

Gary Stegner opened the meeting with a review of the three public involvement elements -- management involvement, person-to-person communication, and public information -- which serve as the foundation for Fernald's public involvement program. He explained that the objective of the workshop was to agree on a public involvement process that is responsive to stakeholder's needs and allows cleanup progress to continue.

Terry Hagen provided an overview of public involvement activities during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, and explained the transition of public involvement during Remedial Design/Remedial Action.

Tricia Thompson introduced the new public involvement strategy which is designed to minimize the burden of so many monthly meetings and still provide opportunities for stakeholders to become part of the planning process. The new approach involves monthly "Cleanup Progress Briefings." Each briefing would involve the following:

- a big picture review of current and upcoming cleanup actions, design plans and field work for each project;
- a discussion on a specific, timely topic of interest (i.e., Category 5 materials, free release, etc.);
- an opportunity for stakeholders to voice concerns, issues and interests with site decision makers; and,
- the chance to shape and direct Fernald's public involvement initiatives.

Stakeholders seemed to embrace the new proposal and were willing to support the briefings. All participants agreed to hold the briefings on the second Tuesday of every month, beginning at 6 p.m., (location to be determined). The first briefing will be on Tuesday, September 9.

Tricia then requested stakeholders to participate in a survey of the FEMP's communication tools. Stakeholders provided oral and written feedback on 15 existing communications tools, such as: the *Fernald Report*, project specific fact sheets, the Internet, and public meetings. Tricia explained that Public Affairs will target other stakeholder groups over the next month before any decisions are made on the tools.

A court reporter transcribed the workshop. A copy of the formal transcript will be placed in the Public Environmental Information Center. A listing of specific action items is attached.

Attachment I

ACTIONS FROM 7/14 PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Cleanup Progress Briefings:

- Stakeholders agreed to hold the Cleanup Progress Briefings on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning September 9. The briefings will begin at 6 p.m.
- The issue of integrating Community Meetings with the briefings was discussed. A decision was made to hold the August Community Meeting as planned, but consider integrating future Community Meetings with the briefings. Special meetings to discuss specific topics, such as the Silos, will continue as needed.
- Use briefings to identify documents that will be available for public review.
- Prior to each briefing, provide a fact sheet, agenda or issue sheet with background information and potential questions so stakeholders can prepare for the briefing.
- After each briefing prepare meeting minutes summarizing topics, issues and decisions from briefing.
- Involve U.S. EPA, OEPA and project managers in planning briefings -- they know what's important or potentially controversial. Use the weekly OEPA, U.S. EPA, DOE, Fluor Daniel Fernald conference call to help plan briefings.

Other Actions:

- Check mailing list to determine why several stakeholders have not received *A Look Ahead*.
- Advertise the PEIC move and new hours more.
- Postcard announcements of the availability of documents for review need to be improved. Postcards should explain what the document is, not just the title.
- Begin to include the CRO and township trustees in the Customer Review Process.
- Pam Dunn requested documents on disk.
- Begin Tool Box in September.
- Provide long-term (outyears) status of cleanup for the CRO (not part of Cleanup Progress Briefings).
- Add Transportation to the list of topics for future cleanup progress briefings.
- Send Sue Pastor, U.S. EPA, the Fernald Community Mailing List on disk. Also, assist Sue in locating a meeting room for U.S. EPA's workshop in late August.

RECYCLING METHODOLOGY PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING SUMMARY

July 8, 1997, 7 p.m., Alpha Building

DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald held a public workshop to review the changes to the Draft Final *Decision Methodology for Fernald Material Disposition Alternatives* based on public comments, demonstrate the application of the Methodology, and discuss free release. Twenty-one people attended the workshop, including eight "stakeholders" representing FRESH, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Pete Yerace recapped public involvement activities on the Methodology to date, including two public workshops in June 1996 and November 1996 and two public review periods. Pete then described the major changes to the Methodology: adding a cost threshold phase; removing Envirocare and NTS as disposal alternatives; better defining the scoring process for subjective performance measures; and standardizing weighting factors. Although Envirocare and NTS are no longer evaluated in the Methodology as disposal alternatives, DOE committed to continue evaluating off-site disposal as an option.

Bob Lehrter discussed application of the Methodology. He first presented results of the Plant 4 Case Study, which identifies the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF) as the selected disposal option since other alternatives did not pass the 25 percent cost threshold. (The Methodology states that an alternative must first be within 25 percent of the cost of placing materials into the OSDF before it can be evaluated.) He discussed the standardized weighting factors, noting that since the Methodology is a living document, there will be an opportunity to go back and readjust the weights if needed.

To demonstrate the actual decision and analysis phase of the Methodology, Bob presented a *hypothetical* case study, based on Plant 4 materials, which assumed the disposal alternative passed the 25 percent cost threshold. A stakeholder said that the first time the FEMP actually applies the Methodology and runs an alternative through the analysis phase, then the FEMP should ask the public whether the performance measures still make sense.

Bob also used 2.5-foot and 1-foot diameter mill rolls to demonstrate the application of the Methodology. A stakeholder commented that there may be times the public would consider the 25 percent threshold criteria too restrictive, noting that if material disposal costs are \$3K and recycling costs are \$6K then it still may be worth evaluating recycling options. Kathy Yuracko, Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Oak Ridge National Lab, followed with a summary of how the decision phase was applied.

Bob then presented future applications of the Methodology in future decontamination and dismantling implementation plans, such as the Maintenance Complex and Tank Farm Complex, as well as other potential material categories, such as mill rolls, copper ingots, etc. A stakeholder asked whether DOE would re-evaluate the disposition of steel in interim storage after a period of time. Pete said that over time, the FEMP will re-evaluate recycling options for materials in interim storage which are slated for disposal in the OSDF since recycling costs, new technologies and economies of scale may change.

A stakeholder asked about the status of the Oak Ridge Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for using steel to manufacture storage boxes. Initial BNFL study results indicate it will cost \$4K to make a white metal box versus the normal cost of \$600. Pete said he expects to learn more about the MOU in the near future and committed to providing an answer to this question.

Pete discussed free release of materials, which has been a topic of interest for stakeholders during past public workshops. Stakeholders expressed an interest in a focused roundtable discussion on this subject. A stakeholder recommended that the FEMP compare disintegrations per minute using common sources, such as smoke detectors, to make this more clear to the average person. Also, stakeholders offered to help DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald identify questions and issues on free release to prepare for future discussions. Yerace provided an information sheet on FEMP metal recycling efforts, and stakeholders suggested adding periodic updates on this topic in the *Fernald Report*.

Pete asked for any additional comments on the Methodology by Friday, July 11. DOE intends to incorporate comments and issue the final document by July 15. A stakeholder asked when the Category 5 material decisions from past workshops will be closed. Gary Stegner said any open Category 5 issues will be addressed in a future public session.

A court reporter transcribed the workshop. A copy of the formal transcript will be placed in the Public Environmental Information Center.

July 14, 1997

Weapons Complex Monitor

Page 14

"At Fernald...Local Union Supports DOE, Fluor Daniel Work"

AT FERNALD LOCAL UNION SUPPORTS DOE, FLUOR DANIEL WORK

Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council President Robert Schwab have given a strong endorsement to Department of Energy management at Fernald and to site contractor Fluor Daniel Fernald. In a July 7 letter to Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio), Schwab rejects the call made by a recent editorial in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* for a Congressional hearing on the "fitness of [Fluor Daniel] to handle any part of the multi-billion dollar job and the Department of Energy to monitor it."

"Senator Glenn, be assured if we feel the need for a Congressional hearing, you personally will be the first to know," Schwab wrote. He went on to say:

As president of the Fernald Atomic Trades and labor Council, representing thirteen International Unions and seven hundred in-house workers, I feel confident that since March of 1996 Mr. John Bradburne [Fluor Daniel President] has restructured his staff with experts in the Environmental Remediation field and has implemented programs that will prove to be precedent setting. We are confident and determined that Fernald will not be like Love Canal.

In the union local president's view, a Congressional hearing would only cause delays and that taxpayer dollars could be better spent.

July 22, 1997
 Cincinnati Enquirer
 Opinion, A6
 "See no evil"
 Reporter: Editorial

See no evil

Dept. of Energy finds Fernald cleanup contractor ignored risks

The latest federal disclosures of Fluor Daniel Fernald's negligence at the former uranium-processing plant are enough to put public trust into meltdown.

The Department of Energy report found that cleanup-contractor FDF ignored its own engineers' warnings that melter components might fail and withheld those concerns from DOE in violation of federal requirements. The parts did fail on Dec. 26, 1996, and the melter leaked tons of molten material, causing a fire and extensive damage to the \$70 million project. The melter was part of a pilot facility to test Fluor's plan for encapsulating radioactive waste in glass pellets, a process called vitrification.

Three teams of DOE investigators discovered that Fluor had suppressed the engineers' warnings and violated other DOE requirements in a rush to avoid performance fines. Fluor Daniel Fernald has shown a pattern of failures and violations, as *Enquirer* investigative reporter Michael Gallagher uncovered in a series that began on Feb. 11, 1996.

The DOE report was completed in February 1997 but not released till July 16. It not only shows Fluor's failings but also the inadequacy of federal oversight, especially after-the-fact. DOE stripped Fluor of the vitrification project in March, and the botched pilot plant that Fluor and DOE hoped would become a national model is shut down. But the rest of Fluor's \$2 billion, 5-year contract doesn't expire until November.

Here's the mystery: Despite repeated violations and failures at Fernald and other sites, Fluor last year still won a \$5.5 billion management contract for cleanup at Hanford, Wash. In 1993-94, Fluor came under

**DANGER
& DECEIT**

The Fernald Cleanup

fire from a Congressional oversight committee, but continued to rack up violations in 1995-96.

Members of Congress — particularly Ohio's — should dig deeper into Fluor's botched operations at Fernald and hold hearings to determine the fitness of this contractor to handle this job and of the Department of Energy to monitor it.

They could start with the DOE's melter report, and why Fluor omitted some warnings from its final hazard analysis.

► DOE investigators also found Fluor's melter workers had "less than adequate knowledge" of its design and how to operate it. Why were they not adequately trained?

► DOE's safety review team found Fluor "inadequately assessed the potential for casualties" from the still-unknown melter process.

The melter was not yet encapsulating radioactive materials, but molten material still posed risks for workers. Workers were contaminated on other Fernald projects, and DOE cited Fluor for failing to install required safety programs and equipment. A Government Accounting Office (GAO) report in March documented many of FDF's failures and violations.

Government oversight isn't oversight if it's always after-the-screwup. Congress and DOE should demand strict compliance from Fluor or find a different cleanup contractor.

July 21, 1997

Cincinnati Post
Business

"Fernald just a few clicks away"

Reporter: Stan Sulkes

Best Home



- [@The Cincinnati Post](#)
- [STAHLE](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [News summary](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Local Links](#)
- [Explore](#)
- [Back Issues](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Rede page](#)
- [Bengals page](#)



Fernald just a few clicks away

Connections

By Stan Sulkes

"It's much easier to make a mess than to clean one up," my mother was fond of reminding me. Of course, in those days, she was contemplating my room and not a former uranium processing facility.

Still I can imagine her gazing into piles of strewn socks and underwear and thinking, "Add plutonium to this clutter and you'd have Fernald."

If only it were as easy to reclaim a uranium processing site as it is to clean up a teen-ager's bedroom. Fluor Daniel Fernald is keenly aware of the difficulties of restoring the land to innocence.

Theirs is a twofold mission: to clean the thousand-acre site, and to involve what they call stakeholders (or parties with vested interests) in the process. To that end, in April, the company launched a comprehensive Web site - one that can absorb scientists, activists, and visitors for hours.

Don't count on seeing investigative journalism at the Fernald Web pages though. The information disclosed is what the company chooses to generate, so you won't see much if any on how the firm agreed to pay \$8.4 million to settle a lawsuit in June that accused it of bilking taxpayers of \$92 million.

That in mind, users can glean all sorts of useful information: a history of the project, lists of scheduled meetings and public workshops, news about educational outreach programs, and documents detailing proposed cleanup plans.

The latter conclude with public queries about the proposal in question and responses either from Fluor Daniel or the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Sub-contractors will find online all the specs they need for bidding. And users will find links to Fernald's Public Envi

ronmental Information Center, where by means of keywords one can access all public documents about the project.

This site is restricted to issues surrounding Fernald but links to the DOE and Ohio EPA connect the user to other Superfund sites around the country.

As company spokeswoman Tricia Thompson points out, cleanup administrators and stakeholders in one site can learn from the efforts of the others: "We're the first site that's gotten this far in decision making to determine how we're going to clean up."

Logging on and tapping in

Fernald Web site: <http://www.fernald.gov>

Dept. of Energy (DOE) <http://www.doe.gov>

DOE map of sites:

<http://www.doe.gov/html/doe/infolink/usdoemap.html>

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management:

<http://www.rw.doe.gov>

Web sites for Nuclear Management and Waste:

<http://www.rw.doe.gov/links.htm>

Stan Sulkes teaches at UC's Raymond Walters College. Drop Sulkes a note at sulkes@ucbeh.san.uc.edu.

Publication date: 07-21-97

[Return to the Front Page](#)

© Copyright 1997, The Cincinnati Post. All Rights Reserved.

07/24/97 08:32 PUBLIC AFFAIRS 1997-07-24

Journal News

Local, A3

"Traffic to be monitored on Morgan-Ross"

Reporter: Nicholas G. Janson

921

Traffic to be monitored on Morgan-Ross

By Nicholas G. Janson
Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Ross Township trustees are asking residents and employees of Fluor Daniel Fernald to use caution when traveling on Morgan-Ross Road.

"At a meeting last week with Fluor Daniel officials, trustees expressed concern about increased traffic on the road and the number of speeding and passing incidents.

Trustee President Tom Willsey Jr. said more Fluor Daniel employees may be using the road for access to the Fernald site because the former North Access Road off Ohio 126 was closed this month.

"These roads are very deceptive," Trustee Donald Thiem said after the meeting. "It looks like nothing could happen on them, like U.S. 27. But there have been so many fatalities on that road. This is just a precautionary measure."

In addition to sending Fluor Daniel a notice, trustees asked the Ross Township Police Department and Butler County Sheriff's Office to increase patrols on the road.