

In 1998, Fernald added an 1,800 gpm treatment unit to expand the AWWT's capacity and accelerate aquifer restoration. That same year, as part of a technology demonstration sponsored by the DOE Office of Science and Technology, Fernald installed five reinjection wells to determine if reinjection would further enhance aquifer restoration. The demonstration involved pumping groundwater from the aquifer, treating it to remove uranium and then reinjecting the treated water back into the aquifer. The reinjection process speeds remediation by helping to accelerate the flushing of the uranium from the contaminated groundwater. In 1999, EPA approved reinjection as one part of a viable aquifer remediation remedy.



"SINCE FERNALD INITIATED PUMPING IN 1993, THE SYSTEM HAS EXTRACTED OVER 12 BILLION GALLONS OF WATER."



BOTTOM RIGHT: Technicians regularly sample groundwater to monitor progress (6860-D104).

TOP/BOTTOM LEFT: Fernald installed both extraction and reinjection wells to clean up the Great Miami Aquifer (6261-D638, 6261-D658).

In 2001, EPA established a maximum contamination level (MCL) of 30 parts per billion (ppb) for drinking water. Through a Record of Decision (ROD) Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD), the MCL became the remediation level for total uranium in groundwater and the monthly maximum wastewater discharge level. Since 1996, when the OU5 ROD was signed, Fernald had complied with the proposed MCL of 20 ppb. The new MCL meant Fernald could process a larger volume of groundwater than originally planned while still protecting human health and the environment.

Fernald will continue sampling groundwater throughout the duration of site cleanup and is scheduled to complete a significant portion of the uranium plume remediation by 2006.



For more information

*Visit the Public Environmental Information Center on site, open Tuesdays and Thursdays
Contact Gary Stegner, DOE-Fernald Public Affairs, (513)648-3153, gary.stegner@fernald.gov.
View the Fernald website at <http://www.fernald.gov>*