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Fluor Fernald

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Fernald Completes Silos 1 and 2 Shipping Operations

CINCINNATI – The U.S. Department of Energy announced today that a milestone was reached when the 3,776th and final canister of treated Silos 1 and 2 byproduct departed the Fernald site just before 10 a.m. today. For decades, the raw ore in the silos posed one of the greatest sources of direct radiation to Fernald workers and has long been a concern for plant neighbors.

Since May 2005, Fluor Fernald, the contractor performing the cleanup of the 1,050-acre former uranium production facility, has been treating the Silos material by blending it with flyash and cement and sealing it in ½-inch thick steel canisters. Fluor Fernald and waste carrier Visionary Solutions, have been safely shipping treated Silos material to Waste Control Specialists (WCS) in Andrews County, Texas for storage. With 1,888 round trips to WCS, drivers logged over 5 million miles during this shipping campaign.

“As a project, nobody in the DOE complex has moved greater volumes of material by truck or rail and done it as safely,” said Ohio Field Office Manager Bill Taylor. “We’re coming down the home stretch for the cleanup. Silos 1 and 2 treatment has long been seen as our biggest challenge. Now we will focus on the remaining demolition and soil excavation.”

On March 1, 2006 Fernald chemical operators completed bulk waste treatment and packaging operations through the Silos 1 and 2 Remediation Facility. Workers then began the process of shutting down the treatment plant including removing residual silos material from the processing lines, isolating energy sources and facility and equipment decontamination. During safe shutdown operations an additional 254 canisters of waste were generated. The residues were blended with flyash and concrete using a temporary facility. Demolition crews moved into the Silos Project in late March and have been dismantling the treatment complex and storage tank facilities. Demolition of remaining Silos related structures is expected completed by mid-June. Excavation crews and soil characterization personnel will mobilize to remove any residual soil contamination in and around the Silos Project footprint. Once cleanup levels for soil in the area are reached and Ohio EPA and US EPA concur, final restoration will begin.

"I applaud the effort and spirit of the Fernald workforce, Visionary Solutions and WCS to finish this job. Through an intensive operation they were able to safely stabilize and ship our highest profile byproduct waste off site. Years of hard work went into planning and preparing for this campaign. Fernald workers and our stakeholders deserve credit for their commitment to seeing that the job was done right," said DOE-Fernald Closure Project Director Johnny Reising.

Fluor Fernald expects to finish cleanup and site restoration this summer at which time DOE's Office of Legacy Management will be responsible for the long-term stewardship of the site.

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