Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1997

EG&G MOUND-12-04----9703060065

O'Leary opened the doors

Before the memory of President Clinton's Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary fades into the news of the work of her replacement, give Ms. O'Leary an outgoing pat on the back.



Hazel O'Leary

Ms. O'Leary is better known in the Dayton area as the energy department chief who backed programs to help the Mound plant in Miamisburg shift into private-sector work. Nationally, she was most controversial for expensive trips abroad.

As *Washington Post* writer Thomas W. Lippman noted recently, however, Ms. O'Leary is the one who opened up the Department of Energy so the public and environmentalists could see the work of the bomb-builders. She fed information to communities. She welcomed communities into the bomb factories.

She also apologized, on behalf of a government that had been mum for decades, for some of the radiation sins against unwitting victims decades ago.

She also opposed the wasteful investment in the $10 billion Superconducting Super Collider project. That earned her the enmity of Rep. Joe Barton, from the Texas district where the super collider project was to have been built.

Ms. O'Leary entrusted the public with information; a timely reform in the post-Cold War era, as the department adjusted to the nuclear cutback and the need for clean-up work at the production sites.

The Clinton administration can take pride in that.

MOUND PLANT

CERCLA/ER

NEWS + PRESS CLIPPINGS

VOL. III

Dayton Daily News
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FERNALD

Melter leak halts encapsulation project

CINCINNATI (AP) — A leak in a giant melter at the former Fernald uranium processing plant has put on hold an experimental project to encase radioactive waste in glass pellets.

The leak on Thursday never presented a threat to public safety, U.S. Department of Energy spokesman Ken Morgan said Tuesday.

Morgan said the DOE, which owns the site, reported the leak because it has a policy of reporting all unusual activity at the site.

The molten material that leaked started a small fire on the plant floor. The material was not radioactive and was considered nontoxic, another DOE spokesman, Gary Stegner, said.

"We just don't know what happened at this point, and we can't proceed until we know what caused this," Stegner said.

The investigation could take up to a month.

Flour Daniel Fernald Inc. was hired to clean up wastes remaining at the former uranium processing plant. The company plans to encase in glass more than 20 million pounds of radioactive wastes stored at Fernald.

Miamisburg News
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MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following potential release site (PRS) packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning January 9, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from January 9, 1997, through February 13, 1997.

PRS 17: Oil Burn Structure
PRS 20: Aviation Fuel Storage Tanks
PRS 42: T Building Construction Soil Staging Area
PRS 79: Former Waste Storage Site - Warehouse 15
PRS 82: Diesel Fuel Storage Tank - Building 56
PRS 153: Radioactive Wastewater Sewer Pipeline Break - Area 20
PRS 176/177/178/300: Waste Transfer System Line, Tanks and Soil

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

ATSDR to address environmental health concerns at the Mound facility

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service, is addressing residents' health concerns regarding the Mound Plant.

The findings of the public health assessment will be presented to the public in a meeting to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the Miamisburg Civic Center, Community Room, 10 N. First St. in Miamisburg.

An ATSDR public health assessment reports information about hazardous substances at a site and evaluates whether exposure to those substances in the past, present or future could harm people living, working or playing on or near the site. They also identify health studies or other activities and make recommendations to other government agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and state and local health environmental departments, concerning actions to protect public health.

At the public meeting, ATSDR health assessor Dr. William Taylor PhD will present the public health assessment on the Mound Plant.

Community members who cannot attend the meeting but would like to receive additional information on ATSDR's activities may call ATSDR Health Assessor William Taylor at (404) 639-6035.

ATSDR

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

MOUND PLANT
Public Meeting

Make plans to attend the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) public meeting to present the public health assessment on the Mound Plant.

DATE:	**Wednesday, January 15, 1997**
TIME:	**7:00 pm**
LOCATION:	**Community Room**
	Miamisburg Civic Center
	10 N. First Street
	Miamisburg, Ohio
SPEAKER:	***William Taylor, PhD***
	ATSDR Health Assessor

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please call the ATSDR Health Assessor, *William Taylor*, at 404/639-6035 or Mound CERCLA Community Relations, *Stephen Nowka* at 937/865-4140.



U.S. Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary visited the Mound facility last year to check on the facility's commercialization process.

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MIAMISBURG



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Don Hamilton, an engineering technician in the new tritium treatment facility, demonstrates how glove boxes are used during valve verification.

Mound unveils plant

▶ A new $10 million system will make the handling of radioactive tritium gas safer.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The Department of Energy unveiled its newly activated Tritium Emissions Reduction Facility (TERF) on Monday at the EG&G Mound Plant in Miamisburg, hastened by two incidents in October that called into question the aging system previously used to handle the radioactive gas.

The $10 million plant, which will begin operation this week, will increase both the safety and capacity of the system used to collect and dispose of tritium. Its removal from the Mound Plant is the key element in the Mound's conversion from a Cold War weapons production plant to a private sector commercial facility by the year 2005. The recovered tritium is being shipped to other DOE facilities, primarily Savannah River, S.C., and Los Alamos, N.M.

The TERF facility is buried deep behind the 17-foot-thick concrete walls of Building T, a five-story underground building that was constructed in 1948 to withstand a direct missile attack. The area formerly housed a water-storage system designed to sustain workers for months after a nuclear attack. Until Monday, the area was off-limits to news media reporters and photographers.

City officials in Miamisburg said they have been urging the DOE to activate the newer tritium removal system for the past

SEE MOUND/4A

MOUND: Feeling safer with new system

CONTINUED FROM 1A

two or three years. The Mound Plant had been processing tritium with a system of pipes that dated back to the mid-1960s. Aging joints and connections had become a source of concern.

Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. applauded the opening of the new facility. "We feel a lot safer," he said.

Last October, two tritium incidents occurred that underscored the need for a newer system. First the DOE announced that a small amount of tritium was unaccounted for. It was later found to be lost in the system rather than stolen or released to the atmosphere. Then on Oct. 23, about 50 curies (a unit of radioactive measurement) were released into the atmosphere by a faulty catalytic converter. The Environmental Protection Agency requires releases over 100 curies in a 24-hour period be reported.

Tritium, an isotope of hydrogen, was used in the manufacturing of trigger devices in nuclear weapons until the DOE discontinued operations. Tritium is also used in small quantities in watches, theater exit signs and some airport runway lighting systems.

Although the tritium release posed only a small health hazard for Mound workers and did not trigger sensors beyond the confines of the plant, the incidents appear to have sped up the opening of the new facility.

The DOE began construction of the tritium recovery system seven years ago as part of the weapons production process. The system can be used to capture and remove tritium as well.

Nat Brown, Miamisburg site director for the DOE, said Monday that while a study early in 1996 concluded that the new facility would increase safety and save time and money, federal budgetary concerns may have delayed its coming on line.

"Once we begin using this facility, it becomes contaminated and will have to be cleaned up as well, extending our cleanup," Brown said. "But we signed a memo of understanding to begin using it after the value engineering study concluded it would be both more efficient and economical."

Although environmental releases have been reduced greatly at Mound in the last decade, the new process will make tritium recovery even safer.

Assuming a fixed schedule of recovery, the old system had the potential for the accidental release of between 10,000 and 50,000 curies. The new system drops that to 200 curies.

"Even though the level of nuclear materials at Mound has been greatly reduced over the past five years, it is still critical that the community has complete confidence in the safe management and handling of the materials that remain there," Miamisburg City Manager John Weithofer said.

▶ In a related development, a public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 21 in Oak Ridge, Tenn., for the disposal of transuranic radioactive waste — metal drums containing elements of plutonium, americium, neptunium and other man-made elements — at the proposed hazardous waste plant in Carlsbad, N.M. The Mound has a small amount of transuranic waste it would like to send to Carlsbad, a deep geologic repository where the material would be isolated from human exposure for at least 10,000 years.

Tritium

▶ **Tritium, an isotope** of hydrogen, was used in the manufacture of triggering devices for nuclear weapons until the Department of Energy decided to decommission the Mound Plant at the end of the Cold War.

▶ **The plant formerly** processed tritium with a fume hood system that was 25 to 30 years old.

▶ **The new process** adds an additional containment system, with all functions isolated behind glass and operated with a series of glove boxes. DOE officials say it is 10 times more efficient and safer.

▶ **Miamisburg residents** and others concerned about public health assessments may attend a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Miamisburg Civic Center Community Room, 10 N. First St. in Miamisburg. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service, will discuss its recent public health report.

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(W = 7,000)

117th Year, No. 42January 15, 1997

DOE to activate new, safer tritium recovery system at Mound

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

In the face of criticism over wo incidents involving tritium gas in October, the U.S. Department of Energy has lecided to activate its new $10 nillion Tritium Emissions Reduction Facility (TERF) at he Mound facility this week.

City of Miamisburg officials are very happy with the plans for the new system.

The TERF system has 2 1/2 imes the capacity of the old tri- ium extraction system, the Effluent Recovery System ERS) and works faster and, mportantly for city offi- ials, safer than the old system.

Last October, two tritium ncidents occurred that helped prompt the DOE to put the new system on the fast track. Early n the month, the DOE announced that a small amount of tritium was missing and it was determined that it was lost n the system. Then on Oct. 23, around 50 curies of tritium was accidentally released into the atmosphere by a faulty catalytic converter on the old system – an incident that didn't cause any health hazard, but raised a lot of concerns.

The old tritium extraction system was a system of pipes that date back more than 25 years and aging joints and connections on those pipes have become a concern.

Nat Brown, manager of the Miamisburg office for the DOE, said that studies showed that the new system would increase safety, as well as save time and money in finishing up tritium operations at the Mound over the next 18 months, but that the cost of the system probably prevented it from being implemented earlier. Tritium operations are slated to be transferred to other DOE facilities.

Charlie Sienkiewicz, who will work with the new system, said TERF is a safer system because if there is a leak, it will be contained by the glove boxes built around the entire system.

"Everything is under negative pressure, so if there is a leak in one of the gloves, air will move into it rather than out of it," he said adding that if there is a released into the room where the system is located, any tritium will be kept in the room

(Continued on Page 12)



CHARLIE SIENKIEWICZ conducts a tour of the DOE's new TERF tritium recovery system at the Mound facility.

PHOTO BY STEVE SANDLIN

Tritium ...

(Continued from Page 1)

due to that same negative pressure.

The TERF system is located deep behind 17 foot thick concrete walls in Building T, an underground building that was constructed in 1948 to withstand a direct missile attack.

Miamisburg officials have been pushing DOE to activate the TERF system for the past three years and began to push harder with the recent incidents happening in October.

"We feel a lot safer," said Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. "And it's much faster.

"The quicker this tritium is out of here, the quicker we're going to be able to continue with our efforts at commercialization of the Mound," he said.

The removal of tritium from the Mound facility is an important element in the facility's conversion from a weapons production plant to a private commercial facility.

EVEN THOUGH the level of nuclear materials at Mound has been greatly reduced over the past five years, it is still critical that the community has complete confidence in the safe management and handling of the

ATSDR to discuss Mound plant health concerns at public meeting

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MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

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PRS 310/382: Soil Contamination-Building 95

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

materials that remain there," said Miamisburg City Manager John Weithofer. "When two separate tritium incidents occurred last fall – even though they were later determined to be minor – the reliability of the ERS in use for tritium recovery at Mound was called into question.

"By replacing this aging system with a modern new TERF unit, the Department of Energy is showing its ongoing commitment to the protection of the environment and the safety of its work force and our community, even as it continues phasing out operations at the plant," he said.

"With DOE's plan to remove the building containing the current effluent removal system, TERF provides the site a more reliable system to complete the defense and environmental cleanup missions," said Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation, the economic development organization spearheading redevelopment efforts at the Mound. "We are pleased with the DOE's attention to this issue which is so critical to the progress of our economic development efforts."

ATSDR

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

MOUND PLANT
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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please call the ATSDR Health Assessor, *William Taylor*, at 404/639-6035 or Mound CERCLA Community Relations, *Stephen Nowka* at 937/865-4140.

MAC MAC MAC MAC MAC MAC MAC MAC

The **M**ound **A**ction **C**ommittee will meet on:

MOUND





Thursday, January 16, 1997
5:30 pm
Mound Facility
OSE Building Cafeteria
Mound Road
Miamisburg, Ohio

The meeting will include a short tour of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a brief presentation on the Mound Plant Public Health Assessment by Dr. Bill Taylor of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

To tour the EOC, you must have a picture ID, such as your driver's license, for identification purposes.

Parking is available in front of the OSE Building.

Interested citizens are encouraged to attend and participate. Questions can be referred to Mound Community Relations, (937) 865-4140.

Dayton Daily News
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Radioactive wastes may be coming to your county

Screening by the state of Ohio for the siting of a radioactive-waste-disposal facility is under way. Within the year, three candidate sites will be chosen. A more definitive study will then be undertaken of the three sites and a final selected — it may be in the Miami Valley.

By the year 2005, the newly constructed facility will begin accepting radioactive wastes from 175 known generators: 58 in Ohio, 21 in Indiana, 11 in Iowa, 27 in Minnesota, 31 in Missouri and 27 in Wisconsin.

While the time period for acceptance of this waste is designated as 20 years and the facility capacity is designated as 2.25 million cubic feet, both the length of time for acceptance and the capacity can be extended with a decision to do so by the Ohio Low-Level Radioactive Waste Facility Development Authority. The facility may even be reopened to accept waste at a later date — all provided for in Substitute Senate Bill 19, as passed by the Ohio Legislature on June 7.

Ninety-five percent of the radioactivity of the wastes is generated by nuclear power plants; the other 5 percent comes from radio-chemical manufacturers, research laboratories, government agencies other than the Department of Energy, universities, medical schools and hospitals. This "low-level radioactive waste" includes everything from slightly radioactive trash such as gloves and booties to highly radioactive-activated metals from inside nuclear reactors. Resins and filters from nuclear power reactors are often highly radioactive and capable of delivering a lethal dose of radiation.

The wastes contain radionuclides that decay within a few days and radionuclides whose decay requires very long periods of time. Medical wastes, for example, decay in periods ranging from six hours to a maximum of 140 days. On the other hand, one of the most common radioactive contaminants from a nuclear power plant is cesium-137, which requires 300 years to decay to background levels. Additional radioactive-waste contaminants include: plutonium-239, with a half-life of 24,000 years; nickel-59, 75,000 years; and technetium-99, 213,000 years.

This is not all. Of the six disposal sites that have accepted low-level radioactive wastes in the past or are currently accepting wastes, all are leaking radioactivity into the environment. The six sites are: Beatty, Nev.; Richland, Wash.; Barnwell, S.C.; West Valley, N.Y.; Maxey Flats, Ky.; and Sheffield, Ill. Long-term care funds, collected from depositor fees, will in no way cover the cost of restoring these sites to safe areas.

Surely the question can and should be raised about the whole process of radioactive-waste disposal — whether it is the disposal method, the containment method, the siting process, the level of radioactivity or the licensing process.

Surely, it is incumbent upon citizens and county guardians at this point to demand a change: Change Sub. S.B. 19, or change disposal criteria before Ohio becomes radioactively contaminated further.

VELMA M. SHEARER
Englewood

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Church recaps 1996 achievements in the city

Mound clean-up/reuse and Aquatic Center just two of highlights

by Dick Church Jr.
Miamisburg Mayor

Presidential election years like 1996 are an exciting time in our country. Regardless of political affiliation, people across our nation seem to be more attentive to local, regional and national issues during major election years. The anticipation of voting and the process of learning about candidates lead to increased political discussion among people and make us all a little more civic-minded.

Both presidential candidates put tremendous emphasis on Ohio during their campaigns last fall, with numerous visits to our state. I was very proud that Miamisburg was able to play a role in President Clinton's visit to Dayton in October. I was privileged to serve in the official welcoming party and represent our city as the President arrived at Dayton International Airport. In addition, the Miamisburg High School marching band, under the direction of Don Davis, accepted an invitation to entertain nearly 20,000 spectators on Dayton's Courthouse Square prior to the President's speech. It was a thrilling day for these young people and one I'm sure they won't soon forget.

One of President Clinton's campaign themes leading up to Election Day was his vision of "Building Bridges" to the 21st century. In many ways, the on-going transition and growth that Miamisburg is experiencing leads me to relate also to that theme. We are building our own bridge to the new century — moving forward to better meet the changing needs of residents, while also developing a progressive and modern image for our community to retain and attract business development and jobs and promote new housing opportunities.

City staff continues working to provide residents the finest services possible, such as waste collection, street maintenance, water and sewer services and police and fire protection. Meanwhile, elected officials, as always, are committed to serving the community by setting the policies that allow the city to meet the needs of citizens, while also promoting the progressive vision necessary for a successful future. I am proud to serve with a city council that is so dedicated to the community and whose primary focus is on the people.

I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the City's primary achievements during 1996, provide an update on some of the on-going projects in our community and offer a preview of some things to look for in 1997.

Mound Clean-up and Reuse

First and foremost, I'd like to address a subject of utmost importance to Miamisburg's future—the status of the Mound plant's conversion to a private facility and the related clean-up of the Miami-Erie Canal.

The leadership in our city and at the Mound faced a major challenge several years ago when the Department of Energy announced its plans to vacate the facility. For Mound to survive and continue providing valuable jobs in our area and much-needed tax revenue for Miamisburg, it had to be converted from a government installation to private commercial use.

As the national chairman of the Energy Community Alliance, which includes leaders from 13 communities across the nation which host DOE sites, I'm happy to report that this conversion process at Mound is well underway. If any of us wondered how our progress might be measured with other similar situations across the country, I think the U.S. Secretary of Energy herself, Hazel O'Leary, provided the answer. On her visit to Mound a few months ago for meetings with her advisory board, the secretary personally examined the privatization efforts and said "There is no better example than here at Mound."



Church

What a tremendous confirmation of the significant progress we've made.

The city's non-profit economic development arm, named the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation, or MMCIC, is responsible for overseeing the conversion at Mound on behalf of the city. With over 20 private businesses already on site at Mound with about 250 employees, we're off to a great start. But the MMCIC, under the direction of President Mike Grauwelman, commissioned an independent study this year to develop the best long-term strategic plan for successfully utilizing the Mound's facilities. The consultant's final report recommended that Mound be developed and marketed as an industrial and technology park. That strategy for reuse of the site was adopted, and we're confident that Mound will continue its successful evolution and be held up as a model for other DOE facilities across the country.

One of the important developments to watch for in 1997 will be the selection of a new contractor at Mound. The current government contractor, EG&G Mound Applied Technologies, is not seeking renewal of its contract, which officially expired on Sept. 30, 1996, and is being continued on a month-by-month basis. The Department of Energy is currently examining proposals from five corporate groups who submitted bids to become the new site contractor. The final award is expected to be made by February 15, with the new contractor beginning full operations on April 1.

This new contractor will be primarily responsible for preparing the site for ownership transfer from the federal government to the city by the year 2005. The most pressing issue of preparation consists contamination clean-up of both the infrastructure and the surrounding environment. The most visible component of this clean-up is occurring along the path of the Miami-Erie Canal on old State Route 25. This soil removal, replacement and testing is a significant project, and the city has been kept up-to-date with regular progress reports. The DOE is committed to a total and cost-effective clean-up of the entire site area in a timely manner, and the decontamination process is moving ahead on schedule.

On a related environmental topic, Mound unfortunately experienced a minor release of tritium gas this fall through one of its smoke stacks and into the environment. The amount of gas released was substantially below the level that requires reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but Mound officials nonetheless notified the proper authorities and Miamisburg city officials, as well as the general public via press conference. It was determined at the time that the release did not pose a health risk to the general public, and later testing confirmed that assessment. In fact, a recent report by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry stated that Mound "...poses no apparent public health hazard to off-site populations." Despite the tritium incident, I believe DOE and Mound officials remain committed to proper safety procedures and that the facility poses no health risk to Miamisburg residents.

Family Aquatic Center and New Park

Besides ensuring the long-term health and safety of residents, there is at least one other positive aspect of the environmental issues at Mound, and that leads me to my next topic.

The environmental restoration along the Miami-Erie Canal forced

(Continued on Page 7)

Mayor leads a busy schedule throughout year

Dick Church, Jr.

My Job as Mayor

I enjoy all of my responsibilities as Mayor of Miamisburg, particularly those in which I get to interact with residents.

I made 57 speeches in 1996, including Memorial Day and Veteran's Day addresses for the American Legion in Library Park. In addition, I continue visiting classes in Miamisburg City Schools upon request and read class tours of our civic center. I also continue my annual practice of attending services at numerous local churches, having visited 12 during the year.

As usual, wedding ceremonies filled my schedule in 1996. I presided over 180 weddings and received $5,507 in gratuities, which were deposited into the Mayor's Donation Fund. This money was used to pay for the city employees' annual Christmas party, as well as contributions to:

- Miamisburg D.A.R.E. program
- Miamisburg High School Band and Guard
- Miamisburg Youth Center
- Miamisburg Helping Hands
- Miamisburg Ministerial Association
- Miamisburg Fire Department Special Wish Fund
- Baum Opera House Association
- Historic Miamisburg Community Partnership

In five years as mayor, I have performed 705 weddings and accepted over $20,620 for the Donation Fund.

My civic responsibilities extend locally, regionally and even nationally.

Civic Affiliations

- Vice Chair, Montgomery County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Solid Waste Management Policy Committee
- Vice President, Montgomery County Mayors and Managers Association
- Montgomery County Combined Health District Advisory Council
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Committee for Montgomery, Greene, Miami, Darke and Clinton counties
- Miami Valley Emergency Management Authority
- National Chairman, Energy Communities Alliance
- Board member, Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation
- Board member, Historic Miamisburg Community Partnership
- Miamisburg City Schools Facility Committee
- Sycamore Medical Center Citizens Advisory Council

I look forward to continuing to serve our community in 1997 and beyond.

Miamisburg ...

(Continued from Page 3)

to close the adjacent Community Park, including the swimming pool, in 1996. In an effort to compensate Miamisburg for the loss of the park, the Department of Energy awarded a $4.6 million grant to the city for construction of a new park and pool. A citizen-based committee provided vital input into the design of the new facility, and I'm pleased to report that construction work began in September on our new Family Aquatic Center park complex at the corner of Heincke and Maue roads. Local and county officials enthusiastically participated in a groundbreaking ceremony to kick-off the project and work continued on schedule through the end of the year.

The Aquatic Center will accommodate 1,000 swimmers and include an eight-lane lap pool, two giant water slides, a diving well with one-meter board, a zero-depth entry similar to a beach, a wet-sand playground and sand volleyball. The adjoining park area will include a children's playground, two tennis courts, one basketball court and much more. City Manager John Weithofer deserves a tremendous amount of credit for securing the DOE grant that is making this new Aquatic Center possible. We are very excited about what this facility will mean to our community, and we look forward to its scheduled opening on Memorial Day weekend 1997.

While our former pool, which served this city for nearly 60 years, will be demolished, the remainder of the Community Park site will tentatively re-open sometime in 1999 with several enhancements planned for that location. Our Parks and Recreation Department plans to conduct citizen focus groups in 1997 to help determine what improvements should be made at Community Park. If you are interested in participating in the process, please contact Parks and Recreation at 866-4532.

In conjunction with the Aquatic Center project, a citizens group also studied the need for an indoor recreation center in our city. After months of research, the group recommended that city council place on last November's ballot two property tax issues that would provide funding for a new rec center to be built at the same location as the new pool. Despite endorsements from city council and the Miamisburg Board of Education, both those proposals were defeated by voters. While many of the proposal's supporters were disappointed, we all respect the desires of the voters.

Nonetheless, our Parks and Recreation Department remains one of most progressive and vibrant operations in our city organization. Both the quantity and quality of recreation programs offered to residents of all ages continues to expand, and the Parks and Rec staff takes a real "customer service" approach to meeting the needs of residents. These professionals are preparing already to making the new Aquatic Center a premier swimming facility, a centerpiece of our community and a popular addition to the list of parks available in our city. A preview of the Aquatic Center opening and a preliminary list of programs and classes scheduled there next summer will be provided in the March issue of our *Civic Focus* newsletter.

Economic Development

Many of our city departments had significant projects in 1996. Our Planning and Development staff saw the recent trend of residential and commercial growth in our city continue. On the commercial side, just this fall three major tenants moved into the Miamisburg Plaza shopping center located on State Route 725. Ace Hardware, Goodwill Industries and Odd Lots now operate out of the plaza's three large "anchor" locations, including the spot vacated by Kroger. Of course, Kroger's relocation last spring across the street from the plaza along Heincke Road was a significant development in our city. A retail fixture in Miamisburg for many years, Kroger demonstrated its commitment to our community by building an attractive stand-alone location, utilizing their new modern building design. Also now open is our newest downtown retail outlet, Richmond Hardware located at 57 South Main Street. The revitalization of our downtown area is a major priority for our city, and a new business opening its doors downtown is a welcome site and a promising sign.

On the residential side, housing starts in the city remained consistent in 1996, while building permits were up nearly 10 percent. One of our newest and most upscale residential developments—PipeStone—which is located adjacent to the prestigious PipeStone Golf Course, continues to have a steady rate of construction and is approximately 65 to 70 percent complete. We expect the final sections of PipeStone, including some prime lots with golf course frontage, to be purchased by the developer in 1997. As we enter the final phases of development, I encourage all homebuyers in the area to look at the opportunities available at this premier housing site.

Downtown Revitalization

As I mentioned, downtown revitalization continues to be a major project in Miamisburg. These efforts are being led primarily by our citizens through an organization called the "Historic Miamisburg Community Partnership," with the city providing some financial assistance. In 1996, the partnership hired an independent consultant to provide a market analysis and a plan of action for downtown. The final report outlined various aspects of downtown development, but among its final recommendations were:

- Attracting increased retail activity.
- The development of more entertainment and restaurant opportunities.
- Better use of the adjacent river in downtown development.

This market analysis was reviewed and approved by the partnership's Board of Directors and the Miamisburg City Council. As the partnership moves toward implementation of the plan, community support and individual effort are essential. I encourage all of our residents to get involved in this effort by contacting Partnership President Terry Hieronymous at 859-1841.

One of the things to look for in 1997 is the hiring of a full-time executive director for the partnership to oversee the organization's day-to-day operations and marketing efforts. We expect this to be a very crucial position, and we look forward to having someone who can devote all their time and effort to this worthwhile project.

Considerable effort has already been put forth on one special project that we look at as a centerpiece of our new downtown. The renovation of the 12[illegible]-year-old Baum Opera House has been a tremendous success story, led by [illegible]ouncilwoman Mady Ransdell, her husband Jim and many, many volunteers and corporate contributors. While some remodeling work continues at Baum, the facility is complete enough to have hosted several special events that have been well received and well attended by the community.

In addition, Baum recently announced that it had secured a major tenant that will bring the performing arts to downtown Miamisburg. Playhouse South, a non-profit community theater, will relocate to Baum beginning in 1997 from its current site in Washington Township Hall on State Route 48. We consider this a significant development. Bringing the arts downtown fits perfectly into the recommendations of our consultant's report for revitalization. The move gives Miamisburg live entertainment that will bring people downtown, while providing Playhouse South with a larger facility for their productions. We expect them to begin operations at Baum this summer, with the first performance tentatively scheduled for September.

Public Safety

Miamisburg devotes a tremendous amount of resources and emphasis on its public safety operation, and we feel the police, fire and emergency medical services provided to residents are second to none.

Our police force under the direction of Chief Tom Schenck currently employees 36 full-time officers and six full-time communication officers. Two recent retirements have created openings on our police force, and we expect to fill those positions soon with entry-level officers. These hirings will increase our force to the authorized maximum 38. We were pleased to announce last fall that Detective Ron Hess was promoted to the rank of sergeant, replacing one of those retirees, Bob Monaghan.

Our community policing efforts continue to receive high marks from residents. Steve Flickinger works extensively with Miamisburg Schools and our young people as the department's DARE officer, while Tony Beran serves as a full-time community relations officer responsible for public information, Neighborhood Watch and business relations. Officer Beran also coordinated the popular National Night Out festivities held in Library Park in August. That event this year was held on an evening when we had a regularly scheduled city council meeting, so council decided to move the meeting outdoors preceding the activities. It was a beautiful night and a great time for everyone involved.

Our fire department under the leadership of Chief Bob Bobbitt includes [illegible] full-time firefighters, who are also certified paramedics. Besides the emergency services this group provides, one of their most important missions is public education. Firefighter Mike Adcock spearheads our educational efforts, and I'm pleased to say that under his guidance our staff excels in this area. For example, a training video produced jointly by the Department and the Miami Valley Cable Council recently won a regional award in the instructional category. The subject of the video was "Accounting for Firefighters on the Scene of a Fire." Another training video on the dangers of drinking and driving is nearly completed and will be used in presentations to young people in our schools and other youth groups. The fire department has an education trailer it uses at various events, and in 1996 it received, through donations from several area businesses, a new truck with which to pull the trailer. I'm told that, together, his truck and trailer set-up is unmatched in the State of Ohio.

Among other fire department news from the year:

- Firefighters conducted a "Make the Right Call" campaign in which they distributed nine brochures door-to-door in our community.
- The department was recently designated by the American Heart Association as an approved provider of CPR training.
- It has worked in conjunction with the city's building inspection staff to develop alternative fire code compliance for downtown businesses.

Road Improvements and Maintenance

Improvements to our city's infrastructure continued to be a priority in 1996. Alex Road underwent extensive improvements from State Route 725 to Lyons Road. The roadway was widened to four lanes with new curbs, gutters, storm sewers and sidewalks installed. Richard Street experienced similar improvements this year from Main to Eleventh Street. As we anticipate the opening of our new Aquatic Center, roadway improvements continue being made in and around the Maue and Heincke Road intersection to facilitate increased traffic flow in that area next summer. Phase Two of that project is underway, and the section nearest the pool site is expected to be complete by opening day, including the addition of a new traffic light at the intersection.

The State of Ohio contributed significant funding for all three of these projects and also began much-needed improvements to State Route 725 that will continue through July 1997. Work is taking place in phases all the way from Lawrence Avenue in Miamisburg to Normandy Lane in Centerville. Not only will the damaged roadway be repaired, but also lanes are being added for safety reasons at the Heincke Road intersection, the Route 741 intersection and to the northbound exit ramp from Interstate 75.

Meanwhile, a federal grant is providing funding for a roadway beautification project currently underway along 725. This landscaping work, which runs from Heincke Road to Alex Road, features attractive stone walls that will greatly enhance the appearance of one of the primary gateways into our city. Having a visually appealing city gives residents pride and presents a favorable image for visitors. We think this project will help in our ongoing efforts in that direction.

Our street department continues to provide residents with invaluable services in an efficient manner. Minor roadway maintenance, trash and recyclable collection and snow and ice removal are a few of the basic services the street crew provides.

In recent months, the city has acquired some important new equipment for this operation including two small dump trucks complete with salt spreader and plow for snow removal, a sideloading trash collection truck, a mobile paint striper and a hot tar kettle for sealing asphalt. Our experienced crew of drivers will be out on area roadways this winter to help make driving safer for motorists. As an example of the quality personnel we have in place, two of those skilled drivers—Mike Goings and Frank Bell—advanced to a Southwest Ohio regional competition last fall that tests the driving proficiency of snowplow operators. I'm pleased to say our street department is staffed by qualified and dedicated people committed to serving our community. At times, they have very strenuous responsibilities, and they perform those duties selflessly.

Growth Opportunities

I'm pleased to say Miamisburg continues to be growth oriented. It is the philosophy of city council to seek annexation opportunities in order to expand our municipal boundaries and tax base. Annexations, even when instigated by the affected property owners and approved by a county commission, are often contested in court by the township losing property. These can be very costly and time-consuming cases that only prolong the inevitable outcome. However, in recent months Miamisburg and Miami Township have shown a new spirit of cooperation that has successfully resolved three separate annexation issues outside the courtroom.

I applaud John Weithofer and Miami Township Administrator Dave Anderson for working together on what we feel is a win-win situation for both communities and the affected property owners. The first of these landmark cases involved over 410 acres in the Byers Road/Medlar Road area that was annexed into Miamisburg in September. In exchange for the township agreeing not to contest the case, our city agreed to partially compensate the township for lost tax revenue over the next nine years. And then, just last month, the two communities took cooperative action on two additional pending cases. The final result of that agreement was that

Miamisburg annexed the Lowe's home improvement store near the Dayton Mall effective Jan. 3, 1997, but agreed to drop an appeal of another annexation case that included 43 acres along Benner and Leis roads. This cooperation is a positive sign and a foundation for a mutually beneficial relationship between Miamisburg and Miami Township in the future.

Strategic Plan

One of the major points of emphasis for city council and city staff in 1997 will be the development of a formal Strategic Plan for Miamisburg. Working with a consulting group, this monumental project will take tremendous time and effort and involve many, many people, but we feel it is important to plot out the future of our community and set a direction and vision that we will all work toward. This process is just now in its infancy, but I encourage residents to watch for updates throughout the year in our community newsletter, on government access cable television and here in The Miamisburg/West Carrollton News.

Citizen Involvement

The on-going revitalization efforts in downtown and the recent recreation center issue are not the only citizen-based initiatives in Miamisburg. As a lifelong resident of Miamisburg, it gives me great satisfaction to see our citizens involved in numerous projects for the betterment of our community. In fact, more than many cities, Miamisburg encourages citizen input into the decision-making process, and many of our residents have responded by taking a very active role in our local government. By working hand-in-hand with elected officials and city Staff, our residents can take real responsibility for the on-going growth and improvement of our city. From the reuse of the Mound facility to solid waste issues to groundwater protection policies, the important matters that profoundly impact our lives are being examined and affected by informed residents. And that's the way it should be, because Miamisburg is your city and the policies of city council should reflect your wants and needs.

Moving Forward

As I reflect back on the many successes in our community in 1996, it occurs to me that many of our citizens can not only take pride in these successes but also can share a real sense of accomplishment. When I look at our city, I see a community reaching new heights in almost every way with a progressive vision for the future, a civic-minded citizen base and expanding residential and commercial development. In spite of the declining work force at Mound in the 1990s, our income tax revenue has generally remained steady and even shown a moderate increase because of our expanding income tax base.

Beginning my sixth year as mayor, I am as proud today to serve Miamisburg as I was on Jan. 1, 1992, when I first took office. I have tried to live my life in a manner reflected by George Bernard Shaw when he said:

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. "

I know you join me in looking ahead with great anticipation at the challenges we face in 1997. I also know that, together, we will successfully meet those challenges and continue on our path—and across the bridge—to a bright and prosperous future.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Element may block nuke reuse

By Matthew L. Wald
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Nuclear weapon scientists say that plutonium the Energy Department wants to take out of surplus bombs and turn into fuel in civilian reactors contains an element that will not only interfere with the conversion but will also cause chemical problems after the fuel is used.

The element, gallium, can be removed from the plutonium through a chemical process the Energy Department uses, but this generates large quantities of wastewater contaminated with radioactive materials.

A cleaner removal process has been tested successfully on a small scale, but it will take more work to develop the process so it can be used on the tons of material that would be needed, experts said. Such a process could take years to develop and engineers would still have to decide how much residual gallium would be tolerable in reactor fuel.

Two scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, in a paper to be published this week, say that the gallium will have to be removed if the Energy Department wants to convert the plutonium in reactors. Another option, the department said, is to mix the plutonium with highly radioactive waste and embed both in steel canisters filled with glass.

The scientists' paper will appear in *Science for Democratic Action*, the newsletter of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research.

It is not clear how pressing a problem the gallium issue is because disposing of plutonium in reactors is not expected to begin for several years.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period



The following potential release site (PRS) packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning January 30, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from January 30, 1997, through March 6, 1997.

PRS 244:	**Soil Contamination - B Building**
PRS 273:	**Soil Contamination - Area 12 (SM/PP Hillside)**
PRS 309:	**Soil Contamination - Radiological Survey Site Location S0307**
PRS 315/316/319:	**Waste Transportation Vehicles, Trash Dumpsters, Epoxy Resin Waste Storage Site - Building 49**
PRS 332:	**Waste Oil Tank - Building G (used engine oil)**
PRS 338:	**Septic Tank - Building 29**
PRS 400:	**Soil Contamination**
PRS 401:	**Soil Contamination**

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

POLITICS

Pena defends Energy to panel

▶ Senate confirms William Daley as head of Commerce Department.

By H. Josef Hebert
ASSOCIATED PRESS


ederico Pena

WASHINGTON — Federico Pena, moving to another chair in President Clinton's Cabinet, eased through a confirmation hearing on his nomination to be energy secretary Thursday despite criticism of the administration's approach to nuclear waste storage.

As Pena, the former transportation secretary, gathered bipartisan support in the Senate Energy Committee, the full Senate by a 95-2 vote confirmed Chicago attorney William M. Daley to head the Commerce Department.

Daley was sworn in Thursday by Vice President Al Gore in a ceremony attended only by his family, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Both the Commerce and Energy departments have been under attack from congressional Republicans who either want to reduce their influence or — in the case of Energy — eliminate the department.

The Senate committee is expected to vote on Pena's nomination soon, and approval by the full Senate is expected.

As Pena prepared to testify before the panel, Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, told him that, if confirmed, he would be heading an agency "that has fallen on hard times. It is under assault from all directions."

Defending the department, Pena said that it was essential to have energy interests represented in the Cabinet and called the department's continued maintenance of the nation's nuclear stockpile "a vitally important national security responsibility."

Panel members praised Pena. While he admittedly had little experience in energy matters, they said he had shown his management abilities while heading the Transportation Department during Clinton's first four years.

Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)
INDUSTRY

Process to clean Ukraine's radioactive milk

▶ Particles gather cesium from milk without harming the nutrients in it.

By Jim Babcock
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

An Atlanta, Ga., company called Selentec is preparing to connect the Dayton area into a milk decontamination project in the Ukraine.

Under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development, Selentec and Ukrainian scientists are undertaking a demonstration that uses a unique Selentec system to treat milk still being contaminated by lingering fallout of radioactive cesium from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident.

The Dayton area enters the picture as Selentec's choice of location for a plant that will produce the essential compo- n[illegible]f the treatment process.

"Through looking at a lot of communities, we ended up here based on real estate costs; Ohio's regulatory climate in terms of helping us set up our business to make sure we are complying with regulations, and other cost factors like DP&L being very helpful in providing energy saving assistance," Charles S. Friedman, Dayton area project manager, said in announcing Selentec's intention to locate here.



Charles Friedman

He said a site in Vandalia is the leading candidate for the plant location. He said Selentec (an acronym for Selective Environmental Technologies Inc.) will invest about $5 million in bringing a 26,000-square-foot plant to the startup stage by the end of the year. Operation will begin with seven employees, and the count is expected to reach 30 to 35 employees within three to five years.

The plant will produce a patented, p[illegible]er-like product called MAG*SEP pa[illegible]icles.

Friedman, who will become plant general manger, said treatment systems using the particles can cleanse milk of harmful radionuclides like cesium without also removing the nutrients.

Friedman explained that a MAG*SEP particle is like a tiny baseball, consisting of a small magnetite core wrapped first in protective coating, then in an outer coating of material selected for its ability to adsorb a targeted radionuclide, hazardous heavy metal or nitrate onto its surface.

"In the case of cesium, the final coating attracts the cesium due to size," Friedman said. "It's like a finger trap: the cesium goes on and can't get back off . . . Then, once it's stuck, we can remove this 'baseball' with a magnet."

The process, developed for groundwater and factory effluent cleanup, works as follows:

▶ A contaminated liquid is circulated through a tank injected with MAG*SEP particles, which collect the target contaminant on their adsorber coatings.

▶ The particles are recovered by magnetic filtration, leaving the cleansed stream to be sent on to its intended use.

▶ The recovered MAG*SEP particles are either regenerated for reuse or disposed of in a stabilized matrix medium such as molded glass.

A related system, ACT*DE*CON, is about to be used in a demonstration project at the U.S. Department of Energy Mound Facility in Miamisburg.

Friedman said ACT*DE*CON, a solution that dissolves selected radionuclides and heavy metals from soils and other nonliquid materials, won't be made here. But DOE interest in the process made Selentec aware of the Dayton area.

The Mound demonstration will feature a pilot scale system that will test capabilities of treating four soil types.

"This is kind of a big test for us," said Friedman, a former Mound Facility environmental manager who retired in 1995.

Likewise, the Ukraine project will be an important demonstration, in its case testing whether the MAG*SEP process can remove cesium from 100 gallons of milk per minute.

Friedman said the treatment system will be fabricated in the Ukraine, and Ukrainians will be trained to operate it. But the Selentec plant here will supply the MAG*SEP particles. The plant also will supply particles to other large-scale projects, and provide project management during demonstration stages.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

TECHNOLOGY

Mounds of businesses popping up at center

▶ The specialized companies complement each other and hope to fill a high-tech niche.

By Timothy R. Gaffney
DAYTON DAILY NEWS



TY GREENLEES/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Dan Foose is president of the National Discovery Center Inc., one of 30 new businesses that have sprung up at Mound since the Department of Energy began phasing out its weapons work there in 1994.

Dan Foose spent 15 years at the Mound nuclear weapons plant as a scientific Sherlock Holmes. Using high-tech instruments instead of a magnifying glass, he searched for clues to quality-control problems in the production of nuclear weapons components.

Now he's using the same skills and instruments to solve mysteries for commercial manufacturers — everything from appliance plugs to car parts.

"We're able to get to the root cause (of problems) . . . usually in a few days or a week," says Foose, president of the National Discovery Center Inc.

The discovery center is one of 30 new businesses that have sprung up at Mound since the Department of Energy began phasing out its weapons work there in 1994. Federal, state and local officials have worked with the DOE to help convert Mound's defense work to private enterprise. The businesses account for about 225 private-sector jobs on the site.

The conversion of Mound has been a struggle, and businesses there have had some setbacks. But the outlandish notion of turning a nuclear weapons plant into a business park is showing signs of success.

Many of the entrepreneurs are coming from Mound itself, looking for ways to use their talents as their DOE work dries up. Some work part time for private businesses while continuing to work in their regular jobs for the plant operator, EG&G Mound Applied Technologies Inc.

The National Discovery Center is an example. Foose and about a dozen other current and former Mound scientists have turned their surface-analysis expertise into a business that's attracted customers from the automotive, appliance, tool and electronic device industries. Foose says they can examine surfaces one layer of atoms at a time.

Surrounded by fancy equipment, Foose holds up a small electrical plug with nickel-plated steel pins. It was made for an appliance product; Foose declines to identify the product or its maker, then explains why.

"This was a case where the manufacturer lost a $1 million order because the nickel plating was coming off the steel pins and the manufacturer could not explain to the customer why it was happening," he says. "Within two days, I was able to show them that they were not plating nickel onto steel but onto silicate." The silicate was getting on the steel during a treatment process, he says.

The National Discovery Center and the other Mound

SEE MOUND/8B

MOUND: Change going well

CONTINUED FROM 7B

mpanies are tenants of what's now called the Mound Advanced Technology Center. It's run by the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., which the city of Miamisburg created as an economic-development arm.

Michael J. Grauwelman, president of MMCIC, says the organization has started marketing Mound as a center that offers a variety of complementary technologies. It's a natural result of the way Mound operated — its scientists covered the entire spectrum of manufacturing, from research to design and production. But the upshot is that manufacturers can find problem-solving resources for almost any part of the product cycle.

Mound Metrology Inc., for example, can cater to the same manufacturers that go to the Discovery Center for troubleshooting.

Mound Metrology offers precise measurement across a wide range of properties, from mass and physical dimensions to electrical properties. Some manufacturers need to prove that their products meet exacting quality standards, and Mound Metrology's levels of measurement meet those set by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, according to company president Warner Gooden.

The complementary nature of Mound businesses is something MMCIC has focused on. New marketing brochures use the slogan "total solutions" in describing the advanced technology center. "When we market the site, we're also marketing these businesses," Grauwelman said.

The DOE still owns Mound and continues to have some missions there. For example, its tritium facility is still unloading tritium containers from nuclear warheads as part of America's nuclear arms reduction program. And it still has the Radioisotopic Thermoelectric Generator (RTG) program, which assembles and tests plutonium-fueled generators for deep-space probes.

But the DOE is mostly shutting down programs and cleaning up contamination at the 306-acre site that overlooks Miamisburg. EG&G Mound is working under a contract extension; the DOE is in the process of naming a replacement contractor, which will focus on cleaning up the site and helping it switch over to private enterprise.

Not everything has gone according to plan, however. A year ago, Mound Flexible Circuits Corp. held a news conference to announce its arrival at Mound and plans to employ 125 people within 12 months. The company said it would use formerly secret facilities to turn out lightweight, flexible circuit boards for laptop computers, cellular telephones and other products.

Instead, employment there is stalled at around 35 people, Grauwelman said. He explained that the company's production plans have been held up by delays in getting its circuit boards certified for certain uses, but added, "I just see that as a temporary setback."

Richard McConnell, president and chief executive of Mound Flexible Circuits, could not be reached for comment.

Of course, any new business venture is fraught with risk. Carl J. Kershner, research director of Mound Laser and Photonics Center Inc., admits some of the fledgling company's three full-time and four part-time employees had some qualms about leaping into a new business 18 months ago.

"Some of us had anxieties," he admitted, adding, "Some of us were very optimistic."

Kershner was one. He had retired from EG&G Mound 10 years earlier and was building a small instrument manufacturing business of his own. But he sold it when he saw the potential of the laser and photonics center.

The company offers a wide range of high-tech services, from high-speed photography to laser welding and drilling. Business has come from the automotive, aerospace and printing industries, Kershner said. For example, General Motors Corp. has used the company's high-speed photography service to study air-bag inflation.

Meanwhile, more Mound scientists are testing the entrepreneurial waters. Mound employee David Farsich has rented lab space for his fledgling company, Inorganic Specialists Inc.

He's pursuing a new technology for supercapacitors that could help power cell phones, electric cars and other products. He's looking for federal small-business grants to help him start product development.

"What I've got is a hot technology that's awaiting a prototype," he says.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

Miamisburg calls on citizens to help plan city's future

By Cathy Mong
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Miamisburg city administrators, elected officials and employees will be joined in the coming months by citizens who want to develop a plan for the city's future.

The first such citizen meeting will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 27 at a location yet to be determined. Two more meetings with residents will be scheduled through August, when the planning process will conclude.

The comprehensive process is designed to set the course of decision-making for the next several years.

A strategic planning steering committee has been formed to oversee the project. The committee is made up of City Manger John K. Weithofer, Assistant City Manager Dave Collinsworth, Parks and Recreation Director Becky Benna; council members Dave Wood, Mady Ransdell and Paul Gutshall; and citizen representatives Ron Testa, Scott Hewitt, Fred Hoppel and Jean Gaffney.

Miamisburg City Council identified eight issues it believes are vital to the city's long-term growth and success, Weithofer said. They are:

- ▶ Revitalization of downtown
- ▶ Conversion of the Mound site to commercial use
- ▶ Quality of life
- ▶ Citizen ownership/involvement
- ▶ Budget capacity
- ▶ Economic development
- ▶ Image
- ▶ Intergovernmental affairs

Assisting the city with strategic planning is the consulting firm of Burns, Bertsch & Harris. Dale Bertsch, former director of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission; and former Dayton City Manager Jim Kunde, also are helping.

Weithofer said he welcomes residents' input throughout the process, including printed and telephone surveys yet to be developed.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

DEFENSE PLANNING

Clinton to propose $265.3 billion budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, reversing earlier defense planning, will propose today a $265.3 billion defense budget for next year, eliminating a dip in Pentagon spending.

The plan covers defense spending for fiscal 1998, which begins next Oct. 1. Last year, Clinton projected that he would request $258.8 billion for fiscal 1998. Thus, the proposal he plans to present to lawmakers represents a $6.5 billion increase over earlier projection.

Compared with this year's defense budget of $264.7 billion, the Clinton proposal represents only a slight increase and might not cover the effects of inflation. Still, it appears to reflect an effort to avoid the annual barrage of Republican criticism that the administration is underfunding defense. It also might reflect the influence of the new defense secretary, former Republican Sen. William Cohen.

Much of the increase in the administration's own plan would go to defense portions of the Department of Energy, which manages the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. Of the $6.5 billion Clinton added to his own projected defense plan for next year, $3.9 billion, or nearly two-thirds, goes to the Energy Department accounts.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MOUND PLANT

Budget money slated

Federal funding for cleanup of the Mound Plant in Miamisburg would continue under President Clinton's proposed budget, keeping the effort on track for 2005.

About $100 million is slated for the Mound, officials said.

Most of that money is for cleaning up nuclear and chemical contamination at the Department of Energy's former weapons component plant. The agency plans to vacate the site by 2005, except for work on nuclear generators in support of NASA space exploration programs.

"The bottom line is the 1998 budget is a successful budget," said Peter Greenwalt, chief financial officer for the Department of Energy's Ohio field office.

Plans call for converting the 305-acre site into a high-tech industrial park. Thirty-two businesses already lease 175,000 square feet at the Mound from the Department of Energy.

"In the budget-cutting environment we're in today, I'm not sure we could expect anything more than level funding which we received today," said Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 to redevelop the site.

—Laura A. Bischoff, Dayton Daily News

Cincinnati, OH
(S = 341,046, D = 197,590)

Level of cancer risk near Fernald disputed

BY TIM BONFIELD
The Cincinnati Enquirer

The radiation dose absorbed by people living near Fernald may have been four to six times lower than previously estimated, according to a review to be released today.

That means the lung cancer risk linked to the now-closed uranium processing plant about 15 miles northwest of Cincinnati also may have been overstated.

That Fernald caused some level of lung cancer risk first was revealed in August in a groundbreaking dose reconstruction study conducted by Radiological Assessments Corp. (RAC) on behalf of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Fernald
RADIATION & RISKS

The review was conducted by a 14-member National Research Council (NRC) committee that included several of the nation's top experts on the health effects of radiation.

The committee disputed how RAC estimated the amount of radon gas emitted by waste stored in Fernald's deteriorating K-65 silos. The issue is important because radon gas — not uranium — was cited as the largest health risk.

"In the opinion of the committee, the RAC approach has resulted in an overestimation of doses to people from exposure to radon," the NRC committee wrote. "The committee is concerned that RAC's overestimation of doses received by the population from radon, although prudent, might produce some undeserved apprehension on the

(Please see FERNALD, Page A3)

Fernald: Review disputes level of cancer risks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

part of some citizens and should be carefully presented."

Overall, the committee estimated that the health risks were overstated. It also said RAC should do more to factor smoking into estimates of lung cancer risk.

RAC President John Till did not return phone calls about the new report. But CDC officials said the differing opinions may complicate decisions about what to do next.

The CDC has been studying whether to spend several million dollars on an epidemiological study to determine whether Fernald neighbors actually suffered a higher-than-average cancer rate.

"I can't tell you what implications (the review) will have," said CDC spokesman Steve Adams. "Whenever you have peer review, there's an expectation that there's going to be differences of opinion. At this point we aren't looking at either report as right or wrong."

The original study looked at a 6.2-mile radius surrounding Fernald. Researchers for that study used plant production records, emission measurements and weather trends to create a highly detailed computer model of radioactive pollution from Fernald.

The radiation dose and cancer risks were laid out in nine hypothetical scenarios based on how long people lived near the plant and how close. All the scenarios were based on years when the plant was in operation. Federal officials say the closed plant now poses no significant human health risks.

In the worst-case scenario cited by the RAC study — a 50-year-old woman who lived for 38 years on a farm just downwind of Fernald — the lifetime odds of developing lung cancer would be 23 percent, compared with a average national risk of 20 percent.

The risks drop dramatically for people who lived farther away or for shorter periods. But a higher-than-average cancer risk was cited for all nine scenarios.

If the National Research Council criticisms of the original study are correct, how many of those scenarios face an increased cancer risk is open to question.

But Mr. Adams said he does not expect the CDC to conclude that Fernald posed no health risks at all.

"While we may all disagree on the precise dose estimate, in any case, the CDC believes there was an increase in risk," Mr. Adams said.

The full text of the committee review comes out today. The report is expected to be discussed in detail by the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee, which meets Wednesday and Thursday in Harrison.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

DOE starts up new pump-and-treat system for Mound clean up effort

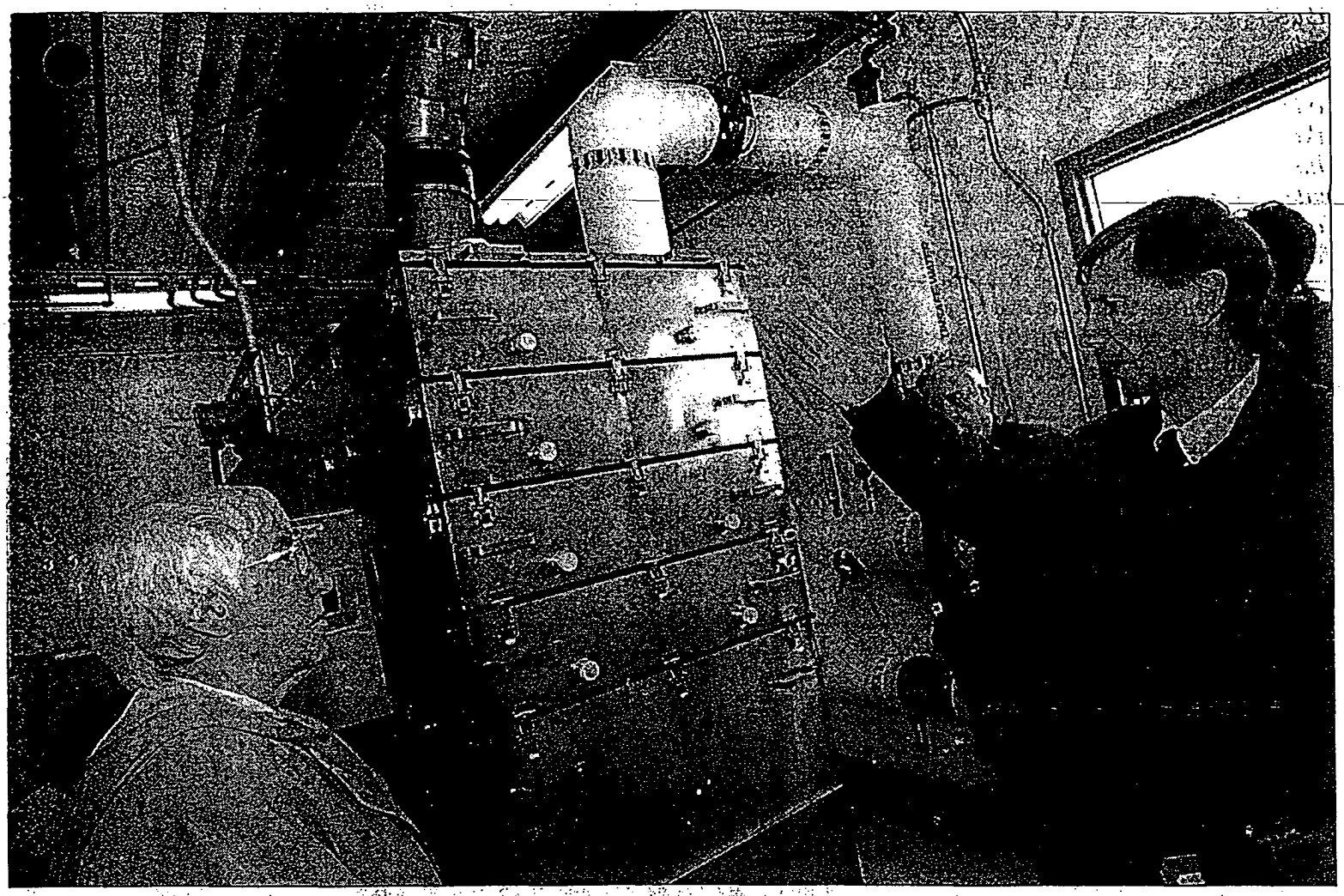
The Ohio Field Office of the U.S. Department of Energy has started a new pump-and-treat system next week at its Miamisburg Mound Plant.

The system will clean up contaminated groundwater in a former waste disposal area which covers four acres in the southwestern portion of the developed plant area. Tests have shown that various solvents and degreasers, known collectively as volatile organic organic compounds (VOCs), are leaching into the soil and groundwater below, reaching a small portion of the Buried Valley Aquifer. The aquifer is a source of drinking water for the area, including Miamisburg and the Mound Plant. Long term exposure to low concentration of VOCs, which do not dissolve easily in water, can affect human health.

To prevent the further spread of the chemicals into the aquifer, contaminated water will be pumped to the surface and treated to remove the contaminants.

The start of the groundwater remediation program is an especially noteworthy achievement for Mound, according to DOE officials. This project completes the clean up under a Record of Decision under the Superfund law. The Mound Plant was placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities (Superfund) list in 1989 due to potential contamination in the groundwater resulting from past plant operations.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)



JIM RUTLEDGE/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

There was a ribbon cutting for the Pump and Treatment System Operable Unit One Tuesday afternoon at the Mound plant in Miamisburg. Project manager Ken Hacker (right) explains the stripper to Velma Schearer, staff minister for Neighbors in Need.

MIAMISBURG MOUND PLANT

System to clean water

▶ The $500,000 method uses 'air-stripping' to clean contaminated groundwater.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The Department of Energy opened a new, $500,000 pump and treatment system Tuesday, designed to clean up contaminated groundwater from a former waste disposal area at the Mound plant in Miamisburg.

The contaminants, various solvents and degreasers known as volatile organic compounds (VOC), were leaching into the soil and a portion of the aquifer that is a source of drinking water for Miamisburg. Long-term exposure to low concentrations of VOCs can affect human health.

The system is part of an agreement reached in 1994 with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for remedial action. The Mound plant was placed on the agency's National Priorities List (Superfund) in 1989.

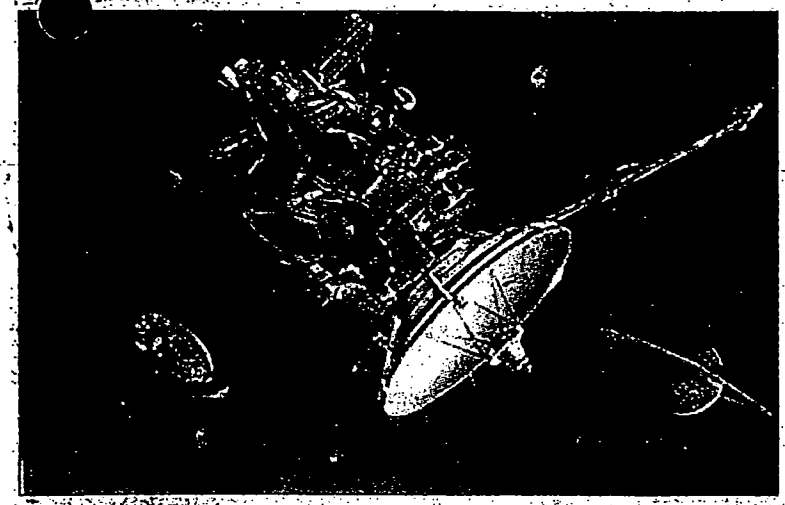
The pump system will use 'air-stripping' to clean the groundwater, removing the VOCs before returning the water to the aquifer. The system treats 140,000-150,000 gallons a day. DOE officials said the pump will operate continuously for a number of years until the pollution is removed. Treated water is tested at the Mound and at independent laboratories to ensure the chemicals have been removed.

The contaminants originated in the southwestern part of the plant, the site of a closed landfill and a former waste disposal building.

The project completes the cleanup mandated under the Superfund law.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

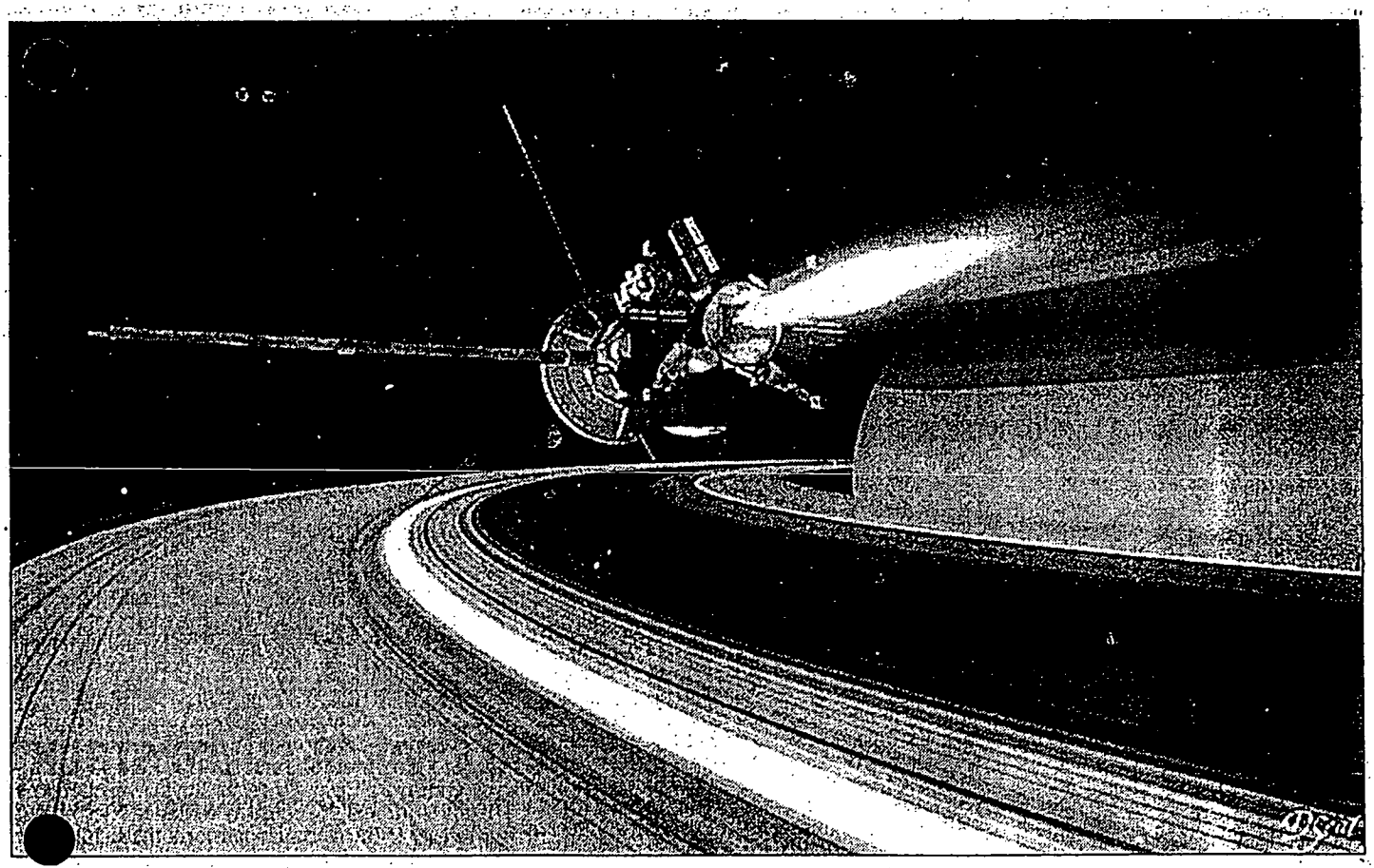
TECHNOLOGY



Mound gets update on mission

This NASA illustration shows the Cassini spacecraft, which is scheduled to be launched in October and reach Saturn in 2004. Miamisburg's Mound Plant assembles the plutonium-fueled generators that will provide electrical power for the mission.

▶ Please see full story, 7B.



ARTIST'S CONCEPTION/NASA

The Cassini probe to the outer planets uses a plutonium-driven energy cell because the sun's light out there is too weak for solar collectors that routinely provide electricity for Earth's orbiters.

Little pack of power

Galileo gets its energy from Mound lab

By Timothy R. Gaffney
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

While the Galileo spacecraft orbiting Jupiter sends back one surprising picture after another, scientists and technicians at the Mound Plant in Miamisburg are helping the space agency prepare the sequel.

Two managers from NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., which manages NASA's deep-space missions, visited Mound on Wednesday as part of a quarterly review of Mound's work on the Cassini mission to Saturn. It's scheduled to be launched in October and reach Saturn in 2004.

Mound assembles and monitors the plutonium-fueled radioisotopic thermoelectric generators, called RTGs, which provide electrical power for all spacecraft missions to the outer solar system, including Galileo and Cassini.

Planets on the 'Net

The latest images from Galileo and information about the Cassini mission are available on the Internet at NASA's World Wide Web sites:
www.jpl.nasa.gov/galileo/
www.jpl.nasa.gov/cassini/

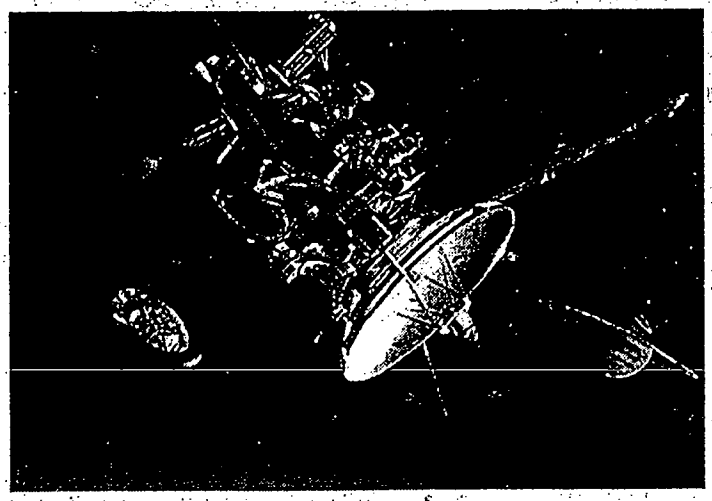
The visit came on the eve of Galileo's closest approach yet to Europa, a moon of Jupiter that some some scientists suspect might be capable of supporting life. Recent Galileo findings indicate that liquid water sloshes beneath Europa's icy surface — possibly warmed above freezing by tidal forces from giant Jupiter's gravity.

The latest pass may provide fresh clues. Galileo is to pass within 360 miles of Europa just after noon today The jet propulsion lab computers should have the first pictures processed on Monday.

Ronald Draper, the lab's deputy program manager for Cassini, called Mound's contribution to the outer-planet missions "absolutely essential" because the RTGs provide the power that make them work.

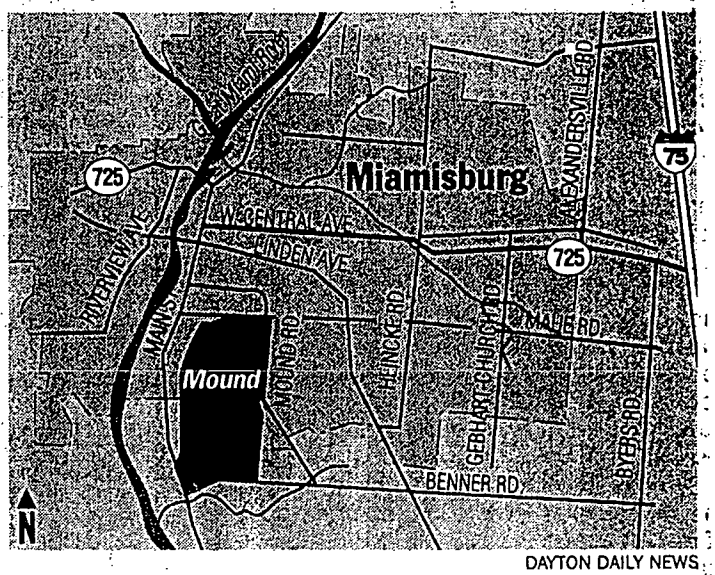
NASA uses RTGs on years-long missions beyond Mars because the sun's energy is too weak there for solar cells to work efficiently, and batteries are too heavy and short-lived.

The RTGs have made some missions legendary. Pioneer 10, the first spacecraft to pass Jupiter, will turn 25 in March and still sends back a radio signal from beyond the edge of the solar system.



ARTIST'S CONCEPTION/NASA

Cassini should reach Saturn in 2004.



DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

JUST SAY 'KNOW'



JIM RUTLEDGE/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Centerville High student Kevin Koller ponders a question Saturday during the seventh annual Miami Valley Regional Science Bowl at the University of Dayton's Kennedy Union. **Story, 2B.**

HIGH SCHOOL

Whizzes vie in quizzes

Ohio and Michigan students compete in the Science Bowl.

By Laura Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The teams were from Ohio and Michigan. A trip to a national bowl game was at stake. Helmets were optional; calculators were banned.

Ready? *A car is moving along a straight, horizontal road at a speed of 20 meters per second. The brakes are applied and a constant force of 5,000 newtons decelerates the car to a stop in 10 seconds. What is the mass of the car in kilograms?*

You've got 10 seconds. (Answer: 2,500)

All day Saturday, high school students answered question after question in the Miami Valley Regional Science Bowl at the University of Dayton's Kennedy Union. Five-person teams participated in the double-elimination tournament. The winning team earned a trip to the National Science Bowl in Washington in May.

The Science Bowl is federally sponsored by the Department of Energy. Locally, it's run by EG&G Mound Applied Technologies in Miamisburg.

Centerville 'B' team members Kevin Koller, Dan Merl, Brad O'Conner, Nafissa Islam and Matt Ryan paced the room after losing to Harrison, a team from Farmington Hills, Mich. The loss moved them into the losers' bracket, where they still had a shot at the title.

Koller, who described himself as the team's "all-around quick buzzer finger," wrapped up his entire Science Bowl experience in one word: "Exhilarating."

Koller's team lost in the next round to the Beavercreek team, a surprise entrant in the losers' bracket after winning the Bowl in five of the last six years.

In the final round, Harrison went up against Fairborn's 'A' team, which came up from the losers' bracket. Losers turned into winners, and Fairborn's Christopher Rhodes, Chris Camfield, Matt Gerdiny, Brian Skin and Charles Budde took the title. Third place went to Centerville's 'A' team, made up of Jeremy Olson, John Zinck, Nick Guise, Brian Riestenberg and Tony Kledzik.

FERNALD

3rd plant demolished in uranium site cleanup

CINCINNATI — Destruction of one of the buildings at the former Fernald uranium processing plant was completed Saturday.

Flour Daniel Fernald, the company managing the cleanup, imploded a building used to process uranium for other functions at Fernald, said spokeswoman Tricia Thompson.

The building is the third of 10 to be demolished at Fernald. The building was 82 feet wide, 202 feet long and 60 feet high.

The outside of the building was stripped so that only the steel shell had to be imploded, Thompson said. The steel will be cut apart and stored at the site.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

117th Year, No. 48, February 26, 1997

DOE unveils water treatment station

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

The U.S. Department of Energy unveiled a new pump and treat station at the Mound site on Feb. 18 designed to clean up contaminants that are fouling the aquifer.

The $500,000 facility uses a method called "air stripping" to clean groundwater contaminated with various solvents and degreasers known as volatile organic compounds or VOCs. These VOCs were leaching into the soil and were beginning to contaminate the aquifer that supplies drinking water to Miamisburg and surrounding areas. Exposure to low concentrations of the VOCs can affect human health.

According to Ken Hacker, project manager, the new system can treat up to 150,000 gallons of water a day and the system is expected to run for several years to complete the clean up of the contaminated water.

He said the VOCs are stripped from the groundwater and released into the atmosphere. Concentrations released into the air are not dangerous as the concentrations will be very small, he said.



KEN HACKER, project manager of the pump and treat station explains how the system works to clean up contaminated ground water. PHOTO BY STEVE SANDLIN

"THE VOC contamination is the original reason the Mound site was placed on the Superfund list in 1989," said Hacker. "And this system is part of the agreement we reached with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1994 for remedial action of the problem."

The VOCs originally came from the southwestern part of the Mound site, where a landfill and a former waste disposal building was located at one time.

"This is really a historic occasion for the Mound," said Nat Brown, acting director for the DOE's Miamisburg office. "This shows that the Department of Energy's commitment to cleaning up the Mound site is real and we're happy to get the project underway."

Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church agreed.

"It is so vitally important to the community to get this clean up underway," he said. "And now it's begun."

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period



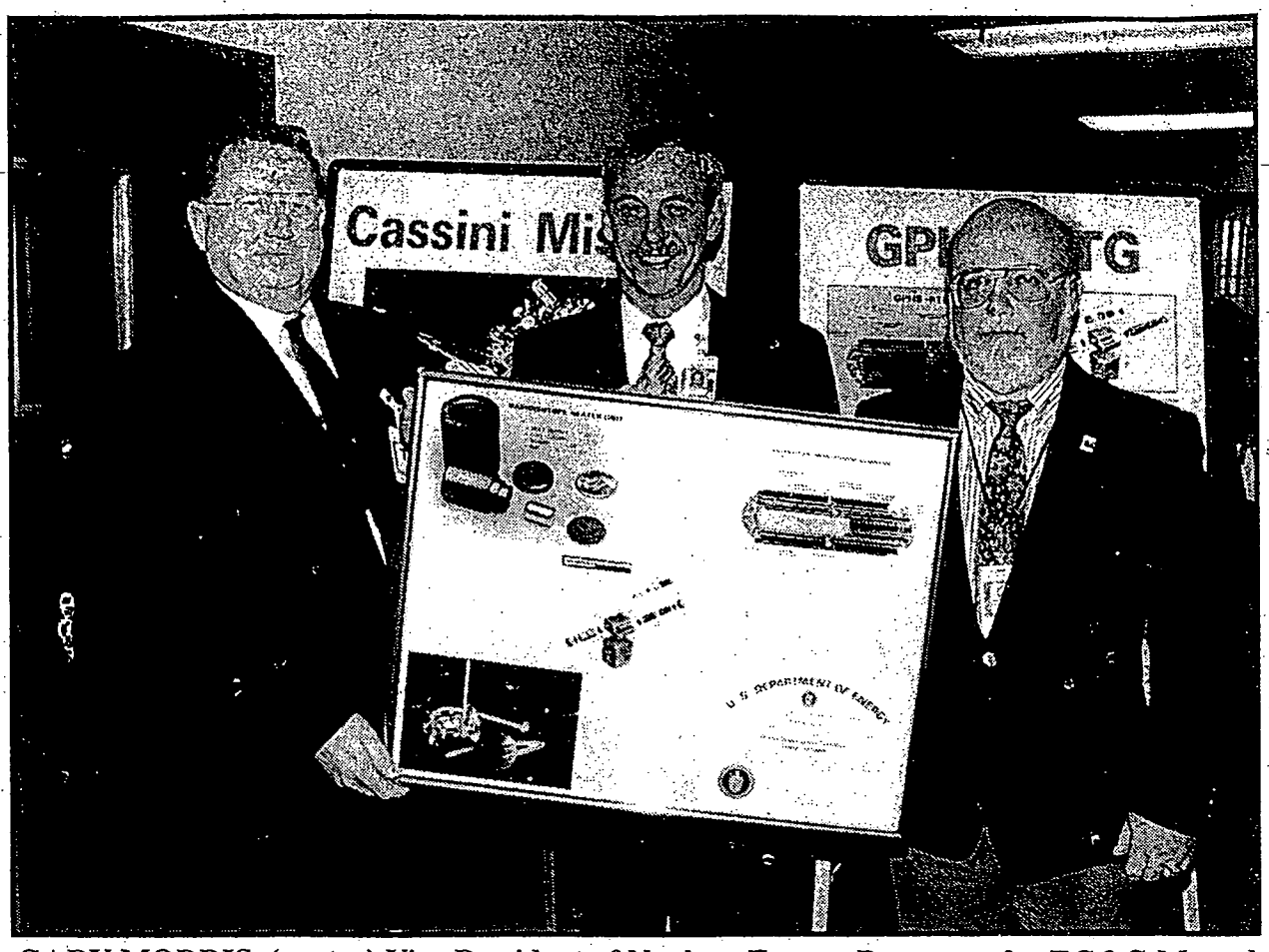
The following potential release site (PRS) packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning February 27, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from February 27, 1997, through April 3, 1997.

PRS 13:	Former Treatment Site - Trash Incinerator
PRS 23:	Solvent Waste Tank - Building 43 Settling Basin
PRS 24:	Solvent Storage Tank - Building 43
PRS 358:	Soil Contamination
PRS 365:	Soil Contamination
PRS 366:	Soil Contamination
PRS 367:	Soil Contamination
PRS 390/393/394:	Soil Contamination

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

EG&G honored for work on Cassini mission



GARY MORRIS, (center) Vice President of Nuclear Energy Programs for EG&G Mound is presented the award by Ron Draper (left), Cassini Program Manager for JPL and Richard Furlong, DOE Cassini Radioisotopic Thermoelectric Generator Project Manager.

The Mound site contractor the the U.S. Department of Energy, EG&G Mound Applied Technologies, was honored on Feb. 19 by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the DOE for its work on the upcoming Cassini Mission to Saturn.

Gary Morris, Vice President for Nuclear Energy Programs for EG&G Mound was presented the award by Ron Draper, Cassini Program Manage for JPL in Pasadena, Calif. and Richard Furlong, DOE Cassini R[illegible]isotopic Thermoelectric G[illegible]erator Project Manager.

As part of DOE's mission in support of NASA space missions, EG&G Mound fabricates and tests RTGs, three of which will be aboard the Cassini spacecraft. RTGs use the decay of Plutonium 238 to provide heat and electrical power for the spacecraft in the deep of space.

MOUND HAS developed similar units for Galileo, Ulysses, Pioneer, Viking and Voyager space missions. In Oct., 1997, Cassini, a two-story-tall robotic spacecraft will begin a seven year journey to reach Saturn, some 1.4 billion kilometers, or about 87 million miles from Earth. The spacecraft will explore Saturn's swirling atmosphere, mysterious interior, dramatic rings, tremendous magnetic field, numerous icy satellites and its intriguing moon, Titan. The mission is named after 17th century French-Italian astronomer Jean Dominique Cassini.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Canal clean up progresses

The work of the U.S. Department of Energy to cleanup the Miami-Erie Canal has progressed to the northern portion of the canal.

Motorists on State Route 25 and nearby residents may have noticed the area adjacent to Community Park being cleared in preparation for excavation and earthmoving activities.

As was the case in the south canal last year, trees and brush in the canal bed are being removed in a clearing and grubbing operation.

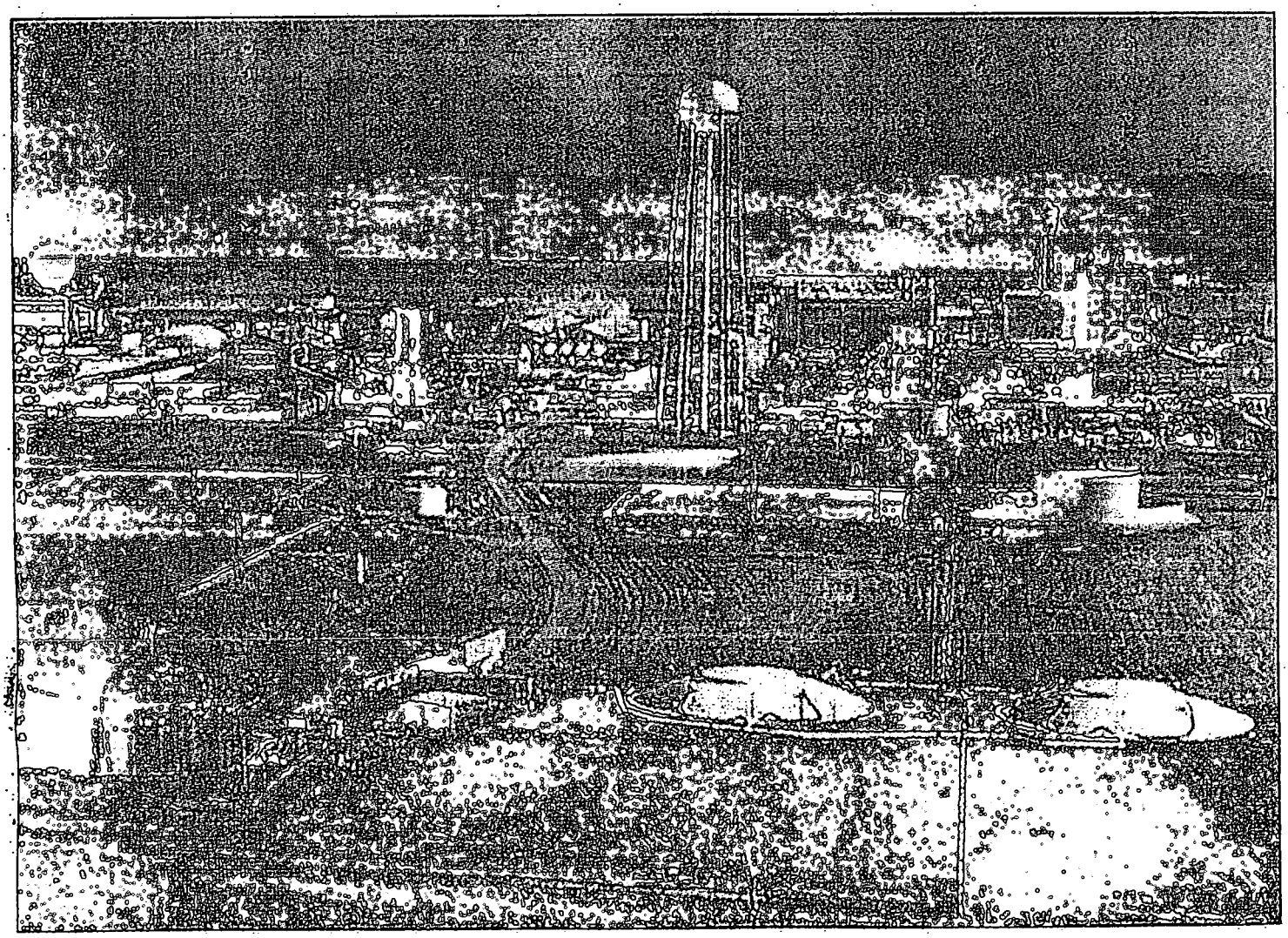
Trees on the canal banks and edges of the work area are being removed selectively in order to leave as many mature trees standing as possible. The cleanup and restoration activities will be completed later this year.

The Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Department and the Miami Conservancy will be working with the Department of Energy to develop a landscaping plan to reforest the affected area.

Cincinnati, OH
(S = 341,046, D = 197,590)

'The GAO report confirms serious and ongoing problems.'

Audit: Fernald cleanup botched, millions wasted



Congressmen want changes before renewal

MIKE GALLAGHER
TIM BONFIELD
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Government investigators say the cleanup of Fernald has wasted millions of dollars through mismanagement by the contractor and a lack of oversight by the U.S. Department of Energy.

A report by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), released Tuesday, prompt ed members of Congress to say the contract of Fluor Daniel Fernald should not be renewed or extended unless major problems at the nuclear cleanup site can be fixed.

DANGER & DECEIT
The Fernald Cleanup

Inside/A6

- A chronology of troubles at Fernald
- Excerpts from the GAO report

- Complete report on *The Enquirer's* Web site: http://enquirer. com

Ohio Sens. John Glenn and Mike DeWine and Reps. Rob Portman and John Boehner said the U.S. Department of Energy and Fluor Daniel Fernald also "bear responsibility for the tens of millions of taxpayer dollars that have been wasted at Fernald over the past two years."

The members of Congress called for the GAO investigation last March following a series of *Enquirer* articles that began Feb. 11, 1996, and revealed serious management, financial and safety irregularities at the site.

Included in the problems GAO investigators found at Fernald were a severe lack of Energy Department oversight; tens of millions of taxpayers' dollars wasted on fast-tracked and problem-plagued cleanup projects; unauthorized use of financial control and charge accounts; lack of safety procedures and training; and missing, non-existent or inadequate financial and safety documents and procedures.

The DOE agreed with GAO investigators that the problems found there also exist in

(Please see AUDIT, Page A6)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

energy department projects nationwide, according to the report. The Energy Department said it is "implementing major reform efforts" to address the problems throughout the nation.

The GAO also found that, in some cases, Energy Department and Fluor Daniel Fernald officials had tried to fix safety, financial and management problems, but that it was too early to determine whether those actions will work.

For example, the GAO report said: "Weaknesses remain in DOE's safety oversight at Fernald. Although the Fernald Area Office's oversight programs have improved, they still have weaknesses that limit DOE's ability to ensure that Fluor Daniel Fernald is fulfilling applicable safety and health requirements.

"Problems include weak planning of assessment activities, slow progress in ensuring that some key oversight staff are properly qualified, and weak processes for ensuring that identified safety problems are adequately corrected."

The problems identified by the GAO prompted Reps. Portman and Boehner and Sens. Glenn and DeWine to set up a meeting Thursday with DOE Under Secretary Thomas Grumbly to discuss management's lack of oversight at Fernald, said Mr. Glenn's spokesman Bryan McCleary. The lawmakers plan to request quarterly reports from the Fernald field office to the energy secretary to assure that the cleanup remains on schedule.

Mr. Glenn also plans to raise questions about Fernald Thursday to recently confirmed Energy Secretary Federico Pena at a Senate Armed Services Committee meeting, Mr. McCleary said.

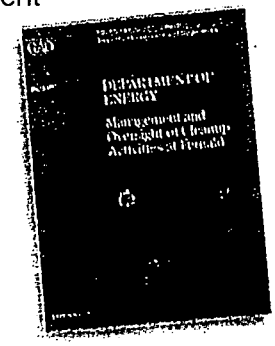


About the Enquirer series

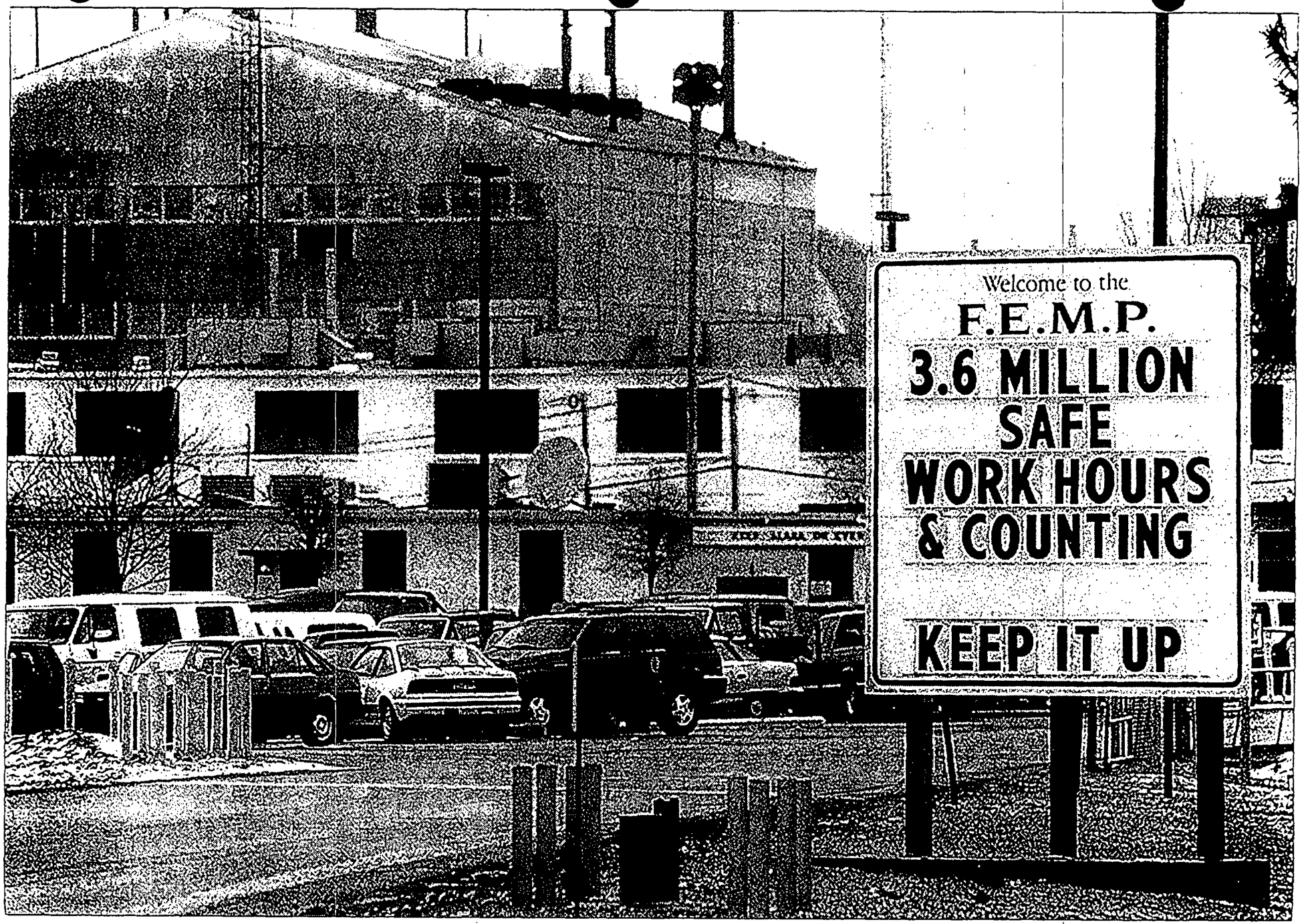
The Enquirer broke the story of mismanagement in the Fernald cleanup with a four-day series titled "Danger & Deceit" Feb. 11-14, 1996. The initial series, and more than 60 subsequent stories, detailed financial irregularities, safety problems and a lack of government oversight in the massive cleanup project.

GAO findings confirm Enquirer investigation

- Energy Department officials at Fernald have not exercised adequate management and oversight at the site.
- There has been insufficient monitoring of Fluor Daniel Fernald's safety and health programs and procedures by Energy Department officials.
- Fluor Daniel Fernald has not complied with required procedures in maintaining its major performance and financial systems.
- Weaknesses in oversight at Fernald have resulted in increased costs, project schedule slippages, and safety and health risks.



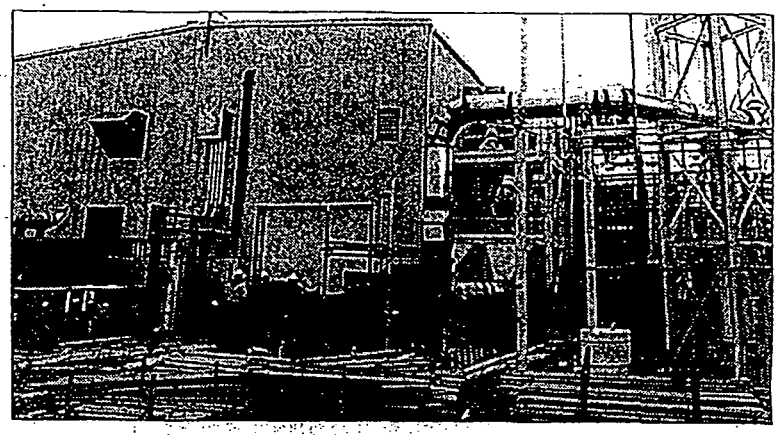
- Continued weaknesses in the Energy Department's oversight at Fernald limits its ability to ensure Fluor Daniel Fernald is adhering to safety and health requirements.
- Inadequate monitoring procedures and weak planning of formal inspections b Fernald's Energy Department staff means the government cannot ensure the identified safety problems are adequately corrected.
- Fluor Daniel Fernald's practices for maintaining the site's performance and financial systems make it difficult for them and the Energy Department to exercise effective control of Fluor's costs and activities.



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Patrick Reddy

This view of the entrance to Fernald was photographed Jan. 24, 1996. The plant is located on 1,050 acres about 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati.

Audit: Fernald cleanup botched



Fernald's pilot vitrification plant is shown under construction in January 1996. The troubled plant was shut down in December after a melter sprung a leak, pouring non-radioactive material onto the floor.

Most serious problem

Fernald, on 1,050 acres about 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati, processed enriched, weapons-grade uranium during the Cold War. The plant ceased production in 1989, and a massive cleanup of the site was begun. Fluor Daniel Fernald, a subsidiary of Fluor Corp., of Irvine, Calif., won the $2 billion contract to manage the site in 1992.

According to the GAO, the most seriously mishandled piece of the project is a vitrification pilot plant, designed to test a process to encapsulate 20,000 pounds of radioactive material into glasslike pellets for disposal elsewhere.

Originally estimated to cost $14.1 million, the vitrification pilot project now is more than $56 million overbudget and 19 months behind schedule. DOE now has an independent review team studying whether the vitrification project should proceed or be scrapped.

Fluor Daniel Fernald and the Energy Department's inept handling and oversight of the vitrification project prompted the congressional leaders on Tuesday to recommend to DOE officials that they should consider taking the project away from Fluor Daniel Fernald and hire "a contractor with a demonstrated record of success . . . "

The GAO report stated that despite the numerous problems at the site, investigators did not uncover any criminal wrongdoing or a willful pattern of fraud and deception on the part of Fluor Daniel Fernald.

But the GAO investigators stated in their report: "The scope and objectives of our work, however, were not so broad that we could either validate or dismiss the conclusions drawn from the (*Enquirer)* allegations regarding workers' safety or the government being systematically cheated out of millions of dollars."

The GAO report said: "Although many of the safety and health allegations in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* overstated the situation at Fernald, the site did have serious problems."

Overly optimistic

GAO auditors said Fluor Daniel Fernald's problems included underestimating the job it was hired to do; giving over-optimistic predictions of how fast it could recover from delays; and doing design and construction work at the same time.

The GAO investigation, headed by Victor S. Rezendes, director of Energy, Resources and Science Issues, was conducted from March 1, 1996, through Jan. 31, 1997.

Immediately after *The Enquirer* series, "Fernald: Danger and Deceit" began on Feb. 11, 1996, Fluor Daniel Fernald and Energy Department officials criticized the articles, repeatedly stating that the specific problems being cited either were "non-existent" or "greatly exaggerated."

Following release of the GAO report Tuesday, Energy Department officials stationed at Fernald, issued a written statement that said: "The DOE welcomes the GAO review of the Fernald Environmental Management Project and the release of its final report.

"The report criticized management in some areas, but also noted improvement in both financial and safety management systems at the facility. The GAO makes two recommendations: that some improvements be made to the Fernald contract, and that DOE strengthen oversight in some areas. We agree with these recommendations and have already begun to implement them."

The GAO was highly critical of Fluor Daniel Fernald and DOE's handling of the vitrification project and another project to clean up UNH, a radioactive liquid.

"DOE has not exercised adequate management and oversight of the vitrification and (UNH) projects or of the contractor's (Fluor Daniel Fernald's) safety and health activities. In addition, the contractor has not complied with some required procedures in maintaining its major performance and financial systems. As a result of these weaknesses, costs have increased, schedules have slipped and safety and health risks exist."

In defending its actions, DOE officials said: "On numerous occasions, DOE's site management at Fernald financially penalized (Fluor Daniel Fernald) for its performance on the pilot project and UNH project. For both projects, the department fully acknowledged problems and discussed them openly in public forums for the past two years."

Fluor responds

In a written response to *The Enquirer* Tuesday, Fluor Daniel Fernald officials said they "have previously acknowledged significant problems have been experienced in our efforts to construct and startup the vitrification pilot plant — a plant designed to provide data about the safe and efficient disposal of (radioactive waste)."

Fluor officials declined to comment on the recommendation by members of Congress to not extend the company's contract at Fernald until problems with the vitrification project were resolved. They also did not address the findings that the company and DOE "wasted tens of millions of dollars" of taxpayers' money.

Company officials did point out that the GAO found no "criminal wrongdoing or a willful pattern of fraud and deception." The officials said they also felt the GAO report "puts to rest the allegations of 'Danger and Deceit' as characterized by (*The Enquirer*)."

Fluor officials, in the press release, wrote: "We are gratified that the Ohio delegation recognizes the success, progress and cost savings on the Fernald project." The company noted that Fernald's accelerated cleanup plan will cut more than a decade off the original schedule and may save taxpayers billions of dollars over the life the project.

"Also, five of the six major project areas — which include the decommissioning and deconstruction of the facilities formerly used for uranium feed materials production — are on or ahead of schedule and on budget," the Fluor statement said.

But Rep. Steve Chabot said Fluor Daniel Fernald's comments were misleading and self-serving. "The GAO report confirms serious and ongoing problems with the Fernald cleanup involving both the Department of Energy and its contractor.

"I certainly agree with the GAO's statement that the November expiration of the contract with Fluor Daniel Fernald 'will provide a test of the implementation of DOE's contract reform initiatives.' DOE can demonstrate its commitment to a policy of full and open competition, and the effects of its training of DOE personnel, in performance-based contracting."

Mr. Chabot also praised *The Enquirer* for revealing the problems at Fernald.

"Overall, the GAO's report makes it evident that the initial reporting in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* flagged some very serious issues. Although the report does not verify all of *The Enquirer's* allegations, the paper deserves praise for shining a spotlight on management and performance problems at Fernald.

"My colleague Congressman Portman has done a tremendous job thus far in following up on these very important concerns, and I look forward to working further with him, Senator Glenn, Senator DeWine, and Congressman Boehner in keeping the pressure on to improve cleanup operations for the benefit of our entire community."

J. Phil Hamric, head of the Energy Department's Ohio Field Office, and Jack Craig, the department's Fernald Area Supervisor, declined repeated requests for interviews about the GAO report findings.

The cleanup contract comes up for renewal in November when Energy Department officials can decide to hire another company to supervise the site; award another long-term contract to Fluor Daniel Fernald; or renew the existing contract for a one-to-three-year period.

The Energy Department now estimates it could take another 13 to 15 years to complete the cleanup with an additional cost of more than $2.4 billion.

Detailed findings

The GAO report was compiled during an 11-month investigation that included dozens of interviews with DOE officials and employees and managers of Fluor Daniel Fernald and its subcontractors.

The result is a 90-page document citing specific problems with management, oversight, finance and safety. Among the findings:

▶ DOE provided limited oversight during the early stages of the vitrification and UNH projects and did not prepare many of the required project management documents for the UNH project.

"These and other DOE oversight weaknesses contributed to a total of $65 million in estimated cost overruns and almost six years of schedule slippages for the two projects," the report said.

▶ From 1993 to 1995, serious safety and health concerns were raised about DOE's ability to ensure Fluor Daniel Fernald's compliance with safety and health requirements.

▶ Fluor Daniel Fernald's practices for maintaining the performance and financial systems made it difficult for DOE and the company to exercise effective control and oversight of Fluor's costs and activities.

"For example, the contractor's requests to change the cost and schedule baseline, on which the contractor's performance is based, do not always provide the required information for DOE's approval.

"In addition, charges are routinely made to closed financial accounts and the accounts are routinely reopened without the responsible managers' knowledge. Consequently, assurance that only appropriate costs are being charged to accounts is weakened."

PROBLEMS AT FERNALD

Feb. 11-14, 1996: In a copyrighted series, *The Enquirer* revealed that FERMCO (now called Fluor Daniel Fernald) and its parent company, Fluor Daniel Corp., cheated the government out of millions of dollars and jeopardized the safety of workers and neighbors at the Fernald


Flexing their faith
THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER
Dole still favorite in Iowa
Fernald workers' safety threatened

site.

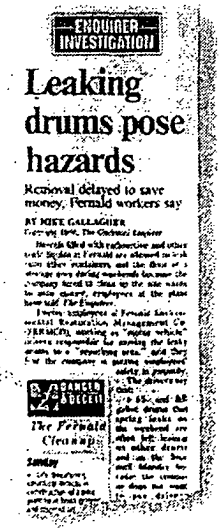
Feb. 13: Congressman Rob Portman leads the call for the U.S. General Accounting Office (Congress' investigative arm) to investigate the problems reported by *The Enquirer.*

Feb. 15: U.S. Sens. John Glenn and Mike DeWine and congressman Steve Chabot echo Portman's call for a GAO investigation.

Feb. 23: The U.S. General Accounting Office announces it will expand its probe to include a nationwide look at the Energy Department's oversight of contractors and also its policy of paying hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer-financed severance buyouts since 1993.

Feb. 29: Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary confirms there are minor problems at Fernald, but says corrective action has been taken.

March 4: *The Enquirer* reveals that barrels filled with radioactive waste and other toxic liquids at one site at Fernald are allowed to leak onto other containers and the floor of a storage area during weekends because FERMCO wants to save on staffing costs. FERMCO denies there have been any leaking barrels at the site this year.


ENQUIRER INVESTIGATION
Leaking drums pose hazards
Removal delayed to save money, Fernald workers say

March 12: FERMCO admits to the Energy Department that its earlier denial was wrong and that there had been at least 80 leaking barrels of waste at the site in question between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15.

March 24: FERMCO records obtained by *The Enquirer* revealed company officials admitted they had lost/destroyed/or never compiled inspection records involving toxic and radioactive waste at scores of locations at Fernald. Ohio EPA confirms *Enquirer* findings on April 6 and assesses penalties.

May 5: Workers and union officials at Fernald accuse FERMCO of intimidating them in an effort to prevent them from telling GAO investigators about the serious safety and mismanagement problems at the site.

May 6: *The Enquirer* reports FERMCO officials altered the government-owned financial computer software to hide the fact that various cleanup projects were behind schedule and/or were over budget. The findings later are verified by the DOE inspector general.


ENQUIRER INVESTIGATION
FERMCO altered software
DOE probe confirms Enquirer report

May 19: FERMCO officials ordered Fernald workers to throw away millions of dollars in new and unused equipment and materials in an effort to "fast-track" cleanup projects to ensure they would receive a maximum performance fee.

Sept. 14: FERMCO changes its name to Fluor Daniel Fernald.

Sept. 29: The vitrification pilot plant, a key cleanup facility at Fernald which already has cost more than $70 million, may be scrapped, according to an *Enquirer* story based on confidential company records.

Oct. 6: Angry U.S. EPA officials say Energy Department and Fluor Daniel Fernald officials must meet the cleanup schedule involving the vitrification project. The edict came after company officials missed a legal, mandatory deadline for the project.

Nov. 21: Congressional leaders ask GAO investigators to expand their Fernald probe into why the sites' cleanup cannot be completed within 10 years, as earlier promised by Fluor Daniel Fernald and the Energy Department. Also, the GAO was asked to look at what financial controls were in place at Fernald to prevent mismanagement and loss of taxpayers' money.

Dec. 31: The troubled pilot vitrification plant is shut down after a melter springs a leak, pouring a ton of molten, non-radioactive material onto the floor and a too-small catch basin.

Feb. 1, 1997: Fluor Daniel Fernald is docked $4 million for various problems at the site, including continuing problems with the pilot vitrification plant.

March 2: Fluor Daniel Fernald overbilled the Energy Department more than $93,000 for employee moving and per diem costs in 1993, the department's inspector general rules.

March 8: Fluor Daniel Fernald wastes $16,000 of taxpayers' money by purchasing bar-code security stickers for employees' cars, only to discover later that they violated the law by having workers place them on passenger side windows.

Hazardous waste

Fernald problems confirmed

Problems at a former nuclear weapons plant near Cincinnati are not another "China Syndrome" meltdown —but safety hazards and a massive waste of tax money are serious enough that four House and Senate members from our region say the clean-up contract should not be extended or renewed until corrections are made.

An investigation by the Government Accounting Office (GAO), triggered by reports in *The Enquirer* and requested by Sens. John Glenn and Mike DeWine, and Reps. Rob Portman and John Boehner, came out yesterday.

Among other things, it found:

▶ The Department of Energy (DOE) "has not exercised adequate management and oversight" of two waste containment projects, "or of the contractor's safety and health activities."

▶ Contractor Fluor Daniel Fernald "has not complied with some required procedures in maintaining its major performance and financial systems."

In plain English: Unsafe conditions and jaw-dropping waste.

Citing one experimental waste containment process called "vitrification," the GAO confirmed what *The Enquirer* stories reported: Costs have exploded at the speed of nuclear fission, from about $14 million in 1994, to $56 million in 1996, to the latest estimate of more than $70 million.

Still, the project is so uncertain that DOE is putting it on hold for review and reconsideration of the cleanup strategy.

Another finding:

▶ "Although many of the safety and health allegations in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* overstated the situation at Fernald, the site did have serious problems."

The GAO did not attempt to confirm or dismiss all of the reports in *The Enquirer*, but found "specific weaknesses" in safety and financial controls.

That's a good start toward cleaning up a clean-up that has mushroomed from five years and $1.9 billion to 18 years and $4.3 billion.

Meanwhile, members of Congress should turn over rocks at other clean-up sites to find out if Fernald is typical of federal mismanagement that is itself a hazardous waste.

From the GAO

"After 36 years of using chemical and mechanical processes to produce slightly enriched uranium from ore, DOE's Fernald site is faced with a variety of environmental problems. As with other sites in DOE's nuclear weapons complex, an emphasis on production versus safety has produced a legacy of contaminated radioactive and hazardous wastes at storage sites, in buildings that are deteriorating, or in seepage to underground water supplies."

Cincinnati Enquirer
Cincinnati, OH
(S = 341,046, D = 197,590)

Fernald critics energized

Neighbors want 'action, not promises'

BY MIKE GALLAGHER
and TIM BONFIELD
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Neighbors and union leaders at Fernald are demanding an immediate fix of safety, financial and oversight problems at the site identified in a federal audit released this week.

Suggestions by those leaders include taking a major, problem-plagued cleanup project out of the hands of Fluor Daniel Fernald, the company managing the site; hiring more and better qualified Energy Department employees, and implementing more stringent oversight measures.

"I think it is clear that DOE needs more people ... qualified people," said Lisa Crawford, president of the Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH). "We want action, not promises. Trust is not a very big word with us lately. A lot of things have happened in the last few months at Fernald that make us distrustful."



The Fernald Cleanup

An audit of the Fernald cleanup by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), released Tuesday, said that the Department of Energy had failed to exercise adequate supervision of Fluor Daniel Fernald, allowing millions of dollars to be wasted at the site in the past two years.

The report

The complete text of the GAO report is available on *The Enquirer*'s Web site: http://enquirer.com

Those weaknesses in oversight have resulted in increased costs, project schedule slippages, and safety and health risks, according to the GAO report.

The almost year-long GAO investigation was sparked by a series of *Enquirer* articles that began Feb. 11, 1996, detailing mismanagement, financial improprieties, safety and oversight problems at the 1,050-acre site. The former uranium processing facility is located about 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati.

Ms. Crawford said Wednesday the GAO report should send a

(Please see FERNALD, Page A12)

Fernald: Critics demand action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

wake-up call to Fluor Daniel Fernald and Energy Department officials in Washington D.C. "to fix what's wrong and make sure controls are put in place to prevent them from recurring."

She said Fluor Daniel Fernald's five-year, $2 billion contract to manage Fernald's cleanup should not be renewed when it expires in November "if major changes aren't made" in the way they do business.

"DOE will have to take a very strong look at renewal of their contract," she said. "Fluor will have to demonstrate some very good effort before we (FRESH) will support their rehiring."

The GAO report was particularly critical of cost overruns and delays at a vitrification pilot plant, designed to test a process for encapsulating 20,000 pounds of radioactive wastes in glass-like pellets. Those pellets then could be shipped elsewhere for burial. The GAO report and earlier DOE Inspector General findings say the project is more than $55 million over budget and 19 months behind schedule.

"We also need to take the site's vitrification project away from (Fluor) ... because they have repeatedly screwed it up," Ms. Crawford said. Fernald stakeholders and the Energy Department "will have to have very heavy discussions and brainstorming sessions to determine how and to whom that contract should be given," she added.

Gene Branham, vice president of the Fernald Atomic Trades & Labor Council, which represents about 800 workers at the site, said GAO investigators confirmed how serious many of the management, oversight and safety problems are at Fernald.

"There needs to be a great many changes," he said, but added that failing to renew Fluor's contract in November for another year "might be worse than bringing in an unqualified company.

"DOE needs to improve its oversight by hiring better people and close monitoring of Fluor's corrective actions is mandatory," Mr. Branham said. "Mandatory and severe penalties must be imposed for failure to comply with government rules."

Mr. Branham said he agrees that another company with expertise in vitrification should be hired at Fernald, "but I think Fluor needs to be involved in working with them so we don't lose all their knowledge of the project."

Many of the financial questions and oversight concerns raised in the GAO report are not direct concerns for the Fernald Citizens Task Force, said its chairman John Applegate. The advisory group, formed by DOE to study clean-up options, is more concerned about whether all the controversy will slow down the Fernald cleanup project.

The task force is most concerned about plans for cleaning up the K-65 silos — which contain the waste to be vitrified. Those wastes are considered by citizens and the government to pose the most significant health risks at Fernald.

On Saturday, the task force recommended that vitrification "should be pursued vigorously," Mr. Applegate said. The GAO report issued Tuesday does not change that view, he said.

However, the task force on Saturday also called for developing an alternative plan for removing the K-65 waste in case vitrification does not work.

Mr. Applegate said he does not think the problems cited in the GAO report justify entirely removing Fluor Daniel from the Fernald clean-up when its contract expires in November.

Continuing pollution ruled basis for plant neighbor's suit

BY BEN L. KAUFMAN
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Fernald neighbor Anthony J. Nieman won a second chance Wednesday to pursue his claim for lost property value because of contamination from the former uranium processing plant.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit said his $1 million claim could go to trial.

The 2-1 ruling reversed a dismissal by U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel, who said Mr. Nieman knew about contamination in 1985, and his 1994 suit was too late under Ohio's 4-year statute of limitations.

The 6th Circuit agreed with Mr. Nieman's attorney, Roger Healey, that the statute had not expired because contamination — including pollution of ground water — could be a continuing trespass.

Mr. Nieman said he and his wife, Dorothy, share 111 acres at 3881 Cincinnati-Brookville Road in Butler County's Ross Township.

"We border Fernald," she said. "We're as close as anybody."

The appellate court said it didn't matter that the defendants, NLO Inc. and parent company, NL Industries Inc., were replaced as Fernald managers in 1986.

NLO attorney Kevin Van Wart, in Chicago, had not seen the decision and would not comment on the ruling.

While NLO no longer was creating pollution, Mr. Nieman should still have a chance to prove the pollution it created in the first 34 years of the facility's operations continued to diminish his property value, the court said.

"Sounds good to me," Mrs. Nieman said. "That's the way it should have been in the first place."

The court, however, did limit the period for which Mr. Nieman could sue: four years before his complaint was filed.

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period



The following potential release site (PRS) packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning April 3, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from April 3, 1997, through May 8, 1997.

PRS 15:	**Former Waste Treatment Site - Area C (lithium burn area)**
PRS 74:	**Former Waste Storage Site - Quonsot Hut**
PRS 330:	**Former Tank Site - Building 2 Fuel Oil Tank**
PRS 349:	**Soil Contamination**
PRS 371:	**Soil Contamination**
PRS 391:	**Soil Contamination**
PRS 395:	**Soil Contamination**
PRS 396:	**Soil Contamination**

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

March 26,1997

'Take Shelter' exercise at Mound plant

The U.S. Department of Energy will conduct a "take shelter" exercise Thursday at its Mound Plant located in Miamisburg. The exercise is being conducted to ensure that all employees are aware of shelter locations at the plant in case of a tornado warning.

The exercise will require the activation of the Mound tornado siren, which may be heard in areas surrounding the plant site.

Other internal plant warning systems will also be activated. In the event weather conditions are severe on Thursday, the exercise will be canceled and scheduled for another date.

Miamisburg's Mound facility a vast resource for science, technology



The Mound facility moving forward with commercialization and privatization in Miamisburg.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Maletta resigns from Mound CIC

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

The Miamisburg City Council reluctantly accepted the resignation of John Maletta as chairman of the Mound Community Improvement Corporation at their April 15 meeting.

Maletta told council that he had to resign the post for health reasons, but that he would continue to serve on the Miamisburg Schools' Board of Education and as a volunteer athletic trainer for the school district.

"I leave very proud of the progress we've made," he said. "Mound has a great future and it is a tremendous asset to this community."

Mayor Dick Church Jr. said Maletta will be missed by the CIC.



"These last few years have been trying times for the city and the CIC and we couldn't have had a better leader than John Maletta," he said.

Mike Grauwelman of the CIC said that when the CIC was being formed, Maletta was one of the first considered for board membership because of his long commitment to the community.

"And he has given us a tremendous amount of effort," he said. "He has always kept a watchful eye on the interests of the community."

Maletta's resignation takes effect May 1.

In other business, the city council adopted a financial assistance program for sidewalk, curb and gutter assessments.

City Manager John Weithofer said that eligible homeowners can now receive help in meeting assessment obligations due to installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters on their property. Those inter-

(Continued on Page 16)

Burg council ...

(Continued from Page 1)

-ested should contact the city for more information.

City council also:

• Presented certificate of achievement awards to the members of the Miamisburg High School Mock Trial team.

• Were introduced to the new greens superintendent for the city golf courses, Tom Streiff.

• Passed an ordinance granting a two-year performance based contract to Kemper Sports Management to manage PipeStone and Mound golf courses for the city.

• Appointed Robert Kilpatrick to the Board of Zoning, Building and Housing Appeals.

Mound workers meet challenge

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

The Ohio Field Office of the U.S. Department of Energy honored more than 60 workers last week for their efforts in the clean up of the Miami-Erie Canal.

The DOE challenged the workers to increase their production in the month of March to meet a special goal.

"When we saw how much waste had been shipped from the site, we realized that if we could ship 55 railroad cars in March, we would have shipped almost twice what was shipped in all last year," said Oba Vincent of the DOE.

He said the normal amount of waste prepared for shipping in a month comes to about 27 railroad cars full.

"But the workers really met the challenge," said Vincent. "They prepared 60 railroad cars of waste... 244,190 cubic feet of material."

Project Manager Bob Stanley said the clean up workers really rose to the challenge.

"They really got behind the effort and it was a real success for the project and the workers," he said. "They did at least double what the plan was for the month."

To meet the challenge, the workers had to excavate the material from the canal site and package it in special containers for shipment on railroad cars for transport to a safe site.

"Needless to say, the project is going quite well," said Stanley. "We're ahead of schedule."



CLEANUP WORKERS at the Mound made their extra quota last month.

Plant to become a technology and industrial park, with many firms owning a piece

Throughout its 50-year history, Miamisburg's Mound facility has been regarded worldwide as one of the nation's most prestigious installations in ultra hi-tech research, design, development, manufacturing and testing of nuclear weapons components and spacecraft power systems under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Now, the veil of secrecy has been lifted revealing an invaluable cache of high-level scientific and technological resources available to any manufacturing firm.

The city of Miamisburg initially spearheaded the Mound economic development, a role now assumed by the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC). As a not-for-profit entity, the MMCIC is responsible for the commercialization of the Mound facility.

Recently, a comprehensive reuse plan was completed by a team of nationally known strategic planning consultants. It was determined that Mound will become a technology and industry park with a variety of firms owning the various facilities at the site by 2005.

Currently, the site consists of about 110 buildings on 306 acres. After commercialization, many buildings will be removed, new ones will be built and the open land will be developed.

THE MOUND Advanced Technology Center (MATC), as the commercialized segment of the site is known, offers a total-solutions manufacturing environment where business can reduce risk, maximize returns or investments and advance technology.

At the MATC, manufacturers can obtain solutions to complex problems, accomplish business development in fully-equipped or custom designed lease space, or eventually expand its business with a new building on the developable land.

The MATC marketing approach is to establish and stabilize a cluster of businesses around multiple core competencies, attract technology-based manufacturing businesses that are synergistic with those core businesses, bring an educational element to the site and provide business support services.

More than 30 product or service companies enjoy the benefits of the MATC. Products include flexible electronic circuits, machined parts, explosive components, energetic materials, electronic equipment, metal hydrides and airbag initiators.

Supporting the product firms are such services as metallurgy, NIST-traceable calibrations, nondestructive evaluations, exotic diagnostics, physical testing, analytical chemistry, thermal process safety analyses, laser processing, product design, environmental conditioning and analyses.

Technology packages that will soon be available for commercialization include ceramics, destructive testing, high temperature coatings, microelectronics, plastics and powder processing.

Your taxes paid for it – now, take advantage of it! Call the MMCIC today and become part of the MATC family!

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

RADIATION EXPERIMENTS

President seeks change

▶ The government wants to compensate more human test subjects.

By H. Josef Hebert
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration will ask Congress for $50 million and changes in law so it can compensate hundreds of uranium miners exposed to cancer-causing radiation in the government's nuclear weapons program.

The request was part of a series of responses the White House announced Friday to a report more than a year ago by a presidential commission investigating human radiation experiments during the Cold War years.

That panel also probed whole-body radiation given to Cincinnati cancer patients from 1960 to 1971, but Friday's request for compensation did not cover cases such as those.

Assistant Secretary of Energy Tara O'Toole said Cincinnati was one of a handful of places around the country where patients being treated for diseases weren't told they were also part of an experiment.

"The professional mores were looser than is now the case," she said.

In Cincinnati, patients dosed with whole-body radiation were not given anti-nausea drugs beforehand because a researcher was documenting effects such as nausea for the Pentagon, which wanted to learn what might happen to soldiers hit with radiation on the battlefield.

Those experiments led to a class-action lawsuit and settlement offer that all the families involved have not agreed to sign.

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, who was at the forefront of efforts to expose government treatment of human test subjects, praised Clinton's long-delayed action.

"Now that the first group of cases highlighted by the advisory committee has been settled, I would hope that the other victims, especially those in Cincinnati, will receive fair treatment by the government," he said.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

April 2,1997

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

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PRS 74:	Former Waste Storage Site - Quonsot Hut
PRS 330:	Former Tank Site - Building 2 Fuel Oil Tank
PRS 349:	Soil Contamination
PRS 371:	Soil Contamination
PRS 391:	Soil Contamination
PRS 395:	Soil Contamination
PRS 396:	Soil Contamination

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

DOE working on new ten year draft clean up strategy plan

The Department of Energy Environmental Management program's effort to issue a draft ten year cleanup strategy by the end of this month has been delayed by several weeks in order to allow time for additional analysis.

"We believe that issuing a complete draft plan to our stakeholders, tribal governments, regulators and the general public offers a better opportunity for them to identify any problem areas and provide suggestions for improvement," said Al Alm, Assistant for Environmental Management.

Some preliminary draft site plans, submitted in early February, indicate potential difficulties in meeting environmental commitments after fiscal year 1998.

As a result, the department is exploring opportunities for greater productivity, improved sequencing of work and more efficient contracting mechanisms. Field office managers and senior program officials have met over the past two days to agree on strategies for completing cleanups more efficiently and at lower cost.

New efficiency targets will be incorporated in the department's Draft Ten Year Plan. The department remains committed to maintaining full compliance with all statutes, regulations and compliance agreements. Release of the Draft Ten Year Plan will open a 45 day public comment period. Between now and September, the department will continue to work with its stakeholders and regulators to resolve issues as it develops the Ten Year Plan.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MAC MEETING

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

The next meeting of the Mound Action Committee is scheduled for:

Thursday, April 17, 1997
5:30 welcome, 6:00 meeting
Mound Facility
Main Cafeteria (OSE Bldg.)

LOCATION CHANGE!

Due to a scheduling conflict, the MAC will meet in the **Mound Plant Cafeteria**, not at the Civic Center as previously announced.

The Mound Cafeteria is located just inside the main entrance lobby of the OSE building at the top of the Main Hill. Parking is plentiful and free in front of the building.



COME EARLY!

Meet the speakers, greet your neighbors at 5:30 p.m. Plenty of parking in front of the building.

On The Agenda . . .

A presentation on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, a new DOE permanent disposal facility for transuranic waste.

A presentation on the methodology used at Mound to ensure the site is cleaned up safely and appropriately for the future.

A review of current cleanup activity around the site.

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

- The "Residual Risk Evaluation--Release Block H, public review draft" will be in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning April 30, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on this package from April 30, 1997, through May 30, 1997.

Residual Risk Evaluation--Release Block H

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT

Notice of Public Review



The **"Risk Based Guideline Values, Final Revision 4"** is now in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio.

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Field narrows for cleanup at Mound

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — Mayor Dick Church says selecting finalists from a field of companies vying to take over the Mound nuclear weapons plant is a sign that the cleanup of radioactive material at the site is moving along.

The U.S. Department of Energy said Thursday it has narrowed to two the number of contractor teams being considered to handle cleanup at the site.

"For us to bring businesses onto the site, it has to be cleaned up in an organized way working with the community," said Church. "I think we're going to see nothing but progress now."

OHM Mound and Babcock & Wilcox were selected from a field of five companies to compete for the $500 million contract, said Ken Morgan, spokesman for the Energy Department's Ohio field office.

"They have made the most competitive offers," he said.

The new contractor is to be selected next month and may be on site by the end of June.

U.S. Rep. Tony Hall, whose congressional district includes Mound, said both companies have strong records in the cleanup field and experience in dealing with the Energy Department.

"They are both capable of getting the job done quickly and efficiently while being sensitive to the needs of the workers and the community," Hall, D-Ohio, said.

The other contractor teams who had been vying for the job are ICF Kaiser Mound, the Jacobs Mound Co. of Ohio Inc., and the Mound Restoration Co. Ltd.

The plant's current operator, EG&G Mound Applied Technologies, decided not to seek renewal of its contract.

During the 1980s, as many as 2,500 workers were employed at the 306-acre, suburban Dayton plant, which made triggers for nuclear weapons.

In Mound's 50 years of operation, emissions of radioactive tritium and plutonium seeped into the soil and groundwater.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MOUND PLANT

Atomic secret leaked

▶ 1949 documents show Russians gained information from an underground factory.

By Joseph Albright and Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

MOSCOW — For half a century an elite group of workers in Dayton has harbored an atomic secret from the rest of America, but documents from a Russian archive reveal that the facts somehow leaked to Soviet spymaster Lavrenti Beria's espionage network back in 1949.

The compromised secret involved an industrial process developed at the Monsanto Chemical plant in Dayton during World War II for manufacturing a rare radioactive ingredient used in the "trigger" of an atomic bomb.

The ingredient was polonium-210, an isotope that emits the burst of neutrons necessary to jump-start a chain reaction at the critical instant of a nuclear detonation.

As Soviet intelligence reported to Beria in 1949, the U.S. government had just set up a shielded underground factory near Dayton to extract the polonium isotope from slugs of an irradiated heavy metal called bismuth. The new factory, now part of the Mound Laboratory on the outskirts of Dayton, replaced an

SEE SECRET/14A

SECRET: Information on extracting polonium significant

CONTINUED FROM 1A

earlier Monsanto plant that processed polonium in the mid-1940s. The plants were at a former seminary at 1601 W. First St. and later at the Runnymeade Playhouse in Oakwood, owned by the Talbott family, one of Dayton's most prominent families.

A March 1949 Soviet intelligence document, recently uncovered in a Moscow archive by Cox Newspapers, informed Beria how aluminum canisters of irradiated bismuth were being flown to Dayton for chemical processing from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's top-security military nuclear reactor complex then operating at maximum capacity in Hanford, Wash.

Once inside the "hot zone" of the Monsanto Chemical plant in Dayton, the rods of irradiated bismuth were dissolved in glass-lined vats 5 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter, explained the report to Beria, now declassified in Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy archives.

Shadows of doubt

Col. Vladimir Barkovsky, a veteran official of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Agency who served as a Soviet intelligence operative in New York from early 1949 to the late 1950s, said he has no doubt the Ministry of Atomic Energy document is authentic.

In Moscow, Barkovsky described the information on how to extract polonium from bismuth as a significant piece of intelligence on the American atomic program.

"This concerns the production of polonium, a very radioactive material that is used as one of the ingredients of the initiator for nuclear reactions," said Barkovsky, who recently has been poring through KGB archives to prepare an official history on Soviet wartime atomic espionage. "This appears to be a description of the technology for the production of polonium, and that is why I think it is very valuable."

Beyond what the Soviet document shows about American Cold War technology, it also provides intriguing evidence that Moscow's spy chiefs continued to obtain current atomic secrets from inside U.S. Atomic Energy Commission facilities as late as 1949, three years after such known atomic spies as Klaus Fuchs and David Greenglass had ceased working for the U.S. atomic program.

When Barkovsky was asked whether the new document might indicate the Russians had an undiscovered agent who had visited or worked at Dayton in the late 1940s, he replied: "Not necessarily. Because sometimes this kind of stuff was distributed to other (Western atomic) centers. This could have been obtained from any source anywhere."

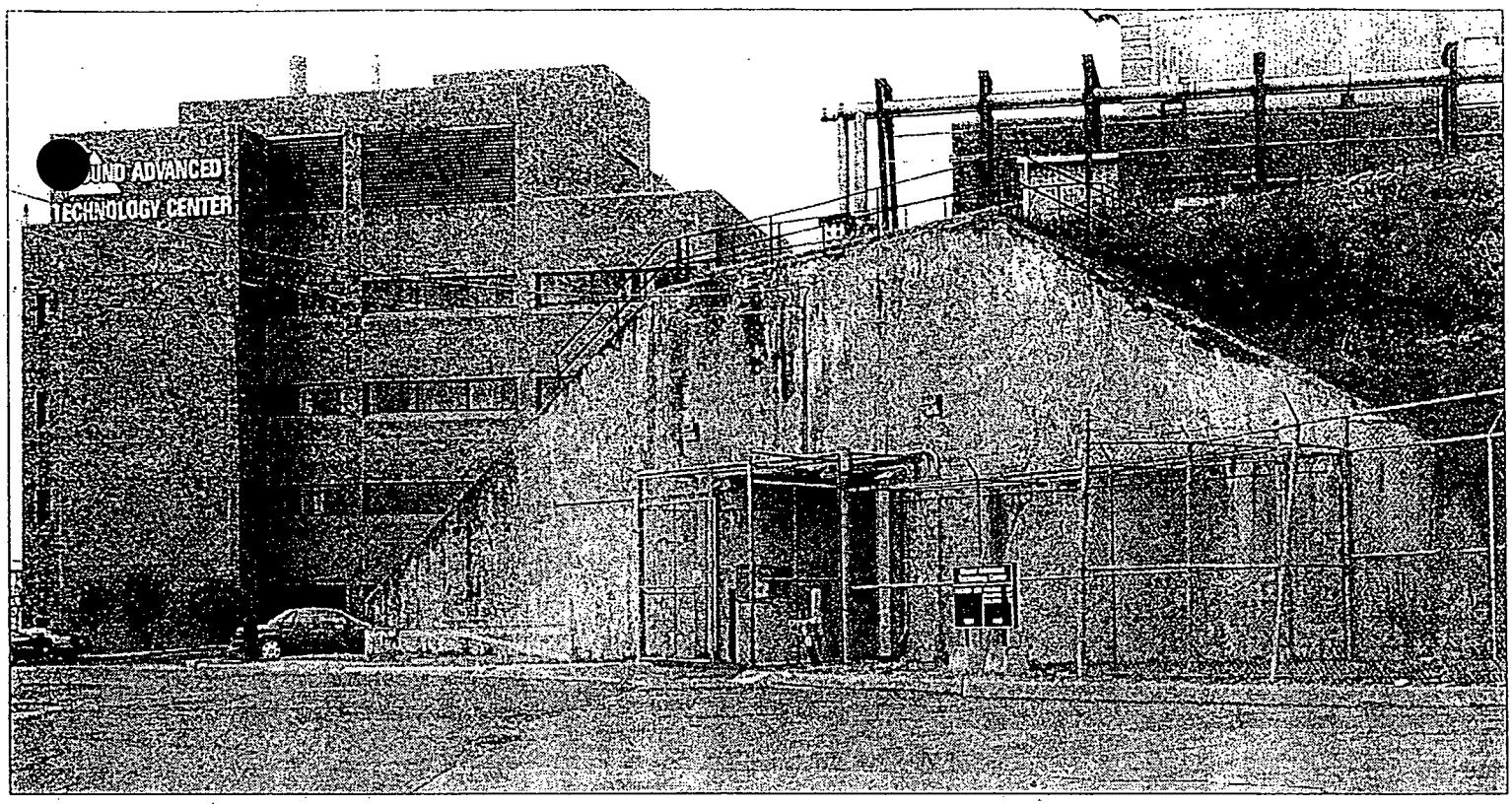
Not all the intelligence was on the money, either. One Russian intelligence report described a factory built underground "somewhere in suburbs of Dayton, apparently in the city of Marion, state of Ohio."

Marion, north of Columbus, is close to 100 miles from Dayton. The government did have a plant there, but it was a backup facility to the Mound.

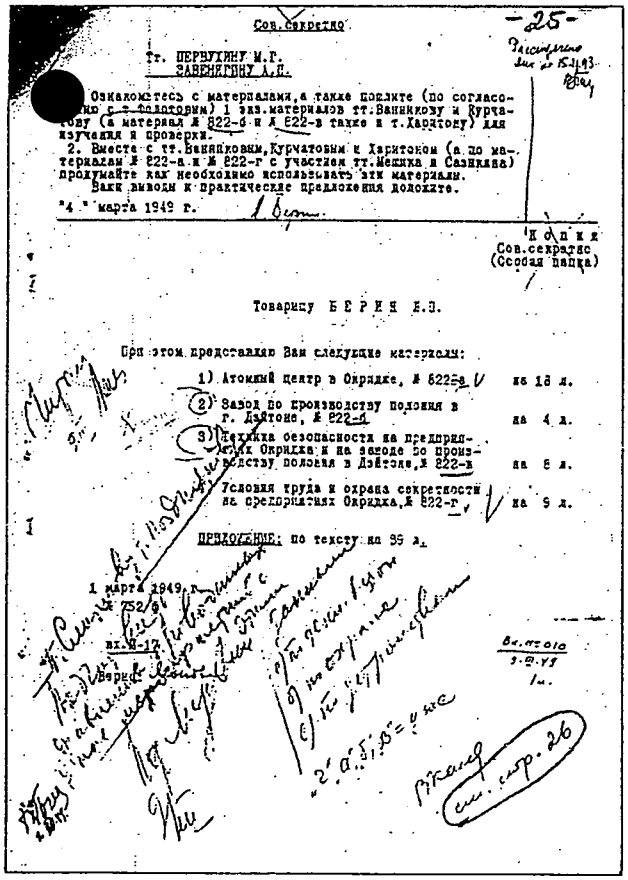
Working in silence

Gus Essig of Miamisburg was a physicist who worked on the project at the Mound from 1946 until he retired in 1982. Asked if the polonium reclamation process described in the Russian document was accurate, Essig replied, "Yes, roughly."

Essig and other former Mound workers are still reluctant in talking about the work, even though the bismuth process was declassified by the U.S. govern-



JIM RUTLEDGE/DAYTON DAILY NEWS



Сов. секретно

-25-

тт. ПЕРВУХИНУ М.Г.
ЗАВЕНЯГИНУ А.Н.

Ознакомьтесь с материалами, а также поделите (по согласованию с т. Малиновым) 1 экз. материалов тт. Ванникову и Курчатову (а материал № 822-б и № 822-в также и т. Харитону) для изучения и проверки.

2. Вместе с тт. Ванниковым, Курчатовым и Харитоном (а по материалам № 822-а и № 822-г с участием тт. Мешика и Сазыкина) продумайте как необходимо использовать эти материалы.

Ваши выводы и практические предложения доложите.

"4" марта 1949 г. И. Сталин

Копия
Сов. секретно
(Особая папка)

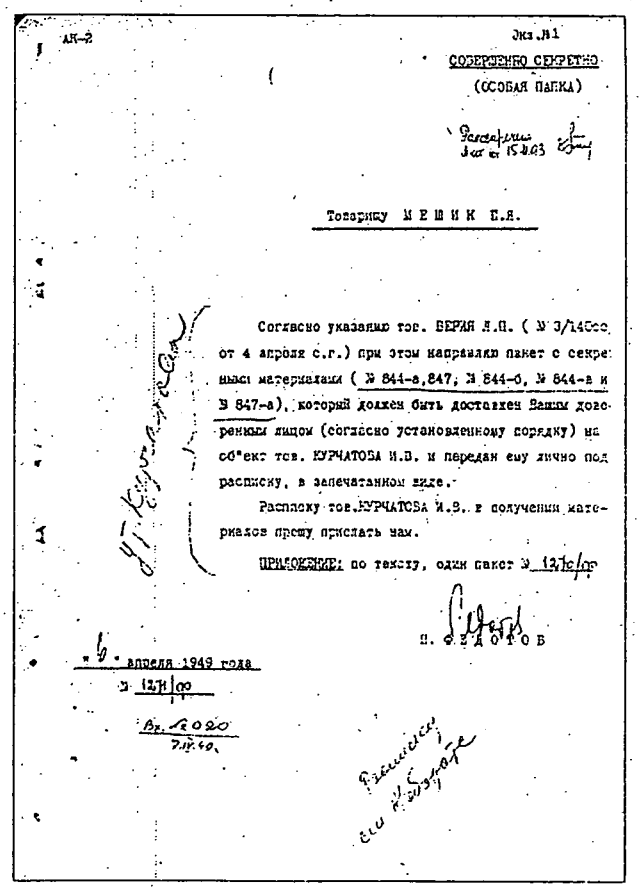
Товарищу БЕРИЯ Л.П.

При этом представляю Вам следующие материалы:

1) Атомный центр в Окридже, № 822-а — на 18 л.
2) Завод по производству полония в г. Дейтоне, № 822-б — на 4 л.
3) Техника безопасности на предприятиях Окриджа и на заводе по производству полония в Дейтоне, № 822-в — на 8 л.
4) Условия труда и охрана секретности на предприятиях Окриджа, № 822-г — на 9 л.

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ: по тексту на 95 л.

1 марта 1949 г.
№ 752/б
вх. № 17
Верно:



АК-2

Экз. №1

СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО
(ОСОБАЯ ПАПКА)

Товарищу М Е Ш И К П.Я.

Согласно указанию тов. БЕРИЯ Л.П. (№ 3/1450сс от 4 апреля с.г.) при этом направляю пакет с секретными материалами (№ 844-а, 847, № 844-б, № 844-в и № 847-а), который должен быть доставлен Вашим доверенным лицом (согласно установленному порядку) на об"ект тов. КУРЧАТОВА И.В. и передан ему лично под расписку, в запечатанном виде.

Расписку тов. КУРЧАТОВА И.В. в получении материалов прошу прислать нам.

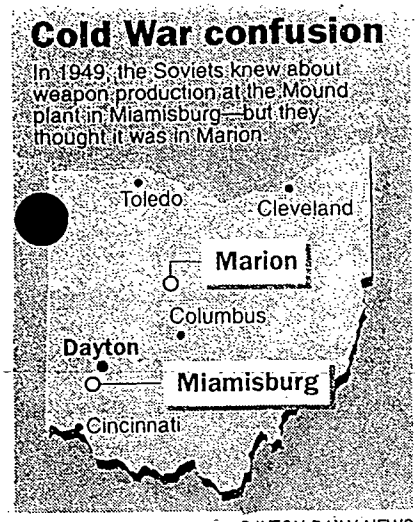
ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ: по тексту, один пакет № 1376/сс

П. СУДОПЛАТОВ

"6" апреля 1949 года
№ 1376/сс

Вх. 1020
7.IV.49.

The front and back of a March 1949 Soviet intelligence document recently uncovered in a Moscow archive by Cox Newspapers.



DAYTON DAILY NEWS

ment in the mid-1980s. The workers, now in their 70s or 80s, all recall an atmosphere of extreme secrecy and security at the Mound during the Cold War years.

"People were very security conscious," Essig said. "I never said anything about what I was working on to my wife."

Essig worked in T building at the Mound, the underground facility described in the Russian document. Built underground to withstand all but a direct nuclear hit, T building required all of the concrete production in a three-state area for three months in 1948 to construct its hardened, 17-foot thick walls. T building now houses the tritium recovery operation at the Mound plant, which is being returned to civilian use.

Joe Garner of Farmersville, a former radiation safety officer at the plant, and John Birden of West Carrollton, a former research chemist, both described plant security measures that included code words and work instructions given on a strictly "need to know" basis.

"The code word for polonium was Postum, like the artificial coffee during the war," Garner said.

Birden said there were only 20 to 30 people working on the project in 1949, and each was subjected to a full background check by the FBI.

"I was never suspicious of anyone there," Birden said. "However, when we traveled to other sites, we found that other people were not as secure."

None of the three former scientists was surprised that the Russians knew about the work at the Mound.

It does not surprise me that the Soviets knew," Birden said. "They had spies everywhere, but they didn't go after the little guys, they went for the top of the line."

Expanding the project

Garner recalled that specific knowledge was divided among groups at the Mound.

"When you went to lunch you didn't talk about what you were working on," he said.

Garner said that the only person with knowledge of the entire operation was its chief, Dr. Charles A. Thomas, one of a small group of scientists chosen by President Harry Truman to work on the bomb project. He was a member of the inner circle of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the American physicist who headed the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, N.M., and witnessed the first test of the atomic bomb.


Charles Thomas

Thomas founded the Thomas-Hochwalt lab in 1926 in Dayton. It was purchased by Monsanto in 1936. A former president of Monsanto, Thomas died in 1982. An unsigned March 1, 1949, report to the Soviet intelligence chief said that Monsanto was in the process of moving its polonium works from an older factory in the city of Dayton to a new plant in Dayton's environs.

Beria's agents must have gotten wind of the AEC's top-secret plans to expand and relocate its plant for making atomic bomb "triggers" in a bomb-proof underground facility at Mound Laboratory.

> 'It does not surprise me that the Soviets knew. They had spies everywhere, but they didn't go after the little guys, they went for the top of the line.'
>
> **John Birden**
> **Former research chemist**

But whoever supplied the information to Beria's network apparently couldn't pin down the precise location of the new underground facility. The 1949 report said "it seems" the new underground polonium-making site was in Marion.

There was a polonium-processing plant east of Marion in 1949, but it was a backup facility according to Garner and Birden. The plant had all of the same equipment as the Mound, but not the reinforced, underground building.

"Everything at the Mound was duplicated at Marion and we would go up at least once a month to check it," Garner said. "It was there in case something, like a bomb attack, happened at the Mound but there was never any radioactive material in Marion."

Subversive documents

A cover letter, signed by Beria in his distinctively neat handwriting on March 4, 1949, ordered the scientific director of the Soviet nuclear weapons project, professor Igor Kurchatov, to "familiarize yourself with the materials" and report back with conclusions. Only two others in the Soviet atomic bomb project — chief bomb designer Yuri Khariton and the top administrator, Boris Vannikov — were authorized by Beria to examine the report called "Factory for the Production of Polonium in the City of Dayton."

The report on Dayton was one of four intelligence "materials" totaling 39 pages that reached Beria's office on the same date — March 1, 1949. According to an inventory contained in the cover letter to Beria, the intelligence packet consisted of four documents:

- Report No. 822-a, Atomic Center in Oak Ridge, 18 pages.
- Report No. 822-b, Factory for the Production of Polonium in the City of Dayton, 4 pages.
- Report No. 822-v, Security Equipment in the Oak Ridge Enterprise and in the Factory for the Production of Polonium in Dayton, 9 pages.

▶ Report No. 833-g, Conditions of Work and Protection of Secrecy in the Oak Ridge Enterprise, 9 pages.

Except for the one-page excerpt of the Dayton document, the only [redacted]tion declassified by the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry is a 10-page selection from the document on Oak Ridge. Its declassified portion contains no important industrial secrets, but does include an organization chart of the Clinton research lab at Oak Ridge, along with floor plans of an Oak Ridge pilot plant for the separation of plutonium from irradiated uranium fuel rods.

A U.S. Department of Energy history of the wartime atomic project, released in 1983, has disclosed that the Dayton atomic bomb "trigger" factory originated in 1943 when Los Alamos laboratory director Oppenheimer asked Manhattan Project chief Gen. Leslie Groves to begin producing industrial quantities of the rare isotope polonium, discovered by Madame Marie Curie in 1898, and named after her native Poland. With a half-life of only 140 days, it occurs in nature in minute quantities as an impurity of lead.

[redacted]lonium in the making

It was Oppenheimer, according to the official history, who calculated that if 100 pounds of bismuth rods were placed near the center of a nuclear reactor in Hanford, neutron bombardment in the reactor would convert a tiny fraction of the bismuth into the needed polonium-210 isotope.

Making polonium was a little-known sideline for the Hanford reactors, whose main role was making plutonium. It was the job of the Monsanto staff in Dayton to extract the polonium from the irradiated bismuth rods, using powerful chemicals including formaldehyde and a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids called aqua regia.

At Oppenheimer's behest, the task of organizing a polonium-making lab was assigned in 1943 to Thomas, the central research director of Monsanto Chemical Co., who set about to create the secret lab at the Monsanto plant [redacted]Dayton.

[redacted]Meanwhile at Los Alamos, a team of Oppenheimer's physicists, including Enrico Fermi, Hans Bethe and Niels Bohr, designed a mini-sphere called the "initiator." Measuring one centimeter in diameter, the sphere was made of beryllium with an inner shielding liner made of gold. Inside the sphere was a powerful dose of 50 curies of polonium to trigger the nuclear explosion.

The American bomb designers' theory was that as the bomb's external blanket of chemical explosives was detonated, an implosive wave would crush the central core of plutonium to make a critical mass. Then, at the crucial instant, the implosion would also crush the polonium-beryllium initiator, thus releasing a jet of neutrons into the imploding plutonium just in time to touch off a chain reaction.

The United States used initiators made of beryllium and polonium in the first plutonium bomb tested at Alamogordo, N.M., in July 1945, as well as in the plutonium bomb dropped the following month on Nagasaki. The Hiroshima bomb, using the so-called gun-type design and made with a core of enriched uranium, also used a polonium-beryllium initiator.

▶ **COX NEWSPAPERS** Moscow correspondent Marcia Kunstel contributed to this report.

▶ **CONTACT** Joseph Albright by e-mail at Joea@coxnews.com or fax 011 7095 124 0395.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey by e-mail at dale_dempsey@coxohio.com or phone 225-2270.

Cold War lab shrouded in secrecy

▶ Workers at the Mound Lab spoke in code in an underground facility.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The Cold War was very real to the workers at the Mound Lab in Miamisburg in 1949.

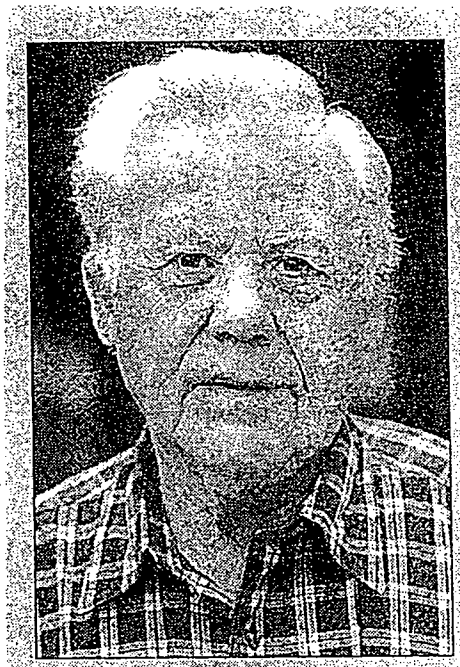
The scientists and workers who were developing and producing "trigger devices" for atomic bombs were sworn to secrecy, subjected to lengthy background checks, spoke in code and practiced drills in the event of a Soviet attack on the plant.

Joe Garner of Farmersville worked at the Mound as a radiation safety officer from 1947 until he retired 41 years later. He worked in the T building, an underground facility fortified with 17-foot thick concrete walls that could withstand all but a direct hit from a nuclear bomb. The building had its own food and water supply that could sustain workers for months.

"We were definitely on the list," Garner recalled recently, referring to sites in the United States that would be likely targets in the event of missile attack by the Soviet Union, then locked in a stalemate of mutually assured destruction with the United States.

Garner said that periodically there would be simulated attacks, where the workers at the Mound would be shut inside T building to practice what to do.

"It was very real," he said. "We would be shut inside and there would be radio reports saying such and such has been hit. There were some people who couldn't take it. They would say they have to get out and go to their families."



'It was very real. We would be shut inside and there would be radio reports saying such and such has been hit. There were some people who couldn't take it. They would say they have to get out and go to their families.'

JOE GARNER
Worked at the Mound as a radiation safety officer

Secrecy was also a requirement.

"You didn't talk about what you did in the lab," Garner said.

John Birden of West Carrollton, a research chemist on the atomic project from 1944 to 1981, said that workers would use code words when they had to refer to the radioactive material they used.

Garner said that the code name for polonium, which was used in the triggers to begin the neutron implosion that begins a nuclear reaction, was Postum, named after a substitute for coffee used during World War II.

When Birden joined the project, it was so secret they did not tell him what he was working on.

"I knew it was radioactive," he said. "But I did not learn what I was working on until I went back to an old college text and read some of the chapters we hadn't read in school. When I began to show some fundamental knowledge they said, 'Ok, here's what we're working on.' "

The scientists were also the subjects of FBI background checks.

"I remember one of my neighbors asking me what I was into," Garner recalled. "They said the FBI was here asking about you."

Security continued until the end of the Cold War.

"It actually increased in the 1980s, because of terrorism," said Bill Scuberling of Miamisburg, who was in security at the Mound from 1972 until 1980.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following potential release site (PRS) packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning May 8, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from May 8, 1997, through June 9, 1997.

PRS 40: Soil Contamination - Bldg. 66 Parking Lot Area
PRS 110: Soil Contamination - I Building
PRS 113/114/115/116/117: Soil Contamination - Powerhouse/Former Tank Site - Powerhouse Fuel Oil Storage Tank
PRS 235: Soil Contamination - Area southwest of Building 98
PRS 304/313: Disposal Site for Contaminated Soils - Area southwest of Bldg. 105/Soil Contamination - Radiological Survey Site location S0982
PRS 354: Soil Contamination
PRS 356: Soil Contamination

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The "Residual Risk Evaluation--Release Block H, public review draft" will be in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning April 30, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on this package from April 30, 1997, through May 30, 1997.

Residual Risk Evaluation--Release Block H

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

June 11, 1997

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period



The "Residual Risk Evaluation--Release Block H, public review draft" has been placed in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio. The public comment period has been extended on this package to June 16, 1997.

Residual Risk Evaluation--Release Block H

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

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PRS 110:	Soil Contamination - I Building
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MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following potential release site (PRS) packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning June 17, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from June 17, 1997, through July 18, 1997.

PRS 30:	**Building 27 Propane Tank**
PRS 129/130:	**Former Solvent Storage Sites**
PRS 241:	**Soil Contamination - Main Hill Parking Lot Area**
PRS 307:	**Soil Contamination - Building 29**
PRS 318:	**PCB Transformer and Capacitor Locations**
PRS 320-325:	**Former Sites - Dayton Units 1-4/Dayton Warehouse/Scioto Facility**
PRS 383:	**Soil Contamination**
PRS 408:	**Soil Contamination - "Prism" Oil**

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Legislation to allow Mound transfer

The House of Representatives approved legislation Monday by Rep. Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio) to speed up the transfer of property and equipment from the Energy Department's Mound plant to the city of Miamisburg to comply with the city's reuse plans.

"Easing the transfer process will allow our community to put the land and other resources at Mound to good use. Private businesses will be able to take over many of the activities once conducted by the government, creating jobs and preserving the unique technologies at Mound," Hall said.

The Hall measure requires the Department of Energy to consult

(Continued on Page 4)

Mound ...

(Continued from Page 1)

with the communities where facilities such as Mound are located in deciding how to best utilize the property at those facilities. The legislation also requires the Secretary of Energy to issue guidelines for the sale or lease of land and equipment at the facilities, keeping in mind the communities' plans for the property.

"The federal government and the local community need to work together in deciding the future of Mound. This amendment helps ensure that the Department of Energy fulfills its obligation to return the Mound property in a clean and usable condition, and gives the community the tools to develop and market the property," Hall said.

The Hall legislation is backed by the Energy Communities Alliance, an organization representing 16 local governments around the country where closing nuclear weapons plants are located. Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church is the group's chairman.

"This is legislation we have hoped for for a long time," said Church. "It is vital to the success of the Mound commercialization process."

The Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation is eager to acquire several usable properties located at Mound including two buildings and a 40-acre lot which was once used by the Energy Department as a buffer zone. The Hall amendment is expected to facilitate the transfer of these properties.

The Hall legislation is intended to clear up confusion over the authority of the Energy Department to take into consideration local reuse plans for the property. Under the guidelines called for in the Hall legislation, the Energy Department would be able to sell the property at little or no cost.

The Hall legislation also allows the Secretary of Energy to exempt the recipient of property from liability for any unexpected environmental hazard left by the Energy Department. This provision is similar to current law that covers closing Defense Department bases.

Without this liability exemption, Miamisburg officials worry that no one will want to buy the property for fear that some environmental risk might develop years in the future.

The Hall legislation was approved as an amendment to a larger Defense Department bill. The House is expected to vote on the full bill later this week. The legislation also requires approval by the Senate and the President before it becomes law.

In 1993, Hall wrote legislation making it easier for the Energy Department to lease property. That measure, which was signed into law, became the basis for most of the Mound's commercialization activities so far.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following potential release site (PRS) package will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning July 15, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from July 15, 1997, through August 17, 1997.

PRS 59: Waste Storage Site - Soil Boxes Staged South of WD Building

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

MAC MEETING



Thursday,
July 17, 1997
6:00 p.m.

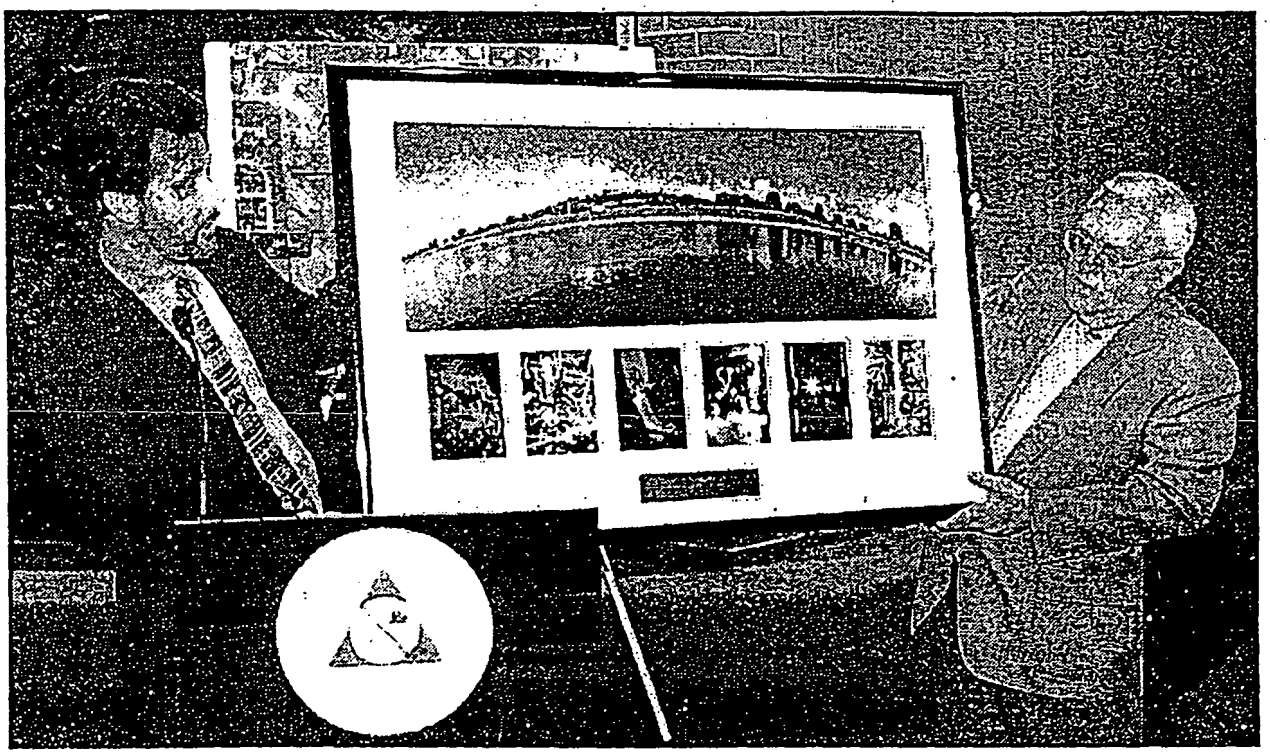
Mound Cafeteria,
OS-East Bldg.

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

The Mound Cafeteria is located just inside the main entrance lobby of the OSE Building at the top of the Main Hill. Parking is plentiful and free in front of the building.

Get Acquainted: 5:30 pm
Program: 6:00 pm

On the agenda:
- A look at the decision-making process for releasing Mound buildings for reuse
- Highlights from the annual Mound Site environmental report
- A demonstration of OEPA's new geology system



Gift from the Mound

Mike Grauwelman, president of the Mound Community Improvement Corporation, presents a stylized photo montage of the Mound facility to Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. and the Miamisburg City Council in thanks for the support the city has shown the Mound revitalization project over the past several years.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MAC MEETING



Thursday,
July 17, 1997
6:00 p.m.

Mound Cafeteria,
OS-East Bldg.

MOUND
Environmental
Restoration
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Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT BUILDING DATA PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period



The following Building Data Packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning July 24, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from July 24, 1997, through August 26, 1997.

Building 87: **Explosives Testing Building**
Building 89: **Detonator Storage Building**

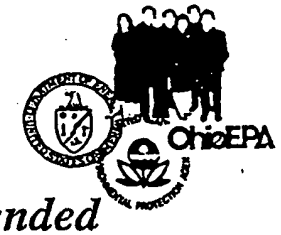
Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period Extended



The Public Comment Period has been extended for 30 days, from July 18, 1997, through August 18, 1997, for Potential Release Site (PRS) Package 320-325.

This PRS Package has been placed and is available for review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Avenue, Miamisburg, Ohio. Public comment on this package will be accepted through August 18, 1997.

PRS 320-325: "Former Sites - Dayton Units 1-4/ Dayton Warehouse/Scioto Facility"

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Checked out the abandoned atomic research site near you?

The Department of Energy is ready to close the books on three formerly radioactive sites in Dayton that were last cleaned in the era when school kids were told to "duck and cover" to protect themselves against a nuclear attack.

DOE is accepting final public comment through Friday, July 18 on sites where the Atomic Energy Commission tested or processed polonium-210 in the 1940s. The radioisotope was developed as the triggering device for nuclear bombs for the Manhattan Project. In 1949, activities were transferred to the Mound in Miamisburg. The DOE will respond to written comments and most likely close the cases, stating no further action needs to be taken and that the sites are clean, said Jane Greenwalt, public affairs specialist at the DOE Mound office.

That's "kind of spooky," said Sharon Cowdrey, a member of Miamisburg Environmental Safety and Health (MESH) who has been following the closure of potential release sites (PRS) on the Mound property. What worries her is that the Dayton PRSs were cleaned in the late 1940s and early 1950s and haven't been tested since. They may not be clean enough to pass inspection today, she said.

"What they're saying is that no further action on these sites [is needed], and what we're saying is that it's not true," she said. "I don't think they should be able to write anything off without re-checking it."

Due to an agreement between DOE and the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA recognizes "No Further Action" status of sites cleaned on Mound property. But because the agreement does not include the Dayton sites, the EPA will not grant these sites a clean bill of health. If contamination would be detected, EPA could go back to the responsible party for expertise and funds to clean the sites, said Brian Nickel, Mound project manager for Ohio EPA. He said nothing indicates the sites are contaminated, and EPA has no plans to investigate.

One of the sites, PRS 323, is owned by the Dayton Board of Education. Bonebrake Theological Seminary, which was located at 1601 W. First St., was rented and used to research polonium-210, tellurium, bismuth, cobalt, nickel, beryllium and thorium. According to de-classified reports on activities at the site, most of the site "is fairly 'clean' and can be decontaminated on surfaces fairly readily [emphasis their's]. However, extensive disturbance of floors, walls or plumbing will undoubtedly stir up much 'hot' dust which is presently in cracks, etc. Incidentally such disturbance would be costly." The site was decontaminated and returned to the board in 1950, provided the contractor Monsanto be alerted to major changes in the building that may stir up the dust.

Dayton Schools Superintendent James Williams said he was not aware of the site's background. "Since you raised the question, I am concerned," he said, and he plans to check into the property. The site now stores maintenance equipment and supplies, and sits across the street from Grace A. Greene Academy, the city's military high school.

Questions about the cleanup methods used were raised even in the 1950s. After the site was returned to the board of education, the steering committee in charge of overseeing the cleanup reported that the site was "decontaminated as closely as possible to the tentative levels established as a basis for this project," and it recommended that "Definite contamination levels for work or projects of this type should be established," indicating cleanup was done without such standards.

Questions about the cleanup methods used for the building owned by Dayton Public Schools were raised even in the 1950s ...

Other sites up for public commer including two outside the city limits, i clude:

- PRS 320, 1515 Nicholas Road. Tl site where Monsanto researched radiois topes including plutonium-239 was deco taminated, then demolished and sold the late 1980s. It now belongs to Quali Chemicals.
- PRS 324, a warehouse on the corn of East Third and Sears streets. It us polonium-210 for environmental monitc ing samples and preliminary biologic studies on the affect of polonium on lab ratory animals. The site was cleaned ar returned to the building manager in 19
- PRS 321, adjacent to St. Henry Chur on Betty Lane. It produced rocket prop lent and housed explosives. The expl sives were detonated on site, and the lar is now a housing development.
- PRS 323, the old Runnymede Pla house in Oakwood. Extensive experimer were conducted with polonium-210 a other compounds. The inside was high contaminated, and in 1950 the structu was dismantled. Houses now sit on t site.

If any contamination remained af the cleanup, it is possible that time to care of the polonium threat. Polonium-2 has a half-life of 138 days, and the c classified file indicates that any contar nation that remained at the sites should almost undetectable 45 years later. T PRS file also indicates suspected cobalt releases at the West First Street a Runnymede sites.

Because of questions raised by the Vc and Dayton city officials, OEPA has quested an extension of the public co ment period. Call 865-4140 for details. T PRS file is available to the public in CERCLA reading room at the Miamisbu Senior Citizens Center.

— Michelle Tedf

Ohio

Dayton — The federal government wants to close the book on the cleanup of four sites contaminated in the '40s by work on the atomic bomb. But environmentalists say the sites were last checked in '73 and should be examined using current standards and guidelines.

City wants assurance that old radioactive sites are safe

Days before the Department of Energy was ready to close the public comment period on several old radioactive sites in the Dayton area, key players in those sites knew little of the past uses of the property and nothing of the public comment period. Now that they know, they'd like some assurance that sites decontaminated in the late 1940s are safe by today's standards.

Dusty Hall, environmental manager for the city of Dayton, is pouring through the 250-plus page packet on the history and cleanup of three potential release sites (PRSs) in Dayton, one in Oakwood and one near the Dayton Mall. The sites were used to test polonium, plutonium, explosives and rocket propellent before 1950. The city learned the comment period was ready to expire when *The Dayton Voice* contacted the mayor for a comment.

> *'We would like to have a higher level of comfort about the closure process.'*
>
> *— Dusty Hall Environmental manager*

"We would like to have a higher level of comfort about the closure process," said Hall. The PRS packet includes mention of contaminated curbs and sidewalks at one site, an issue of potential concern to the public, he said. The next step may be to "get all the heads together (DOE, regulators, city, school board) and figure out what will satisfy everybody's curiosity," he said.

The Dayton Board of Education, which owns one of the sites, and Oakwood residents now living on the old Runnymede Playhouse polonium testing facility were also unaware of the public comment period.

The original 30-day comment period, which was to expire July 18, almost slipped by environmental watchdog group Miamisburg Environmental Safety and Health. Sharon Cowdrey said her group requested to discuss the PRS sites at a June Mound Action Committee meeting, but the item was moved to the bottom of the agenda and was never brought up. It was forgotten until early last week, when Cowdrey started calling her environmental consultants.

Ken Morgan, director of public affairs for the DOE Ohio field office, said public comment periods for PRS sites associated with the Mound plant are announced through a public notice in the Miamisburg newspaper and in the Mound calendar on the Internet. The Dayton PRS sites were also announced in this way, he said. But since the sites are outside Miamisburg, the right people did not get the information.

"We'll make a point of trying to find ways to let people know," Morgan said.

Notification of the extended public comment period, through Aug. 18, will be publicized in legal notices in the Dayton and Oakwood newspapers, he said.

Peter Townsend, a professor of environmental science at Antioch College and a consultant for local environmental groups, was concerned about the level of decontamination achieved in an era when thorough cleanup had to be balanced with maintaining the secrecy of activities related to the nuclear bomb. According to official reports, most testing was done with polonium-210. Polonium decays quickly and the radioactive threat should be gone, if polonium was the only radioactive element used, he said.

"The official description gives you no assurance that something else wasn't happening," he said. "Especially in those days, the levels of secrecy and the level of duplicity in the Department of Energy was really quite high. So I don't know how much confidence you can have in those reports."

So Townsend and consulting partner Stephen Meyers made quick surveys looking for radiation at two sites. In order to detect radiation with his "crude" geiger counters, Townsend said, the area would have to be quite radioactive.

The exterior of the remaining buildings at 1601 W. First St., used by the Dayton School Board as a maintenance school in the '50s and '60s, showed no unusual radiation. The perimeter of the fenced area at 1515 Nicholas Road, where Monsanto had a research facility that handled plutonium, also showed no radiation beyond background levels. That's encouraging, Townsend said, but a more thorough survey with sensitive equipment would help clear any doubt.

Morgan of DOE said that some of the sites were reviewed in the 1970s, and that if the public is interested, DOE is willing to hear comments and respond with appropriate action. "Times change, values change and technology changes," he said.

Public comment will be accepted through Aug. 18 at: EG&G Mound Community Relations, 1 Mound Road, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-3000, or through the Internet site at www.doe-md.gov.

—Michelle Tedford



Environmental consultants Stephen Me (foreground) and Peter Townsend com radiation readings at a maintenance fac owned by the Dayton School Board.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT

POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

OhioEPA

Notice of Public Review Period Extended

The Public Comment Period has been extended for 30 days, from July 18, 1997, through August 18, 1997, for Potential Release Site (PRS) Package 320-325.

This PRS Package has been placed and is available for review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Avenue, Miamisburg, Ohio. Public comment on this package will be accepted through August 18, 1997.

PRS 320-325: "Former Sites, Dayton Units 1-4/ Dayton Warehouse/Scioto Facility"

Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT

POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

OhioEPA

Notice of Public Review Period Extended

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Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT

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Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The Action Memorandum (Final, Revision 1) for PRS 266 will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room , 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio, beginning July 30, 1997. Revision 1 incorporates the new Project Schedule and a new technology (Segmented Gate) being considered to minimize offsite shipments of soil. Public comment on this package will be accepted July 31, 1997, through Sept. 2, 1997.

Potential Release Site 266: Thorium Contaminated Soil (Final, Rev. 1)

Written comments may be sent to Mound Community Relations, P.O. Box 3000, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-3000 or by E-Mail to nowksl@doe-md.gov. Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT

POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

OhioEPA

Notice of Public Review Period Extended

The Public Comment Period has been extended for 30 days, from July 18, 1997, through August 18, 1997, for Potential Release Site (PRS) Package 320-325.

This PRS Package has been placed in the Dayton-Montgomery County Public Library, 215 East Third Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402. Public comment on this package will be accepted through August 18, 1997.

PRS 320-325: "Former Sites - Dayton Units 1-4/ Dayton Warehouse/Scioto Facility"

Written comments may be sent to Mound Community Relations, P.O. Box 3000, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-3000 or by E-Mail to nowksl@doe-md.gov. Questions may be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

Babcock, Wilcox to finish Mound

Cleanup of nuclear complex to be complete by 2005

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The environmental engineering company Babcock & Wilcox of Lynchburg, Va., has won the contract to complete the final phase of the cleanup of the Mound, the former nuclear weapons plant in Miamisburg.

The Department of Energy made the announcement Friday afternoon, choosing Babcock & Wilcox over Findlay-based OHM Corp.

The contract is worth an estimated $425 million over the next five years.

It marks the final transition for the Department of Energy, which built the former Mound Laboratory to make triggers for nuclear weapons in 1948 at the height of the Cold War.

"Babcock & Wilcox is a good company with roots in Ohio and solid experience with Energy Department nuclear issues," said Rep. Tony Hall, D-Dayton. "I expect to be actively involved with the new contractor to protect worker safety and ensure the speedy cleanup of the Mound Plant and eventual transition to productive commercial use."

Miamisburg city officials also praised the selection of Babcock & Wilcox.

The company will begin transition Sept. 15 and officially take over the operation Oct. 1. The Mound cleanup is being done by EG&G Mound Applied Technology, which has operated the plant since 1988.

Final cleanup of the Mound is scheduled to be completed by September 2005, although there are incentives in the contract if work is completed early. Much of the remaining work involves excavating contaminated soil and shipping it to secure dump sites.

The Department of Energy is authorized to transfer ownership of the property to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. for a technology and industry center.

About 850 workers at the Mound on Thursday received notice of potential layoffs. Babcock & Wilcox will rehire the workers it needs. The contract calls for the company to retain 225 employees in two unions — Oil, Gas and Atomic Workers and United Plant Guard Workers of America. The contract includes provisions such as union representatives on the corporate Mound Advisory Board, fee-sharing incentives to accelerate the exit and retraining for job flexibility.

Peter Hekman of Babcock & Wilcox said that the normal process is to bring in a management team and use the on-site work force. The company is committed to applying its own corporate funds to create 150 new jobs in the first year.

Heckman, 63, a former Navy vice admiral, will be in charge of the Mound operation.

A draft version of the plan outlined in February identified programs to help career transitions and benefits that will be provided to workers who may be laid off, including severance, medical, education, relocation and outplacement benefits.

Babcock & Wilcox will subcontract some of the work with Morris-Knudsen of Cleveland, Roy F. Weston Co. of Cincinnati and Los Alamos Technical Associates of Golden, Colo.

Babcock & Wilcox is a major unit of McDermott International of New Orleans, an engineering concern that does between $2.5 billion and $3 billion a year in business worldwide.

Energy Secretary Federico F. Pena said, "Success means a clean site that can host new industry and support a more diverse economy. We are pleased that the Babcock & Wilcox Co. is willing to share our commitment to the Miamisburg community to speed cleanup safely and efficientl as well as create jobs."

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-2270 or e-mail him at dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Contractor chosen for Mound cleanup

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

A new contractor has been chosen to manage the clean up and transition of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Mound site in Miamisburg.

And, under the new contract, the clean up of the site is expected to be completed in 5.3 years and more jobs will be added to help in the effort.

On Friday, the DOE awarded the contract to the Babcock and Wilcox Co., a Lynchburg, Va. based company, to complete the clean up and close DOE's Mound site. The contract requires Babcock and Wilcox Co. to complete the clean up safely and efficiently in 5.3 years, less time than the originally projected nine years.

Also under terms of the contract, Morrison-Knudsen of Cleveland, Roy F. Weston of Easton, Pa. and the Los Alamos Technical Associates of Los Alamos, N.Mex. will be subcontractors to Babcock and Wilcox.

The contract, estimated to be worth about $425 million, also requires Babcock and Wilcox to create 150 jobs locally in the first year with the expectation of creating more jobs by the end of the contract. Also, Babcock and Wilcox will provide various monetary incentives to the local community as part of the performance

(Continued on Page 7)

Mound ...

(Continued from Page 1)

initiatives they earn in achieving an accelerated exit date are to be shared with employees and the community on a predetermined ratio.

"For the DOE, success means a clean site that can host new industry and support a more diverse economy," said DOE Secretary Federico E. Pena. "We are pleased that the Babcock and Wilcox Co. is willing to share our commitment to the Miamisburg community to speed clean up safely and efficiently as well as create jobs.

"The Mound contract reflects the Department's reform efforts and underscores the Clinton Administration's pledge to protect the environment," he said.

Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio, Inc., under the direction of Peter M. Hekman as president, will begin executing the contract on Oct. 1 after a 45-day contract transition period.

"I am very pleased with the opportunity to lead this extraordinary team in achieving the DOE goal of a safe, accelerated and cost effective transition of the Mound site to commercial use," said Hekman. "We all look forward to beginning our work at Mound in support of DOE and the Miamisburg community."

Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio) said he was pleased with the DOE's selection of the new Mound contractor.

"Babcock and Wilcox is a good company with roots in Ohio and solid experience with Energy Department nuclear issues," he said. "I expect to be actively involved with the new contractor to protect worker safety and ensure the speedy clean up of the Mound Plant and eventual transition to productive commercial use."

Hall has criticized the handling of worker safety issues at Mound and last year introduced legislation to force DOE to make changes in safety procedures. Also, a provision he wrote passed the House in June to speed up the transfer of property and equipment from the Mound to the city of Miamisburg to comply with the city's reuse plans.

City officials are pleased that a new contractor has been selected as well.

Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. and City Manager John Weithofer issued the following joint statement on the selection:

"The announcement of a new contractor at Mound is of primary importance to the city of Miamisburg and its residents and we congratulate Babcock and Wilcox on its selection. The conversion of Mound from a government installation to a private industrial and technology park is well underway and we're confident in the abilities of Babcock and Wilcox to ensure the continued success of that transition.

"City officials look forward to welcoming the firm into our community and working closely with them until the Department of Energy's planned departure from the site in the year 2005."

Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

August 20, 1997

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following Potential Release Site (PRS) package will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio, beginning August 20, 1997. Public comment on this package will be accepted from August 20, 1997, through Sept. 22, 1997.

Potential Release Site 409: Contaminated Soil

Written comments may be sent to Mound Community Relations, P.O. Box 3000, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-3000 or by E-Mail to nowksl@doe-md.gov. Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Msbg. council honors two

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

It was an evening of meeting new faces and congratulating familiar ones at the Aug. 19 Miamisburg City Council meeting.

Council met the president of the new contractor for the Mound, Babcock and Wilcox. President Peter Hekman said he and his company are looking forward to working with the city.

"We have great plans for the Mound, great plans for the community and great plans for working with you," he said. "We look forward to joining your community."

Council also formally met the city's new assistant city manager, Dody Paraskos, and Mayor Dick Church Jr. administered the oath of office.

City Manager John Weithofer honored two city employees

(Continued on Page 9)

Burg council ...

(Continued from Page 1)

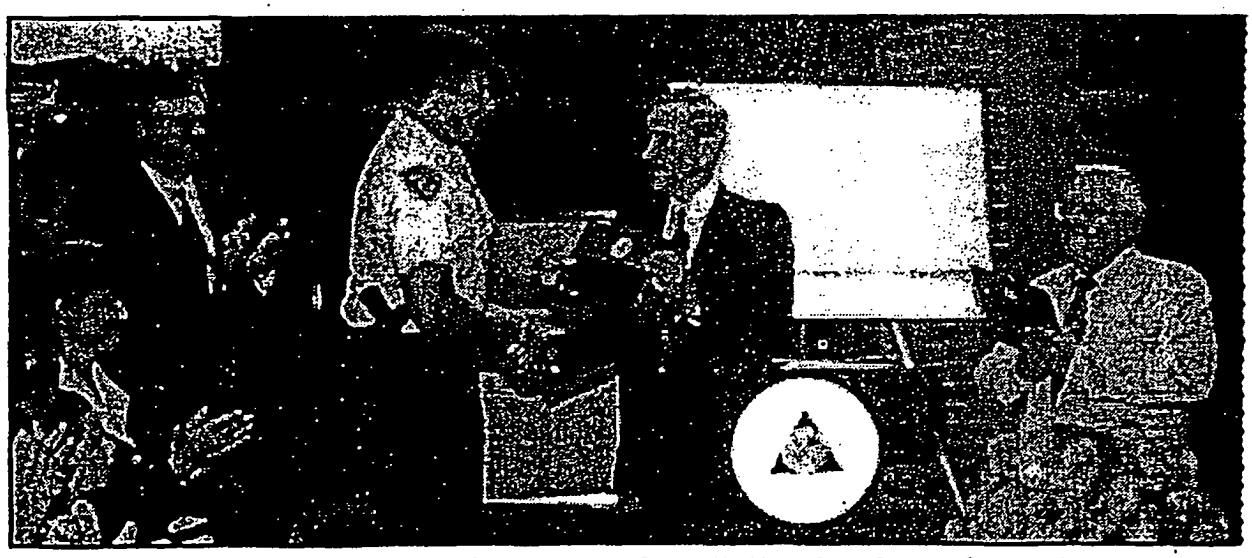
who completed special assignment for the city. He recognized Police Chief Tom Schenck for his service as acting assistant city manager and Assistant Police Chief Aubrey Baker for his service as acting police chief in recent weeks.

"These were critical jobs and these two men really stepped forward," said Weithofer. "They did the jobs so well that they gave us the luxury of time to choose the best assistant city manager possible."

Schenck presented framed displays of police department employee trading cards to council and to Monarch Marking Chief Executive Officer John Paxton. He said each police department employee had 3,000 trading cards made to pass out as part of the department's community policing program.

Monarch Marking picked up the $5,000 cost of the cards as a donation to the program.

"It's businesses and people like those at Monarch Marking that make this city such a special place to live and work," said Schenck.



CITY MANAGER John Weithofer congratulates Police Chief Tom Schenck on a job we done as Assistant Chief Aubrey Baker and Mayor Dick Church look on.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S = 230,000, D = 180,000)

Mound to lose 125 jobs

Contractor change means other shifts

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

About 125 jobs at the Mound in Miamisburg will be eliminated when the new contractor takes over the cleanup operations at the former nuclear weapons plant Oct. 1.

Babcock & Wilcox, the company awarded the contract in August, has indicated that it will retain 751 of the 880 employees at the plant. About 225 employees represented by two unions — Oil, Gas and Atomic Workers and United Plant Guard Workers of America — are not affected by the downsizing.

A Babcock & Wilcox spokeswoman said the number of employees retained could vary in the next few weeks before the company takes over the operation from EG&G Mound, which has conducted the cleanup for the last six years.

"The number 751 was proposed last week, but it was give or take a few," said Alicia Taylor of Babcock & Wilcox.

Peter M. Hekman, who is directing the cleanup for Babcock & Wilcox as president, said the final number could be plus or minus 20.

The cleanup of the Mound is expected to be completed under a Department of Energy accelerated program by February 2003 at a cost of about $425 million. Taylor

SEE CLEANUP/**8B**

CLEANUP: Change to cost 125 jobs

CONTINUED FROM 5B

said additional downsizing could occur as projects are completed during the cleanup. The plant will be turned over to Miamisburg when the cleanup is finished and turned into an industrial and technological park.

Babcock & Wilcox is also returning to a five-day work week. EG&G employees worked on a schedule of four, 10-hour days. Taylor said the change was to improve efficiency.

The company is explaining to employees the new benefits package. Some employees have complained about increases in insurance costs and pharmacy co-payments.

Taylor said the benefits package is the same for all employees of Babcock & Wilcox, a division of McDermott International Inc. of New Orleans.

"There are some differences, some tradeoffs," Hekman said. "At one point the Department of Energy said that benefits would be comparable and I think some people interpreted comparable to mean equal."

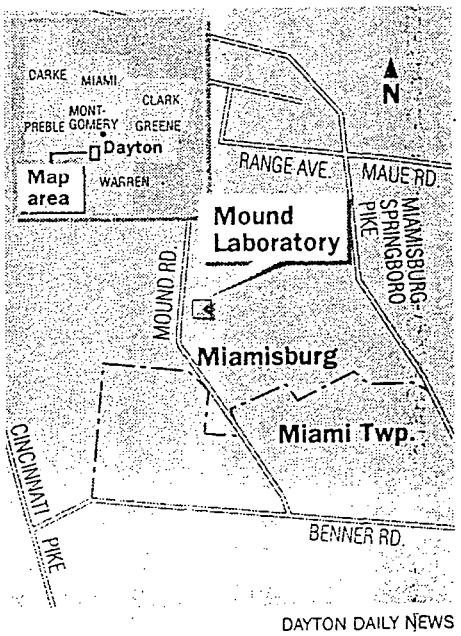
Employees retained by Babcock & Wilcox will no longer receive company-paid health and life insurance and matching payments to the 401(k) plan have been reduced to 50 percent on the first 6 percent of income, according to Brad Iler of human services.

"It is not what the employees are used to, but I explained that in the commercial world our benefit plan is competitive," Iler said.

Hekman said that since the Mound has been in operation for 40 years, some employees are looking at career decisions.

"It is never an easy process, but they are getting fully briefed," Hekman said.

▶**CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-2270 or e-mail him at dale_dempsey@coxohio.com



DAYTON DAILY NEWS

USA TODAY Science

09/04/97 - 12:06 AM ET - Click reload often for latest version

Cooling problem threatens Saturn mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - A blasting air conditioner has damaged NASA's **Cassini** spacecraft and will probably delay its launch next month on a controversial, nuclear-powered mission to Saturn.

Program manager Richard Spehalski said Wednesday that it will take at least a week to remove the spacecraft from the launch pad and repair the ripped insulation.

Cassini is supposed to be launched Oct. 6 on the $3.4 billion mission to explore Saturn, its rings and moons.

If the launch is bumped beyond Nov. 4, the spacecraft will arrive at Saturn months or possibly even years late because of the planets' shifting positions. As it is, it will take **Cassini** seven years to reach Saturn.

Every day's delay means less scientific payback: The extra fuel that will be needed to get to Saturn will mean less fuel for scientific exploration.

When asked if Oct. 6 still was achievable, the European Space Agency project manager for the landing probe threw up his hands and grimaced.

"It's very disappointing but we're prepared to deal with it," project manager Hamid Hassan said. "The tear is there. For me, that's the worst that could happen."

Foil and foam insulation on the European-built landing probe was damaged by an excessive flow of air, Spehalski said.

The 55-degree air should have been flowing at 10 pounds per minute at about 140 mph onto the landing probe. In fact, for unknown reasons, it was shooting out at 30 pounds to 35 pounds per minute at more than 400 mph.

The landing probe is designed to parachute onto Saturn's largest moon, Titan, and is outfitted with 34 slightly radioactive heaters. Because of these heaters, the probe needs constant air conditioning until launch.

The insulating foil was torn nearly 2 inches, and the foam underneath also was damaged by the blasting air, which scattered foam particles.

The U.S.-European project has been criticized because of the 72 pounds of highly radioactive plutonium that will be used to provide electrical power for **Cassini** during its 11-year mission.

Some anti-nuclear activists, afraid plutonium could be showered on Earth in an accident, have threatened to try to stop or disrupt **Cassini**'s launch. NASA insists the spacecraft is safe.

Cassini was moved to the launch pad last Thursday amid increased security and secrecy and placed

on an unmanned Titan 4B rocket. The damage was discovered Tuesday.

Spehalski dismissed any suggestion the problem was the result of sabotage.

By The Associated Press

- More Science and astronomy coverage

- Go to Science digest
- Go to Life front page

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Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S = 230,000, D = 180,000)

SPACE PROGRAM

Plutonium craft riles protesters

▶ Those opposed to the vessel demonstrate at the White House and plan a sit-in.

By Larry Lipman
COX NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Stepping up their opposition to the nuclear-powered Cassini spacecraft, protesters Monday staged a demonstration at the White House and vowed to try a launch pad sit-in to block the mission to Saturn.

While protesters chanted "no plutonium in space," U.S. Park Police arrested four demonstrators who knelt in front of the White House.

Opponents of the launch — scheduled for between Oct. 6 and Nov. 15 — called on President Clinton to cancel it. Bruce K. Gagnon, state coordinator for the Gainesville-based Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, said attorneys have advised opponents that they do not have legal grounds to block the launch.

"What we have left is the court of public opinion," Gagnon said.

The $3.4 billion mission to Saturn and its largest moon, Titan, is controversial because the craft is powered by batteries containing 72.3 pounds of radioactive plutonium-238. Critics say hundreds of thousands of people could eventually die from cancer if the craft exploded or disintegrated in the atmosphere.

At a news conference, Michio Kaku, a physics professor at City University of New York, accused NASA and the U.S. Department of Energy of using "fabricated numbers, pure guesswork, masquerading as genuine science."

NASA spokesman Donald Savage said "Cassini is a safe mission" that has been reviewed by scientists inside and outside of government.

Mound fence dismantled

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — Dick Church used to play on a hillside next to the Mound nuclear weapons plant while the installation was being built during the Cold War.

"I remember many times being run off by the guards," said Church, now mayor of this southwest Ohio community. "It was a secure place."

On Monday, Church watched as the 8-foot-high, barbed-wire security fence came tumbling down.

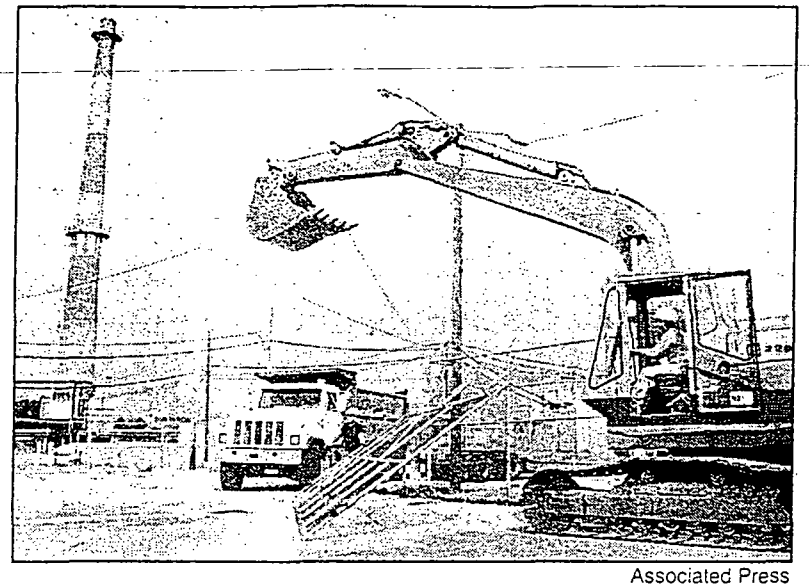
With a roar and a plume of black smoke, a track hoe dismantled the first section of fence, while workers with blow torches began removing fencing from poles.

Construction began in 1947 at the plant, where triggers were produced for nuclear weapons.

Work was shrouded in secrecy for years. Employees had to flash badges to armed security guards as they entered gates and passed through the fences topped with razor wire.

When the Cold War ended, the U.S. Department of Energy decided to phase out defense work there, leaving the cleanup of radioactive waste as the primary activity.

Community leaders pushed for removal of the fence in hopes of changing the plant's image to attract private businesses.



Associated Press

Contractors begin tearing down the security fence at the Mound nuclear weapons plant in Miamisburg on Monday.

"As you drove up the road here to Mound, you saw razor wire, barbed-wire, very high fences," said Mike Grauwelman, head of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp.

Grauwelman said 1,000 feet of fence would be removed initially, with more to follow. The security fence surrounds about 200 acres.

Residents were originally told the plant would be a research facility for a chemical company. Mystery surrounded the project. Even a nearby Indian mound — from which the plant got its name — was closed to tourists without a public announcement. The mound was reopened after the plant began operating.

"It was always a mystery what was up here," said Laima Lastikis, who grew up in Miamisburg.

Mark Becker, a lifelong resident, said he used to play golf next to Mound with his friends when he was growing up.

"There was a mystique about Mound," said Becker, who now works for the plant operator. "We always looked at this place and said, 'Wonder what they're doing there?'"

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Fences coming down to help promote growth at Mound

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

In what was described as a "significant signal of the Mound transition," workers began to tear down long-standing security fences at the Mound Advanced Technology Center (MATC) site on Monday.

City and defense conversion officials joined Miamisburg citizens at a special ceremony to witness the removal of security fences along Mound Road. The project grew out of a recommendation made by a group of citizens examining the community's image as part of Miamisburg's strategic planning process.

The MATC is now the site of 28 businesses and 240 employees from the private sector and "in ten to 15 years we hope to have 3,000 employees on the site," said Mayor Dick Church Jr. "The fences coming down will upgrade the image of the Mound.

"A lot of people believe that good fences made good neighbors," he said. "In Mound's case, though, it's community neighbors were concerned that the image created by the high-security fences might actually discourage new business development and employment growth."

Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation, the economic development organization for the Mound, said that while much of the fencing and razor wire are being removed from public view, some security provisions must remain in place for the protection of ongoing U.S. Department of Energy activities related to spacecraft power systems.

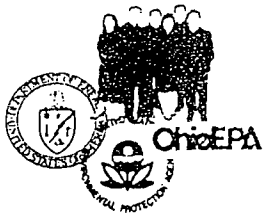
The site will also maintain an industrial level of security.

"If we want to be thought of as a technology and industrial park, we must look like one," he said. "We believe that removing the fences will help to visually convey the message that we are open for business."

"This is a historic event, a step that is just the beginning for the transition of the Mound," said Church.

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

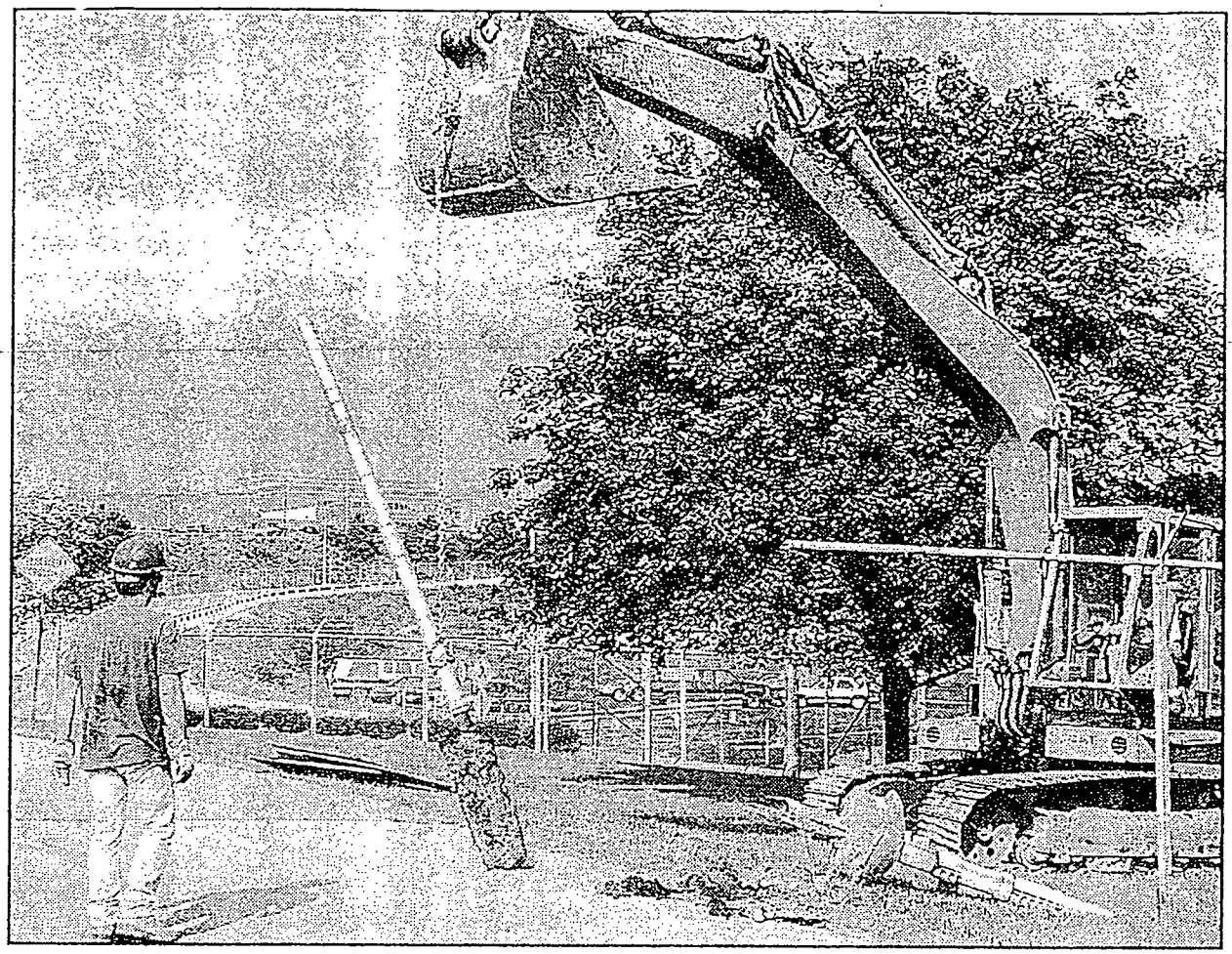
MOUND PLANT
POTENTIAL RELEASE
SITE PACKAGE
Notice of Public Review Period



The following Potential Release Site (PRS) package will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio, beginning September 15, 1997. Public comment on this package will be accepted from September 15, 1997, through October 15, 1997.

PRS 63: Soil Contamination - Building 29
PRS 405: Soil Contamination - Building 23
PRS 410: Soil Contamination - Fuel Oil
PRS 411: Soil Contamination - Asphalt Roadway (Radiological)

Written comments may be sent to Mound Community Relations, P.O. Box 3000, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-3000 or by E-Mail to nowksl@doe-md.gov.
Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.



Fences coming down, but Mound still will maintain security for DOE activities.

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT BUILDING DATA PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following Building Data Packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning September 18, 1997. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from September 18, 1997, through October 20, 1997.

BDP GIS Bldg.:	**Guard Island**
BDP GP-5 Bldg:	**Guard Post**
BDP Bldg. 100:	**Training and Offices**
BDP Bldg. 105:	**Parts Machining**

Written comments may be sent to Mound Community Relations, P.O. Box 3000, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-3000 or by E-Mail to nowksl@doe-md.gov.
Questions can be referred to Mound's Community Relations at (937) 865-4140.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

HMCP Auction features wide variety of items

Take a mini-vacation in the Grand Bahamas which includes a three-night stay in Freeport and airfare leaving from Cincinnati, provided by Bank One and Babcock & Wilcox.

Do Washington D.C. for a weekend including airfare for two, accommodations at the home of former Ohio Congressman Clarence J. and Joyce Brown, lunch with Ohio Congressman Tony Hall and a tour of the U.S. Capitol, provided by Tony Hall, Clarence and Joyce Brown, Monarch Marking and the Miamisburg Family Practice.

Rekindle the romance with dinner for two at Alex's Restaurant and a one-night stay at the English Manor Bread and Breakfast, provided by Alex's Continental Inn and the English Manor.

Enjoy an elegant dinner party without the fuss when Kohler Catering brings dinner for six to 10 people to your home.

Treat the family to a full season of Raider basketball excitement with a family pass provided by Wright State University.

Flash those pearly whites with a package from the Dental Depot which includes x-rays, cleanings, etc. for a family of four, provided by the Dental Depot.

Or take a flight in history on the Wright B Flyer.

These are just a few of the wonderful items up for auction

(Continued on Page 3)

Auction ...

(Continued from Page 1)

as part of the Miamisburg Historical Community Partnership's (HMCP) annual fundraising auction at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Baum Opera House.

Admission to the event will be $15 for a couple or $10 each for a single person. Tickets are available from board members of the HMCP or by calling 847-6456 or 847-0290 and will be available at the door if the event is not sold out. Hors d'oeuvres catered by Koehler Catering will be available, as well as a cash bar. And the variety of goods and services that will be available to bid on at the regular and silent auctions planned is huge.

Doug Sorrell will be the auctioneer at the event. MasterCard and Visa will be accepted in payment of items bought. Donations of goods to be auctioned are still being sought.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MIAMISBURG

Ceremony honors fallen fence

▶ Technology developed at Mound is not at the end of its usefulness.

By Marcy Lisle
FOR THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

A fence that stood for more than 50 years, representing a time when Miamisburg was a major force in the bomb business, has been torn down.

As Mound shifts from a defense product site to a technology and industrial park, 1,000 feet of forbidding, razor-wire fence being moved in an official ceremony is a visible reminder to the community that a change is under way.

"It's symbolic in a number of ways," said Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation, the economic development organization for the Mound Advanced Technology Center. "It's the end of the Cold War. It's analogous to the Berlin Wall coming down."

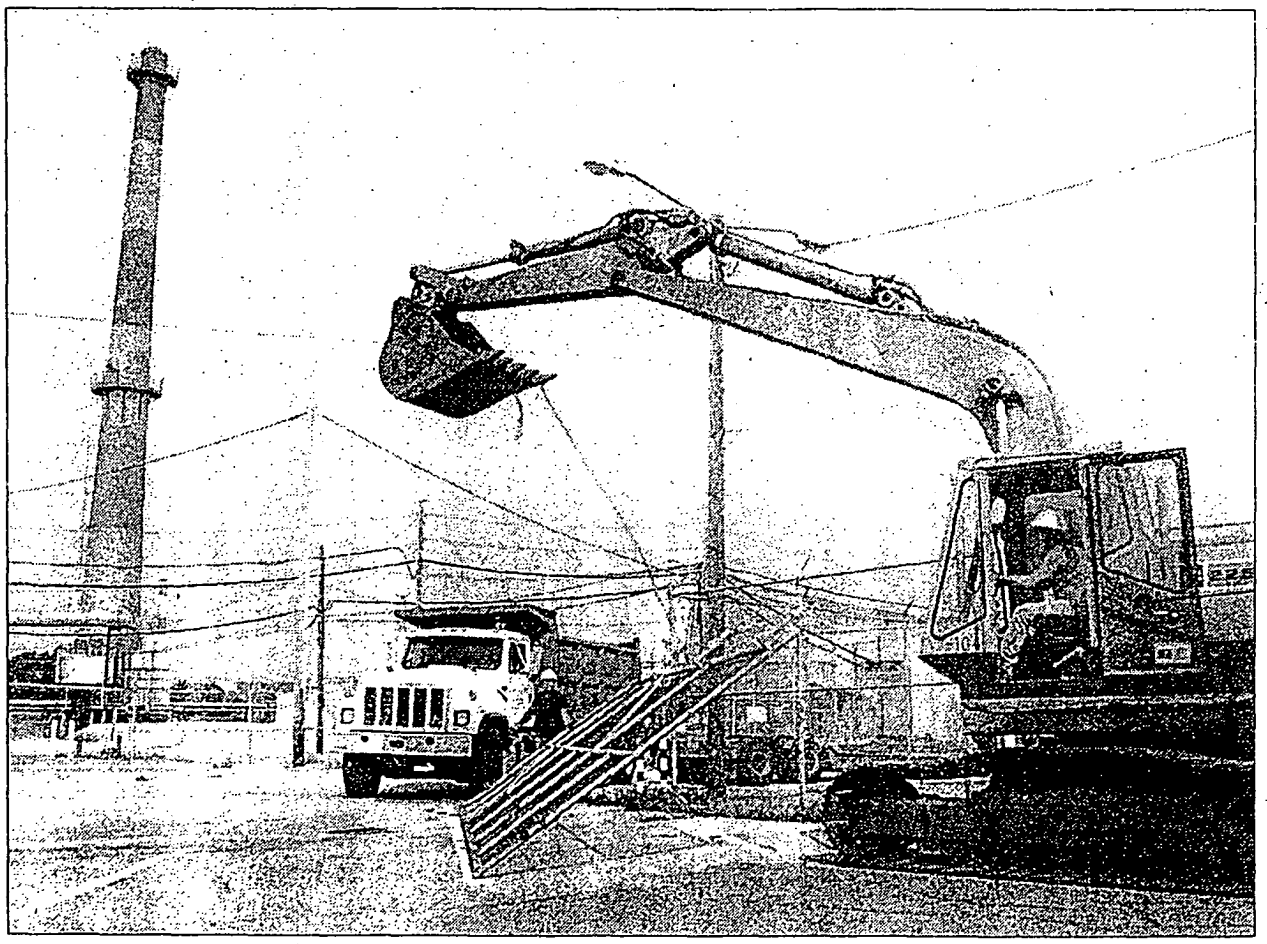
But the technology developed at Mound, which contributed to the end of the Cold War, is not at the end of its usefulness. By capitalizing on the innovations researched, designed, manufactured and tested on the site, Grauwelman hopes to build a successful commercial enterprise complex.

With more than 1.3 million square feet in Mound, the potential for the facility is enormous. As the Department of Energy gradually releases space and equipment to the improvement corporation, they can, in turn, lease to privately owned businesses. Currently, there are 28 businesses operating in Mound and occupying some 200,000 square feet.

According to Mayor Dick Church, during the next 20 years, 3,000 jobs — 600 more than in Mound's peak employment — could be created in the industrial center.

"It's going to help, not only Miamisburg's economy, but the

SEE MOUND/7



WILLIAM P. CANNON/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Contractors from John P. Raish Inc. tear down a piece of the fence around the Mound Research Facility in Miamisburg. The fence is being removed in an effortto change the image of the once highly secure and top secret facility.

MOUND

CONTINUED FROM 1

whole Miami Valley's," Church said.

And the removal of the fence is seen by many as another way of announcing to the community that the DOE's five-year time frame for completing the facility's cleanup is drawing closer.

"It's (the fence's removal) symbolic that a change is taking place," Church said. "We are not building bombs anymore. We are going to be building high-technology jobs."

The idea to remove the sections of security fence no longer needed stemmed from a recommendation this year by a group of citizens examining the community's image as part of Miamisburg's strategic planning process, Gary Giles, the city's public information officer, said. The group also recommended a ceremony to accompany the removal.

"They made it a priority," he said. "Were it not for them, I don't think it would have happened this soon."

Grauwelman said while there will continue to be industrial-level security at the site, and security provisions for ongoing DOE activities related to spacecraft power systems, the imposing facade that was once required is no longer committed to the economic development of the site, he said.

And for people like Mayor Church, who has childhood memories of the fence, last month's ceremony marking the beginning of its removal was especially important.

"As a kid, I watched the site being built and the guard would chase me and the neighborhood kids away from the fence," he said. "I never dreamed I would see the fence come down some day."

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MAC MEETING

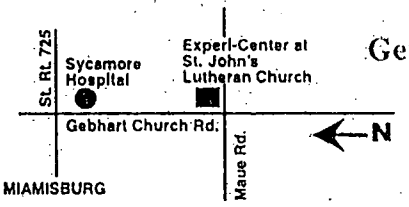
MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

Thursday,
October 16, 1997
7:00 p.m.
The Experi-Center located at
St. John's Lutheran Church
470 S. Gebhart Church Rd.
Miamisburg, Ohio



The Miamisburg Experi-Center, a center for scientific education in the community, will be featured at this month's MAC meeting. The Experi-Center is located inside the front doors of the old section of St. John's Lutheran Church.



Get Acquainted: 6:30 pm
Program: 7:00 pm

On the agenda:

- A look at the Experi-Center and its work in environmental and science education for students
- Groundwater protection plans in the community
- State annual report on the Mound site

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

October 22,1997

Miamisburg officials will meet with energy secretary

Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr., City Manager John Weithofer and two officials from the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) will join members of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Board of Directors this week in Washington D.C. for a meeting with Secretary of Energy Federico F. Pena on Friday. Church is national chairman of ECA.

"The DOE's environmental cleanup and exit from Mound will remain a vital issue in this community for several years to come," said Church, who also participated in discussions with former Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary during her four year tenure. "Secretary Pena has been supportive of the Miamisburg project since become secretary of energy earlier this year, and we're looking forward to meeting fact-to-face and discussing continued progress at Mound and other DOE facilities across the country."

The MMCIC is a non-profit economic development agency of the city that oversees the ongoing conversion of Mound to a private, commercial facility. President Mike Grauwelman and board member Bob Bell are representing the MMCIC in Washington.

In addition to the meeting with Secretary Pena, officials also plan to meet with the staffs of U.S. Senators John Glenn and Mike Dewine and U.S. Representative Tony Hall while in Washington.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S = 230,000, D = 180,000)

ENVIRONMENT

Nuke waste plan clears hurdle

▶ A final decision from the U.S. EPA on the underground New Mexico site is due in May.

By Sue Major Holmes
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The federal government's plan to bury nuclear waste in the salt beds of southeastern New Mexico received a preliminary go-ahead Thursday from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

After two decades of heated debate, the decision sets the stage for the $1.8 billion Waste Isolation Pilot Plant to open sometime after next May.

The repository would bury plutonium-contaminated waste from the nation's defense industry 2,150 feet underground. The waste generally consists of drums of contaminated protective clothing, tools, equipment, sludge and soil.

The project is considered a cornerstone in the Energy Department's strategy for cleaning up government nuclear waste sites.

The public has four months to comment on the EPA decision. The EPA will issue its final decision next spring.

The EPA said the final ruling is subject to conditions related to just what radioactive elements and hazardous chemicals the waste contains, how it would be sealed inside the repository and how the site would be marked so future generations wouldn't accidentally drill into it.

The repository would receive about 37,700 waste shipments over its estimated 35-year life from 10 federal sites in 10 states, including Ohio.

Opponents have raised questions about pockets of brine below the repository; concerns over mining and drilling in the area, the instability of the currently excavated storage rooms in the salt and the safety of hauling radioactive waste hundreds of miles to southern New Mexico.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S = 230,000, D = 180,000)

EMPLOYEE HEALTH

Former Mound site operator fined $112,500

▶ The Department of Energy says EG&G failed to monitor workers for contamination.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The Department of Energy Thursday levied a $112,500 civil penalty against EG&G Inc. of Wellesley, Mass., the former contractor at the Mound site in Miamisburg, for failure to monitor radioactive contamination of workers.

It is the largest penalty imposed by the department since the Price-Anderson enforcement program, which gave the DOE expanded powers to regulate the nuclear industry, went into law two years ago. Babcock&Wilcox took over the Mound site from EG&G on October 1.

"This is a serious violation of health and safety rules," said Peter N. Brush, acting assistant secretary for environment, safety and health. "Our ability to protect workers from potential health risks from radiation exposure relies on accurate monitoring."

The violations cited fall into two categories:

▶ Approximately 108 workers failed to submit urine samples in 1997 as required by their radiation work permits. While EG&G identified and reported the problem in February of 1996, it was not resolved, according to the DOE.

▶ EG&G failed to properly calculate worker exposures based on the samples. As a result, some workers may have received internal doses of up to 860 millirem of plutonium 238, a radioactive substance that can cause health problems. The annual limit for internal doses of plutonium 258 is 5,000 millirem.

In 1995, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, Local 07-4200 filed a lawsuit in U.S. Federal District Court over the same issues.

"We appreciate the Department of Energy sending this loud and clear message that violations of worker health and safety rules will not be tolerated," said Gary Nolley, OCAW Local 07-4200 president.

The union is calling for an on-site inspector to watch for violations of the Price-Anderson program.

Jane Greenwalt, spokesperson for the DOE in Miamisburg, said that Babcock&Wilcox is following the required safety monitoring.

Martin Reynolds, spokesperson for EG&G, said the company is reviewing the notice, but added that, "We believe the fine is unjustified and unreasonable."

Reynolds said that to the company's knowledge no injuries occurred and the workers were in no danger.

> 'We appreciate the Department of Energy sending this loud and clear message that violations of worker health and safety rules will not be tolerated,'
>
> **GARY NOLLEY**
> **OCAW Local 07-4200 president**

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-2270 or e-mail him dale_dempsey@coxohic.com

Ex-Mound operator draws fine

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — The U.S. Department of Energy has fined the former operator of the Mound nuclear weapons plant for allegedly violating worker safety rules, the largest penalty since the agency began imposing fines last year.

The $112,500 civil penalty eclipses the $56,250 fine levied in August on the Sandia Corp., which operates Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico, Energy Department spokeswoman Jayne Brady said Friday.

The department began fining its contractors in 1996 after receiving authority under amendments to the Price-Anderson Act.

The department said the former operator of Mound — EG&G Inc. of Wellesley, Mass. — failed to properly monitor radioactive contamination of workers.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S = 230,000, D = 180,000)

COLD WAR

Book IDs Mound spy

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

▶ Inside: More about Theodore Hall/6B

Throughout the Cold War, workers at the Mound Plant in Miamisburg developed and built a small but crucial element of a nuclear bomb — the initiator or "trigger" that begins the nuclear chain reaction. For more than 40 years, they worked in an atmosphere of secrecy and intense security.

But by March 1949, scientists in the Soviet Union knew all about the work being done at the Mound and the knowledge enabled them to mass produce bombs.

The information was most likely passed to the Soviets by an American physicist named Theodore "Ted" Hall, who spied for the Soviets from 1943 until the early 1950s, according to a new book, *Bombshell: The Secret Story of America's Unknown Atomic Spy Conspiracy*, by Joseph Albright and Marcia Kunstel. The authors were most recently foreign correspondents in Moscow for Cox Newspapers, parent company of the *Dayton Daily News*. Their information comes from recently declassified intelligence documents in the Soviet Union and the United States.

Hall, who is living in England,

SEE BOOK/4A

BOOK: Scientist believed to be leak

CONTINUED FROM 1A

will not admit to specific acts of espionage, according to Albright, but the timing of the leak to the Soviets makes him the most likely source.

"No other known American agent active at the time would have had access to the information," said Albright. "None of the others fit this opportunity."

A nuclear explosion requires a burst of neutrons fired into a radioactive material such as uranium 235 to jump start the atomic chain reaction. The American bombs used a polonium-beryllium initiator, in which a small amount (about 50 curies) of polonium 210 begins the process.

In 1949 polonium 210 was being made at the U.S. reactor in Hanford, Wash., where the heavy metal bismuth would be irradiated, leaving small amounts of polonium 210. At the Mound Plant, workers using glass vats 5 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter extracted the polonium from the bismuth in a delicate chemical process.

Before 1949, according to Albright and Kunstel, the Soviet Union could find only minute amounts of polonium that occurred in nature. Soviet scientists used another radioactive element, radium, to begin the chain reaction in their early bombs.

However, constructing one bomb required almost the total supply of radium available in Russia, keeping the Soviets from mass producing the weapons.

On March 1, 1949, a document landed on the desk of Soviet spymaster Lavrenti Beria that accurately described the process being used at the Mound for extracting polonium from bismuth.

"Almost immediately after receiving the document the Soviets built a factory to duplicate what happened at the Mound," Albright said.

Albright and Kunstel obtained a copy of the document describing the polonium process from Soviet archives. Its authenticity was confirmed in interviews with Vladimir Barkovsky, a former colonel in the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service.

Albright said he asked Hall specifically if he was the source of the information on the Mound process, but did not get a direct affirmation.

"While he takes responsibility in general for his activities, he is reluctant to get into denying or confirming specific passages in the book," Albright said.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-2270 or by e-mail at dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

WASHINGTON

Security lax at weapons labs, GAO argues

▶ Only 5 percent of Russian and Chinese visitors had background checks.

By John Diamond
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Department of Energy failed to conduct background checks on hundreds of Russian and Chinese scientists, officials and other visitors to the three U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories, a congressional report says.

Some of the individuals allowed access to the three weapons labs — Lawrence Livermore in California and the Los Alamos and Sandia laboratories in New Mexico — were later shown to have "suspected foreign intelligence connections," the General Accounting Office said.

At two of the nation's three nuclear weapons labs only 5 percent of the visitors — often scientists, weapons experts or researchers — were put through background checks from 1994 through 1996, the GAO said. Its report was obtained Thursday by The Associated Press and was to be released Friday.

Auditors from the congressional watchdog agency examined security checks on visitors from 22 countries listed by the Department of Energy as "sensitive." A majority of the visits, 3,701, were by Russians or Chinese.

"By checking the backgrounds of so few visitors from sensitive countries, particularly to Los Alamos and Sandia, DOE limits the collection of basic counterintelligence data and may be unknowingly allowing significant numbers of visitors with questionable backgrounds into its weapons laboratories," the GAO concluded.

Of the 1,464 visitors from China, only 199, or fewer than 2 percent, were checked. Of the 2,237 visitors from Russia, 451 visitors, or 2 percent, were checked, the GAO auditors said.

The report criticized other lax security procedures at the labs, including allowing foreign visitors after-hours access and leaving sensitive information in areas accessible to the visitors.

The Middletown Journal

Friday, Oct. 31, 1997

Easy access granted to nuclear weapons labs

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of scientists, researchers and officials from Russia and China gained access to the three U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories without security background checks, a new congressional report finds.

The General Accounting Office report cited the Department of Energy labs — Lawrence Livermore in California and the Los Alamos and Sandia laboratories in New Mexico — for lax security, including an instance in which boxes marked "sensitive materials" sat in hallways accessible to the foreign visitors.

Some of the individuals allowed access to the labs were later shown to have "suspected foreign intelligence connections," said the report, obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday. It was set for release today.

"DOE has procedures that require obtaining background checks, but these procedures are not being enforced," according to the report by the congressional watchdog agency.

Because of the lack of clear criteria for identifying visits that posed security risks, "sensitive subjects may have been discussed with foreign nationals without DOE's knowledge and approval," the GAO found.

The report focused on visits in 1994, 1995 and 1996 by citizens of 22 countries on the DOE's "sensitive" list, including Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Libya.

A total of 5,472 visitors from those 22 countries came to the DOE labs. Only 892 visitors, or 16 percent, were given background checks.

At Los Alamos and Sandia, only 5 percent of foreign visitors from sensitive countries were checked. Visitors from Russia and China made up the bulk of these cases.

The Energy Department agreed with the report's recommendations and said it is taking extensive steps to improve security. But the department said the GAO report placed too much emphasis on background checks.

The Energy Daily

627 National Press Building · Washington, D.C. 20045 · (202) 638-4260 · Fax: (202) 662-9744

Friday, October 31, 1997 ED Volume 25, Number 210

Critics Wonder If Mound Fine Will Mend The Problem

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

More than two years after the problems were first exposed, the Energy Department last week belatedly fined the former operator of its Mound facility $112,500—DOE's largest contractor penalty to date—for repeated serious lapses in radiological monitoring of workers at the Ohio nuclear weapons site.

The fine comes amidst continuing worker concerns about whether DOE's new Mound contractor, Babcock & Wilcox, will remedy the monitoring problems.

DOE officials said they considered the violations by EG&G Inc. the worst they had seen since the department began its Price-Anderson nuclear safety enforcement program two years ago. The action against EG&G represented the first time the department has cited a contractor for a Severity I violation, the most serious type of infraction under its Price-Anderson program. DOE also reduced EG&G Mound's management fee by $300,000 due to the monitoring program problems.

DOE officials said the two-year delay in penalizing EG&G was due to inexperienced staff in its Price-Anderson enforcement office and the "technical complexity" of assessing the worker monitoring problems.

However, during the same period of time, DOE has been in intense and detailed legal negotiations with a Mound workers' union on settling litigation over the EG&G violations—and DOE's slow response to fixing the problems.

The fine was for major breakdowns by EG&G in failing to submit urine

(Continued on page 2)

Mound Fine... (Continued from page one)

or other bioassay samples taken from nuclear cleanup workers for routine testing for radiological contamination. Later testing indicated some of the workers had been contaminated. DOE said at least 108 cases were identified in which the bioassay samples were not submitted for testing in 1997, as was required under the contractor's radiation work permits.

The department also pointed to improper calculation of radiation doses received by workers who had submitted bioassay samples. While EG&G said those workers received no dose, corrected assessments indicated some workers may have absorbed plutonium-238 contamination.

DOE said EG&G exacerbated those problems by failing to take effective corrective action. Although those problems were first identified in 1995, EG&G failed to take steps to fix the faulty monitoring program—and DOE took no timely enforcement action to force a remedy.

The poor response by EG&G and DOE prompted one Mound workers' union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), to file suit in August 1995 accusing EG&G of gross mismanagement of worker safety programs and even intentional concealment of hazardous working conditions.

The suit said EG&G did not properly test workers for exposure to radioactive contaminants and failed to tell some workers when testing indicated they had been exposed. More than two dozen workers did not learn about exposures for years after the fact, including one electrician who was not told until 1995 that he was exposed to plutonium from work he performed in the crawl spaces of a contaminated building—in 1970.

In line with its traditional contractor indemnification policies, DOE provided the legal defense for EG&G and for the past two years has been negotiating with OCAW on a settlement. Sources said the litigation is close to final settlement.

Meanwhile, EG&G's Mound contract expired in September and DOE chose Babcock & Wilcox as the new contractor for the Miamisburg, Ohio site.

B&W officials said Thursday that corrective actions already have been taken.

city ▼ beat

Mound fined for sloppy plutonium monitoring

If the workers at the Mound Plant in Miamisburg were exposed to dangerous levels of plutonium, the operators of the plant would never have known it because of numerous problems with their employee monitoring program.

Because of the problems with the monitoring program — and because these problems weren't reported or corrected in a timely way — EG&G, Inc., the former operator of the Mound Plant, was fined $112,500 by the Department of Energy last week. The site, owned by the DOE, is a former government nuclear weapons plant.

The fine against EG&G is the largest civil penalty issued since the Price-Anderson enforcement program took effect in 1988.

First, the company did not adequately monitor the plant's employee testing program, which requires workers to submit urine samples after completing a job so their exposure to radiation can be checked. In 1997, EG&G did not collect required urine samples from 108 out of approximately 880 employees even after a 1996 DOE review showed that the company was aware of problems in its testing program.

Second, EG&G failed to use the best available data when analyzing the samples that were submitted, resulting in a mathematical error in the calculation of employees' exposure levels to plutonium 238. Some employees may actually have been exposed despite receiving a test score of zero because the zero recording represents the mathematical error.

However, after recalculating the data from the urine samples, the DOE has determined that none of the workers were exposed to a dangerous level of plutonium. The regulatory, or maximum, exposure level is 5000 milirems per year — far below the level at which observable effects would occur, said Jane Greenwalt of the DOE Ohio Field Office in Miamisburg. We are typically exposed to 300 milirems per year from naturally occurring radiation. Even by recalculating the data using the worst possible case scenario, the highest dose workers would have been exposed to is 17 milirems per year.

The fine against EG&G is the largest civil penalty issued since the Price-Anderson enforcement program took effect in 1988. Price-Anderson is a federal statute that sets higher safety penalties and allows contractors previously protected from civil penalties to be fined. The highest possible civil penalty was issued to EG&G because the company did not identify, report or correct problems with their testing program in a timely manner.

EG&G has 30 days to review the penalty. If they accept it, the fine will be paid to the U.S. Treasury, said Department of Energy spokesperson Jayne Brady. The company also may appeal to the Department of Energy enforcement office. If the DOE disagrees with the appeal, the Department of Justice will go to court to collect the fine.

DOE's local office oversees the Mound site by periodically sending out facility representatives to monitor the various jobs being performed.

Greenwalt likened the DOE's oversight of the Mound facility to police oversight of drivers. When a driver is given a license, they agree to follow traffic safety rules and laws. The police cannot constantly monitor every driver to ensure they are in compliance. Similarly, DOE contractors like EG&G are expected to follow the department's rules and regulations without constant oversight.

EG&G's contract expired at the end of September 1997. The new contractor, Babcock and Wilcox Ohio, took over on Oct. 1 and is expected to correct problems in the site's testing program. The Mound Plant will be transitioned to the Miamisburg community for reuse after clean-up is completed in an anticipated 5 1/2 years.

— *Kristen Wicker*

Security checks of visitors at U.S. nuclear labs lax

October 31, 1997
Web posted at: 2:09 p.m. EST (1909 GMT)



WASHINGTON (AP) -- Thousands of scientists, researchers and officials from Russia and China gained access to the three U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories without security background checks, a new congressional report finds.

The General Accounting Office report cited the Department of Energy labs -- Lawrence Livermore in California and the Los Alamos and Sandia laboratories in New Mexico -- for lax security, including an instance in which boxes marked "sensitive materials" sat in hallways accessible to the foreign visitors.

Some of the individuals allowed access to the labs were later shown to have "suspected foreign intelligence connections," said the report, obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday. It was set for release Friday.

"DOE has procedures that require obtaining background checks, but these procedures are not being enforced," according to the report by the congressional watchdog agency.

Because of the lack of clear criteria for identifying visits that posed security risks, "sensitive subjects may have been discussed with foreign nationals without DOE's knowledge and approval," the GAO found.

Visitors from 'sensitive' countries

The report focused on visits in 1994, 1995 and 1996 by citizens of 22 countries on the DOE's "sensitive" list, including Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Libya.

A total of 5,472 visitors from those 22 countries came to the DOE labs. Only 892 visitors, or 16 percent, were given background checks.

At Los Alamos and Sandia, only 5 percent of foreign visitors from sensitive countries were checked. Visitors from Russia and China made up the bulk of these cases.

The Energy Department agreed with the report's recommendations and said it is taking extensive steps to improve security. But the department said the GAO report placed too much emphasis on background checks.

The GAO said that only about 5 percent to 10 percent of foreign visitors were allowed into the most tightly guarded areas of the labs where actual weapons work is done. The report did not say whether any foreigners granted such access were from countries on the sensitive list.

But visitors from these sensitive countries did gain access to areas where work can include technologies under government export restriction, unclassified but sensitive information, and valuable equipment.

"Foreign visitors to these laboratories have open, often long-term access to personnel with detailed knowledge and expertise in classified and/or sensitive matters," the GAO wrote. "This situation is viewed by counterintelligence experts as an ideal opportunity for foreign intelligence-gathering efforts."

Few Chinese, Russians checked

FBI counterintelligence officials were particularly concerned about the low percentage of checks on visitors from Russia and China, according to the report.

Of the 1,464 visitors from China, only 199, or fewer than 20 percent, were checked. Of the 2,237 visitors from Russia, 451 visitors, or 20 percent, were checked, the GAO auditors said.

The labs, overseen by the Energy Department, conduct research, design and non-explosive testing of nuclear weapons and related components.

They also have branched out into other areas of research such as lasers, high-performance computers, microelectronics, biomedicine and global climate change. These studies have attracted more foreign scientists, researchers and other visitors.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, operated for DOE by the University of California, consists of scores of buildings over a square mile of campus.

Los Alamos, also run by the University of California,

extends over 43 square miles of territory north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sandia, a similarly sprawling complex, is run for DOE by Lockheed Martin Corp.

Among the lax security procedures cited in the report were the accidental release of classified information; rules permitting foreign visitors after-hours access; and sensitive information left in areas accessible to the visitors.

Energy Department's response

The Energy Department, in a written response to the report, challenged the notion that background checks ensured airtight security.

"There is little likelihood that foreign intelligence services would resort to aggressive, high-risk collection techniques," such as sending intelligence officers with traceable backgrounds to the labs on official visits, the department said. Background checks that raised red flags over individuals with intelligence backgrounds might miss the real spies, the department argued.

The report was commissioned by the House National Security Committee in response to a 50 percent increase in the number of foreign visitors to the three nuclear weapons labs from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s.

The other countries listed as "sensitive" are Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cuba, Georgia, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Moldova, Pakistan, Syria, Taiwan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The report noted that only one of the nine Iraqis who visited DOE weapons labs was checked. There were 65 visitors from Iran, 11 of whom were checked.

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Related sites:

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window

- U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories and Programs
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory: LLNL
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Sandia National Laboratories

Envirocare

Change of Venue Denied in Envirocare Suit

BY ERIK HOLM

A Texas court last week denied Envirocare of Utah's request for a change of venue in a $500 million lawsuit filed by Waste Control Specialists (WCS).

Envirocare lawyers had claimed that they could not receive a fair trial in Andrews County, Tex., the location of a proposed WCS low-level and mixed waste disposal facility.

The WCS lawsuit alleges that Envirocare disseminated false information to Texas and federal regulators in an effort to prevent WCS from entering into the radioactive waste disposal market.

The suit also alleges that Envirocare proposed a "sham" radioactive waste disposal operation near the WCS site which caused the state of Texas to withdraw from negotiations with WCS.

WCS is seeking $500 million in damages for violations of Texas antitrust law, and for libel, slander, business disparagement, and "tortious interference with perspective business relations."

WCS Proposed Regulatory Framework to DOE

Beginning in the spring of 1996, WCS officials began discussions with the Energy Department on possible ways to establish regulatory oversight of the Andrews County facility for radioactive waste disposal. WCS already has permits from Texas to operate a hazardous and toxic waste disposal facility at the proposed radioactive waste disposal site.

"DOE senior officials stated their strong desire to create competition for Envirocare in the DOE radioactive waste disposal industry and to thereby lower the costs of waste disposal services," the lawsuit said.

The company first proposed having the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission as the regulator. Based on this tentative arrangement, WCS said it went ahead and made a contingent bid on a low-level waste disposal contract at the DOE's Fernald, Ohio, site in August 1996. The bid was contingent on the oversight arrangement being acceptable to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the resolution of other issues.

However, when the Texas commission backed out of the arrangement in October 1996, WCS filed suit against Envirocare in the Texas state court.

WCS then proposed to DOE an alternative regulatory oversight arrangement utilizing two Texas universities and the Integrated Resources Group, a consulting firm and DOE contractor with expertise in regulation of radioactive waste sites. WCS also suggested that DOE's Sandia National Laboratories, NRC or even an arm of DOE could assist in regulation of the site. And the company said DOE would not be unfairly favoring its bid by approving the proposed arrangement because it was structured so other companies could utilize the same regulatory oversight mechanism.

But when this plan was rejected by the Energy Department in May of this year, it effectively eliminated WCS from consideration for the Fernald contract. It was this decision that prompted WCS to file a separate lawsuit against the Energy Department in August.

Earlier this month, the judge presiding over the DOE lawsuit issued a temporary injunction to prevent the department from issuing any more low-level waste contract until the lawsuit was settled. In issuing the injunction, the judge claimed that DOE's defense of its current disposal policy does not "pass the 'straight face' test."

Though a trial date for the WCS suit against Envirocare has not been finalized, the case will likely go before a jury by August 1998. A rough schedule for pre-trial proceedings will be determined in November. ❑

Envirocare

EPA Gives Envirocare Time To Get House in Order

BY PAMELA NEWMAN-BARNETT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has agreed to rescind an order that could have barred federal shipments of Superfund wastes to the Envirocare facility in Clive, Utah—provided the disposal company agrees to a series of conditions set by the state.

On Oct. 15, EPA issued Envirocare a so-called notice of unacceptability, after a routine state inspection of the Utah facility revealed that several thousand cubic feet of untreated Superfund-classified federal waste, including some Energy Department waste, had been sitting on an asphalt pad at the site for more than a year.

EPA's notice warned that unless the company came into compliance with federal and state law within 60 days, the agency would issue an order barring federal wastes from being received at the facility. Envirocare's Utah facility is the only nongovernmental facility approved by the Energy Department to receive waste from department nuclear sites.

However, last week, EPA officials announced plans to withdraw that order. That decision came after an EPA meeting with the state and representatives of Envirocare. The result of that meeting was a so-called unilateral agreement, to be enforced by the state, under which the waste-disposal company must come into compliance with federal and state rules by April 30, 1998.

EPA says it will formally rescind its notice of unacceptability only after Envirocare submits a written plan for coming back into compliance with standards set by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's division of solid and hazardous waste.

If Envirocare has not treated the wastes in question by April 30, EPA would be free to reinstate its order, which would again put Envirocare at risk of losing its federal clients.

Under Utah state law, which is modeled after federal law, Superfund wastes cannot be left in an untreated condition for more than a year, unless the storage facility can prove the delay is solely for the propose of accumulating sufficient quantities of waste to facilitate their treatment.

Envirocare President Charles Judd has admitted to EPA that his company did leave the waste untreated for more than a year. In an interview with *Nuclear Remediation Week*, Judd attributed the delay to the company's efforts to research the best way to treat those particular waste streams; he made no mention of waiting to gather sufficient quantities of waste for treatment.

Still, Judd insists his company is not breaking the law—an opinion not shared by EPA. "They still think they are not out of compliance with this particular law. We feel very strongly that they were," said Terry Brown, offsite rule coordinator for EPA Region 8, the office with jurisdiction over Envirocare.

Though EPA occasionally grants enforcement discretion to generators that store waste for longer than a year because they have no place to send the waste, "EPA thinks generators should not take waste if they are not able to treat it," Brown said.

Despite these problems, Brown said EPA is confident that the company will do the right thing "now that they are tied to the [state] compliance order."

Waste Control Specialists, a competing low-level radioactive waste disposal company, was quick to attack Envirocare for its inability to dispose of the waste in a timely manner.

"If Envirocare can't figure out how to treat it, that may raise questions about Envirocare's competence," said WCS attorney John Kyte.

Kyte also suggested that EPA may be bending its rules to accommodate Envirocare, out of concern that DOE would have no where to send certain wastes if the Utah facility was forced to shut its doors. WCS currently is suing DOE alleging unfair treatment of the company's efforts to compete with Envirocare for waste from the department's Fernald, Ohio, site *[see related story, page 7]*.

Brown denied that EPA is making a special exception. "DOE is not an issue," he said. ❑

The Energy Daily

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Monday, November 3, 1997 ED Volume 25, Number 211

Amid Lingering Criticism DOE's Alm Steps Down

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

Alvin Alm, assistant Energy secretary for environmental management, announced his resignation Friday, pleased with his success in accelerating DOE's cleanup program but increasingly dogged by criticism over his management effectiveness.

Alm told *The Energy Daily* in an interview Friday that he was leaving because he had achieved all his key goals, particularly in regard to focusing DOE field offices on shortening protracted cleanup schedules and cutting overhead costs.

"I've accomplished what I set out to do—institutionalize an accelerated program," Alm said, referring to his 2006 Plan, under which cleanup at many DOE sites is supposed to be substantially finished by 2006.

"I think we converted the key elements of the department," he said. "I really have seen the groundwork laid [for accelerated cleanup]."

Alm also pointed to success on Capitol Hill, noting that the House and Senate Appropriations committees have set up a new $875 million account for fiscal 1998 to pursue his proposals for early closure of the Fernald site in Ohio and Rocky Flats in Colorado.

Alm also said he was leaving—effective in January—because

(Continued on page 2)

The most vocal critics were members of the Military Production Network, a coalition of environmental groups from communities near DOE sites. MPN repeatedly called on Pena to fire Alm, saying he had failed to consult adequately with the public on controversial ideas on speeding up cleanup efforts. But one source said, "if anything, the MPN letters [seeking Alm's ouster] only extended his life at DOE."

Rather, the sources said Alm's problems were related to questions among key lawmakers and senior members of Pena's team about Alm's management effectiveness, especially his ability to build coalitions and oversee field office operations in support of his accelerated cleanup program.

"His message, the need for speeding up cleanup, was good and will endure," a source said. "Unfortunately, the implementation was awful."

In response to such criticism, Alm said implementation problems were to be expected given the difficult cleanup and budgetary challenges facing the department. He also suggested that some DOE staffers just were resistant to new ideas, especially the notion that cleanup schedules could be accelerated with environmental and safety issues still being addressed.

"Whenever you have change, you have people who oppose change," he said. "Trying to do something this revolutionary is tough. I spent an incredible amount of time in the field, visiting every field office two or three times. No one could have made more of an effort in trying to communicate this."

Alm also said he was hampered by a disaster not of his making—the Pit 9 debacle at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. The breakdown of that privatized cleanup project, he said, was a "political killer" for the privatization concept, which he views as a key tool for achieving faster cleanup at less cost. Following publicity over Pit 9, Alm's effort to get $1 billion in fiscal 1998 for privatization fell flat, with Congress approving only $275 million.

Despite the reduced funding, Alm said DOE's privatization program still will move forward. He pointed out that two big projects, the cleanup of Hanford's high-level nuclear waste tanks and INEEL's Advanced Mixed Waste Project, are adequately funded and that other smaller privatized initiatives are being launched at Fernald and in the transportation of transuranic waste.

As for his own future, Alm provided some trademark wry humor. "I've worked in government, industry and academia, so maybe now it's time to try the priesthood," he said.

DOE's Alm Steps Down...

(Continued from page one)

of the rigors of the environmental management post, considered one of the toughest jobs in government due to the number and complexity of DOE's cleanup problems.

But while Alm is widely credited with boosting the accelerated cleanup concept, his departure after less than two years in office clearly was the result of increasingly forceful nudging from top DOE officials.

Energy Secretary Federico Pena issued a statement expressing regret over Alm's departure and praising his tenure, but other DOE sources told *The Energy Daily* that Alm to some degree had lost the confidence of key DOE brass, members of Congress and regulators in states with large DOE sites.

In general, the critics said Alm had pushed the right ideas, but failed to implement them effectively. Among other problems, they said Alm's 2006 plan was not well-thought out, in large measure because he relied on only a few key aides while shutting out DOE's career staff.

"He was seen as something of a lone operator," one source said. "The career staff just rebelled."

The critics also said Alm was not an effective communicator in a job that demanded sensitive dealings with disparate groups, from local environmentalists to state regulators to members of Congress and the White House.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Church appointed to environmental board by Department of Energy

While in Washington D.C. last week for discussions with U.S. Secretary of Energy Federico Pena on Oct. 24, Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. was appointed to the Environmental Management Board (EMAB) by Assistant Energy Secretary Alvin L. Alm.

With the city of Miamisburg serving as host to the DOE's Mound plant, Church has been active in energy and environmental issues. He currently serves as national chairman of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), an organization made up of representatives from 13 communities across the nation that host DOE sites. He also is on the Board of Directors for the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC), the non-profit economic development agency of the city that oversees conversion of the Mound to a private facility.

Church is one of only two representatives from local government appointed to the EMAB and will serve a two year term. As a board member, he will also serve on the EMAB subcommittee of his choice. The board and sub-committees provide advice and recommendations on issues and other matters relating to the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management program. The board reports directly to Assistant Secretary Alm and is expected to meet several times a year, usually in Washington.

The Energy Daily

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Friday, November 7, 1997 ED Volume 25, Number 215

Watchdog Revelations Call DOE Radiation Data Into Question

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

Energy Department documents released Thursday say DOE did not calculate internal radiation doses for its nuclear weapons plant workers until 1989—a lapse that raises fundamental questions about the accuracy of DOE worker exposure records, which are crucial to a range of litigation and health studies.

Those revelations were made Thursday by the Maryland-based Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER), which charged that DOE's failure to estimate internal doses means most department health records understate actual lifetime exposure suffered by nuclear weapons complex workers.

IEER based its allegations on an April 7, 1997, internal DOE memo and IEER's own analysis of urine sampling data taken from 4,000 former workers at DOE's Fernald, Ohio, uranium plant dating back to the early 1950s.

The DOE memo, obtained by IEER earlier this year, states that until relatively recently, neither DOE nor the nuclear industry routinely estimated internal radiation doses to workers—exposure to lungs and other body organs from radioactive materials inhaled or ingested on the job.

"Until 1989 in DOE, and 1991-1994 in the nuclear industry (Nuclear Regulatory Commission and [NRC] agreement states) internal radiation doses were not calculate (sic) for workers," said the memo, written by DOE's Office of Worker Protection Programs and Hazards Management.

(Continued on page 2)

Watchdog Revelations... *(From page one)*

The same situation was found by IEER when it sought to evaluate Fernald worker doses for litigation filed by workers against DOE's Fernald operator in 1991.

IEER found that DOE did check workers for excessive internal doses through sampling of urine and other excreta and monitoring of worker organs. However, the department did not calculate internal doses based on that raw data. As a result, workers' lifetime dose records reflected only external exposures, such as those recorded on film badges worn by workers on their clothing.

The upshot, said IEER President Arjun Makhijani, is that "large numbers of nuclear weapons workers have received information which systematically understates their actual exposures."

IEER acknowledged that methods for calculating relatively precise internal doses generally were not available until the mid-1960s. However, he said that DOE made no attempt to estimate internal doses until 1989, when the department adopted regulations requiring that internal doses be incorporated into workers' lifetime dose records.

DOE officials had no immediate comment on IEER's revelations.

Beyond workers' right to correct assessment of their radiation exposure, Makhijani said DOE's omission of internal doses had broad ramifications for radiation-related litigation and scientific studies.

Most notably, he said the revelations raised questions about DOE's handling of litigation filed against it by workers charging they were negligently exposed to excessive radiation at weapons plants. DOE generally has fought those lawsuits and refused to compensate workers, pointing to records showing no high exposures—assertions that now appear to be in question.

Radiation health scientists are faced with similar questions in regard to studies they have done based on exposure records held by DOE for the 500,000 to 600,000 people who have worked in the nuclear weapons complex since the Manhattan Project. DOE's worker exposure records have been considered a unique resource for radiological health studies due to the large number of people and long exposure periods involved.

Beyond the lack of internal exposure doses, Makhijani said additional problems are posed by flaws in the monitoring that DOE did do, at least if the Fernald data is any indication. He said that in its work on the Fernald worker data, IEER discovered major mistakes by DOE in analyzing urine samples, including using incorrect assumptions about contamination pass-through out of the body, failure to look for all key contaminants, long delays between exposures and testing and infrequent monitoring—all of which had the effect of minimizing exposures. Makhijani said IEER's re-analysis of the Fernald data found that, contrary to DOE claims, many workers exceeded then-existing safety limits, including 90 percent of Fernald workers in 1955.

Makhijani called on DOE to address the flawed exposure data problem by using all relevant information in its possession to identify groups of workers likely to have suffered high doses. He said while attempting dose reconstruction for individual workers would be prohibitively expensive and time-consuming, DOE could relatively quickly review existing plant records to find likely high exposure periods when workers probably were most at risk. The department then could calculate doses for those workers by matching up urine data with direct lung measurements—the method used by IEER in analyzing the Fernald data.

"If DOE can spend $4.5 billion a year on laboratory testing and computer simulation of nuclear weapons, it can find the resources to do justice to the people exposed to radiation while building nuclear weapons," Makhijani said.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Hall's legislative efforts help Mound commercialization

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

Once again, legislative work by Rep. Tony Hall is helping in the city of Miamisburg's economic development efforts at the Mound plant.

Congress has given final approval to legislation by Hall to speed up transferring property from the U.S. Department of Energy's Mound plant to the city.

"One of the hurdles facing the conversion of the Mound Plant is the difficulty in getting the property into the hands of those who can turn it back into productive use and create jobs," said Hall. "Current law makes it very difficult to sell the property for reuse."

Under the Hall measure, the Energy Department can exempt the recipient of property from liability for any unexpected environmental hazard left by the Energy Department. This provision is similar to current law that covers closing Defense Department bases.

"Without this change, it will be too risky for most people to buy the property out of fear that some costly environmental problem will be discovered years in the future," said Hall.

The Hall measure also authorizes the Energy Department to sell or lease property for economic development. Under current law, economic development is not explicitly permitted as a justification for transferring property.

Hall added the measure as an amendment to a larger Defense Department funding bill. The provision was not included in the Senate version of the bill, but was approved by the joint House-Senate conference committee. First the House, then the Senate passed the conference report, clearing the bill for the White House. It must be signed by the president to become law.

'Once again, Tony Hall came through for us...' – Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr.

"This legislation is a very important piece of the pie," said Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. "It will guarantee that any future environmental problems that come up for any potential new owner of a portion of the Mound site, will be taken care of by the federal government.

"It would have been very difficult to sell any of the land without this legislation," he said.

The Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation is eager to acquire several usable properties located at Mound including two buildings and a 40-acre lot which was once used by the Energy Department as a buffer zone. The Hall amendment is expected to make it easier to transfer these properties.

"Once again, Tony Hall came through for us," said Church. "In the six years we have been fighting to commercialize the Mound, he has always been there when we needed him – sponsoring legislation that will help us be successful in our efforts."

In 1993, Hall wrote legislation making it easier for the Energy Department to lease property. That measure became the basis for most of the Mound's commercialization activities so far.

The Hall legislation was backed by the Energy Communities Alliance, an organization representing 16 local governments around the country where closing nuclear weapons plants are located. Church is the group's chairman.

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following Potential Release Site (PRS) package will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio, beginning November 15, 1997. Public comment on this package will be accepted from November 15, 1997, through December 15, 1997.

PRS 237: Soil Contamination - B Area North of I Bldg.

Written comments may be sent to U.S. Department of Energy, c/o Jane Greenwalt, P.O. Box 66, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-0066 or by E-Mail to: *jane.greenwalt@em.doe.gov*
Questions can be referred to DOE Office of Public Affairs at (937) 865-3116.

Msbg. Mayor appointed to EMAB by Dept. of Energy

While in Washington D.C. for discussions with U.S. Secretary of Energy Federico Pena on Oct. 24, Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. was appointed to the Environmental Management Board (EMAB) by Assistant Energy Secretary Alvin L. Alm.

With the city of Miamisburg serving as host to the DOE's Mound plant, Church has been active in energy and environmental issues. He currently serves as national chairman of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), an organization made up of representatives from 13 communities across the nation that host DOE sites. He also is on the Board of Directors for the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC), the non-profit economic development agency of the city that oversees conversion of the Mound to a private facility.

Church is one of only two representatives from local government appointed to the EMAB and will serve a two year term. As a board member, he will also serve on the EMAB subcommittee of his choice. The board and sub-committees provide advice and recommendations on issues and other matters relating to the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management program. The board reports directly to Assistant Secretary Alm and is expected to meet several times a year, usually in Washington.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MIAMISBURG

Wellhead protection plan gets OEPA's endorsement

By Lisa Kasperski
FOR THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

With October's endorsement by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the city of Miamisburg can move from the development stage to the implementation phase of its Wellhead Protection Plan.

In a letter, John Sadzewicz, chief of Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, commended the city for its efforts in preparing a comprehensive wellhead protection plan.

"By encouraging public input, the groundwater protection committee has developed creative approaches to manage Miamisburg's wellhead protection area to protect these valuable groundwater resources," Sadzewicz wrote.

The idea behind such plans is to create a mechanism to safeguard the wellfields that supply communities with drinking water. Although mandated by the Ohio EPA, such plans are not law.

With the help of Heather Saxe, a hydrogeologist at CH2M Hill, an environmental engineering firm, a committee was formed in 1995 to create the plan based on a joint study conducted four years earlier by West Carrollton and Miamisburg.

The Groundwater Protection Committee, formed in October 1995, consisted of representatives from the community, city staff and members of Miamisburg's industrial sector, including representatives of the Department of Energy's Mound facility.

Using the 1991 study conclusions as a framework, the groundwater committee developed a plan.

"The dedicated effort from this committee, especially the citizen volunteers, made the plan a success," Miamisburg Water and Sewer Superintendent Steve Morrison said. "Only a handful of communities around the state have received this endorsement, and we're pleased to be among the few."

Saxe said Miamisburg is one of seven or eight communities in Ohio that are at this stage with a wellhead protection plan, but face major work during the implementation phase.

The next steps include bringing what the committee has developed back to the people through a series of public meetings, probably beginning next spring, Saxe said.

The Energy Daily

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Monday, November 17, 1997

Republican Appropriators See 'Ethical Problems' At DOE

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

Two Republican senators tore into the Energy Department last week for what they termed "serious ethical problems" in continuing to send its low-level mixed waste to Envirocare's dump site in Utah despite bribery allegations against the company's owner.

In a Nov. 12 letter to Energy Secretary Federico Pena, Sens. Richard Shelby of Alabama and Lauch Faircloth of North Carolina also said they are "extremely concerned" about the role played by Mary Anne Sullivan, DOE's nominee for general counsel, in the Envirocare controversy. They suggested that Sullivan is responsible for DOE's decision to continue doing business with Envirocare even though the company's owner, Khosrow Semnani, has been accused of bribing a Utah official responsible for regulating Envirocare's disposal site.

And the senators said they will act to kill DOE's contract with Envirocare by introducing legislation to bar the department from doing business with any company or person that has admitted to bribery of government officials.

"We can promise you that we will offer legislation next year to the

(Continued on page 2)

'Ethical Problems' At DOE...

(Continued from page one)

Energy appropriations bill that will specifically bar the Department of Energy from contracting with any person or company that has *admitted* to bribery of a federal, state or local official," Shelby and Faircloth wrote Pena.

"Most people would think that this would not need to be legislated, but apparently your general counsel's office sees thing differently. We believe the American people would agree with our view."

The senators' letter appears to stem from Sullivan's efforts as DOE's assistant general counsel for environmental issues to help negotiate a consent decree with Envirocare under which Semnani was barred from any decisionmaking role in the company's operations as a condition of DOE continuing its waste disposal contract with Envirocare.

DOE officials said that while the bribery allegations are troubling, the consent decree was needed because Envirocare is the only facility currently licensed to take mixed radioactive and toxic wastes from DOE sites. The department noted that the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers also are dependent on Envirocare.

DOE officials also say they could not suspend or terminate the department's contract with Envirocare even if they wanted to because the allegations against Semnani have not even been preliminarily substantiated by law enforcement authorities. While Semnani is under investigation by the FBI, he claims he was the victim of a blackmail scheme by the Utah regulator receiving his payments.

"We're not happy about Envirocare," one DOE official told *The Energy Daily* Friday, but, "we don't have anything to stake a suspension and debarment [of Envirocare] on. It usually requires an indictment.... If we did suspend them, it would not hold up [if Envirocare challenged it in court]."

The official also said that critics did not acknowledge that if the contract with Envirocare is suspended, neither DOE nor other agencies would be able to proceed with federal site cleanups because there are no other licensed dump site for federal mixed waste. And any halt in federal cleanup likely would result in violation of environmental compliance agreements with states, exposing DOE to fines and penalties, the official added.

But Shelby and Faircloth, who both sit on the Appropriations panel, contend that the difficult situation is of DOE's own making because it has not made any effort to end Envirocare's virtual monopoly on federal mixed waste disposal.

"We are concerned about the department's failure to encourage competition in the area of mixed waste disposal," they wrote.

The senators also vowed to push for oversight hearings next year on DOE's contracting practices, citing not only Envirocare but also the recent controversy over DOE funding for Molten Metal Technology, a cleanup firm that received DOE funding after making campaign contributions to President Clinton.

"In our opinion, the Energy Department has serious ethical problems, particularly with respect to the contracting circumstances surrounding Envirocare and Molten Metal Technology," they said.

DOE officials rejected any suggestion of a "sweetheart deal" with Envirocare, and said they are seeking to expand competition for mixed waste disposal. They noted a new procurement effort to solicit other waste disposal bidders is in the works, but that unresolved regulatory and legal issues are posing difficulties. In particular, they cited litigation filed against DOE by one disgruntled Envirocare competitor, Waste Control Specialists, and a resulting court ruling declaring DOE's current regulatory approach to low level mixed waste disposal as invalid. The officials said the procurement will be delayed until the litigation is resolved.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Wetland Involvement For Construction of a Consolidated Waste Processing Facility At The Miamisburg Environmental Management Project (MEMP)

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Miamisburg Environmental Management Project

ACTION: Notice of Wetland Involvement

SUMMARY: This is to give notice of DOE's proposal to construct a consolidated waste processing facility at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project, located approximately ten (10) miles southwest of Dayton, Ohio. The proposed activity would involve a small portion of an isolated, man-made wetland in Montgomery County, Ohio. In accordance with 10 CFR 1022, DOE will prepare a Wetlands Assessment and conduct the proposed action in such a manner to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected wetland area.

DATES: Written comments must be received by the DOE at the following address on or before December 6, 1997.

ADDRESSES: For further information on this proposed action, including a site map and/or a copy of the Wetlands Assessment, contact:

Mr. James O. Johnson
SM/PP Hill Performance/Technical Monitor
U. S. Department of Energy
Miamisburg Environmental Mgmt. Project Office
P.O. Box 66
Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-0066
Phone: (937) 865-5234
Facsimile: (937) 865-4489

FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information on general DOE wetland and floodplain environmental review requirements, contact:

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585
Phone: (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed activity would directly support the ongoing environmental remediation program at the Mound Plant. Construction and operation of the temporary, pre-fabricated consolidated waste processing facility would accomplish volume-reduction, metal recovery and waste packaging goals established for the site. Included in the construction of the facility are equipment and laydown pads and a roadway. Approximately 20% of the 50' x 60' laydown pad would encroach upon an isolated, man-made wetland with an overall areal extent of 0.04 acres. Construction of the laydown pad would, in turn, impact approximately one-third (1/3) of the subject wetland; the remaining two-thirds (2/3) of the wetland would not be impacted. The wetland was one of several delineated in the Mound Plant Habitat map (*Mound Plant Ecological Characterization Report*, March 1994); the map was prepared in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and has the concurrence of the Corps. The proposed action would result in long-term and direct impacts to approximately one-third of the 0.04 acre man-made wetland, as a result of back-filling with gravel before construction of the laydown pad. Best management practices would be utilized to minimize the amount of wetland area impacted. All reasonable efforts would be taken to backfill the smallest area of wetland possible. Staging and transport of equipment and supplies in the wetland would be avoided. Erosion controls such as silt fences would be used, if needed, to minimize sediment deposition into the wetland. Culverts would also be used, if necessary, to ensure continued overland flow to the wetland.

ISSUANCE: Issued in Miamisburg, Ohio on November 17, 1997.

Susan L. Smiley
NEPA Compliance Officer
Ohio Field Office

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Infrastructure needs at Mound Plant total $48.3 million

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

The Mound Plant site is well on its way to becoming a center for technology with the help of recent legislation, but it will still take $48.3 million in resources to make the site viable as a commercial endeavor, according to Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC).

Grauwelman gave the Miamisburg City Council an update on activities at the Mound at the Nov. 18 city council meeting.

He said that economic development activities at the Mound are going well to this point with several existing businesses expanding and others coming on board.

"We have an 85 percent occupancy rate of the available facilities," said Grauwelman. "We hope that this will continue as more facilities are cleaned up and released to us for economic development."

The Mound will need considerable infrastructure improvements to make the site viable however, he said, noting that it is estimated that $48.3 million in improvements will be needed.

"We have a request for $4 million from the state for economic development and we are trying to coordinate plans with Babcock & Wilcox as they clean up to do some of the other improvements needed," said Grauwelman. He said other avenues of financing needed infrastructure improvements are

(Continued on Page 14)

Mound ...

(Continued from Page 1)

also being investigated.

Now that the U.S. Congress has approved legislation sponsored by Rep. Tony Hall that will hold prospective businesses at the Mound harmless of any liability should further clean up be needed at the sites where they locate, it is expected that more businesses will be interested in locating at the Mound and making use of the unique technologies available there, he said.

"We now also have a preliminary plat design and we are now moving towards that goal of making the Mound an industrial and technological park," said Grauwelman.

"Things are going very well and, within the next month or two, we will see a final resolution on the transfer of the Mound property to the city," he said.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Mottley goes to bat for Mound

State Rep. requests $1 million grant for technology center

At the request of State Representative Don Mottley, whose district includes the Miamisburg-West Carrollton area, our region's request for state capital funding will include a $1 million request for the Mound Technology Center.

Recently, the Miami Valley Economic Development Coalition and the area's legislative delegation jointly endorsed a list of projects that includes the Mound funding.

The grant for the Mound will be dependent upon the Mound project generating and applying $7 million from other sources toward the east boundary development. The project should result in the retention of about 160 existing jobs and the potential for additional jobs resulting from new tenants and the expansion of existing tenants in that part of the Mound facility.

"I am very pleased that our part of the county is now receiving more of a fair share of funds from the State Capital Budget," said Mottley.

"Traditionally, the city of Dayton has received all or nearly all of the Capital Budget money. While our central city is important to our region, it is time that the state realizes that there are economic development opportunities in other parts of the region as well."

The request now goes to the Governor's office of Budget and Management for consideration by the Governor. Sometime in 1998, the Governor will recommend a list between $100 and $120 million in community projects to the Ohio House and Senate, which will make the final decision on the request.

"The State Capital Budget may be unusually tight this year, because of money needed to deal with our school funding crisis and the recent Ohio Supreme Court decision on school funding," said Mottley. "Nonetheless, I hope that some money remains available for important economic development projects like the Mound."

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT
BUILDING DATA PACKAGE
Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following Building Data Packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning January 5, 1998. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from January 5, 1998, through February 5, 1998.

BDP C Bldg: Records Storage (Old Cafeteria)

Written comments may be sent to U.S. Department of Energy, c/o Jane Greenwalt, P.O. Box 66, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-0066 or by E-Mail to: *jane.greenwalt@em.doe.gov*
Questions can be referred to DOE Office of Public Affairs at (937) 865-3116.

MIAMISBURG

A t A G l a n c e

Mayor and City Council

Dick Church, Jr.
Mayor 866-2603

Andy Alford, Vice Mayor & Councilman
2nd Ward 859-4218

Dr. Jane Chance, Councilwoman
At-Large 866-1277

Hazel Eisele, Councilwoman
At-Large 866-1779

Bill Fuller, Councilman
3rd Ward 866-9562

Dan Kirchner, Councilman
4th Ward 866-1616

Mady Ransdell, Councilwoman
At-Large 866-6368

David Wood, Councilman
1st Ward 866-6187

City Administration offices and Council Chambers are located in the Robert H. Mears, Sr.; Miamisburg Civic Center at 10 North First Street.

City Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are cablecast on Media One cable, channel 10.

City Administration

John Weithofer ..... City Manager
Dody Paraskos ..... Assistant City Manager
Jolene Walker ..... Assistant to the City Manager
Judy Barney ..... Clerk of Council

Rebecca Benná ..... Parks and Recreation Director
Bob Bobbitt ..... Fire Chief
Phil Callahan ..... Law Director
John Creech ..... City Planner
Gary Giles ..... Public Information Officer
Keith Johnson ..... Development Director
Steve Morrison ..... Water/Sewer Superintendent
George Perrine ..... Finance Director
Larry Retherford ..... Street Superintendent
Tom Schenck ..... Police Chief
Stephen Schultz ..... City Engineer (acting)
Kathy Weisgarber .. Human Resources Coord.

Mike Grauwelman .. President, Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. (MMCIC)

Public Safety

EMERGENCY 9-1-1
Non-Emergency 866-3344
Fire Administration 847-6663
Police Administration 847-6600



City Services Telephone Listing

Mayor's Office 847-6458
City Manager's Office 847-6456

Building Inspection and Code Enforcement 847-6532
City Engineer 847-6531
Income Tax 847-6463
Mound CIC 865-4462
Municipal Court 866-2203
Parks & Recreation 866-4532
Service Center (Streets/Water) 847-6635
Water Billing 847-6460
Departments Not Listed 866-3303
TDD Only 847-6499

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Civic Focus is published quarterly by the City of Miamisburg to provide valuable public information to residents.

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MAYOR MEETS WITH ENERGY SECRETARY



Mayor Dick Church, Jr., led a delegation of Miamisburg officials to Washington D.C. in late October and joined members of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Board of Directors in a meeting with Secretary of Energy Federico F. Peña. The contingent, which included City Manager John Weithofer, MMCIC President Mike Grauwelman and MMCIC Board member Bob Bell, also met with congressional representatives on the trip.

"The DOE's environmental cleanup and exit from Mound will remain a vital issue in this community for several years to come," said Mayor Church, who is national chairman of the ECA. "Secretary Peña expressed his continuing support for the Miamisburg project, as well as other similar projects across the nation."

Mayor Church also received two important appointments this fall. He was named to the national Environmental Management Advisory Board by Asst. Energy Secretary Al Alm and was also elected to a one-year term as president of the Montgomery/Greene County Mayors and Managers Association.

The mayor will deliver his annual State of the City address in early 1998 on Media One cable, channel 10. Watch program listings for air dates and times.

Canal cleanup nears completion

With the last railroad car loads of soil from the Miami-Erie Canal bed being shipped from Miamisburg this month, the Department of Energy (DOE) enters into the final stages of a 20-month, $20 million environmental cleanup project. It represents just one part of an approximate $500 million comprehensive cleanup program that will restore the Mound site to a condition appropriate for reuse as a privately owned industry and technology center.

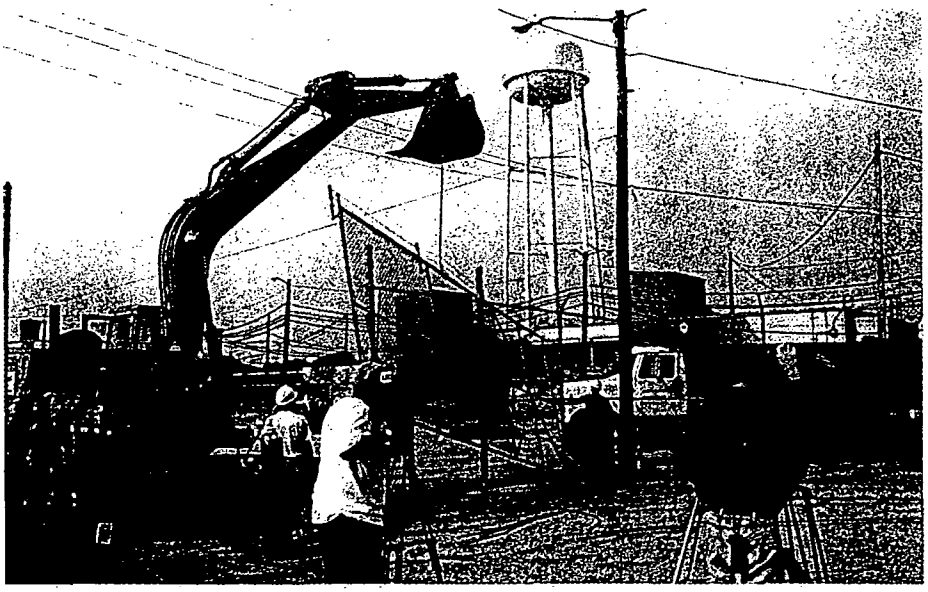
The canal project has involved the excavation of some 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil, which has been sent by rail to an approved disposal facility in Utah.

"Throughout this cleanup project, DOE has been a responsible neighbor, doing the right thing for the community," said Mayor Dick Church, Jr. "We also appreciate the care taken to minimize the impact on residents and businesses in the immediate area."

During the course of the canal project, the area between Benner Road and the Community Park swimming pool parking lot became a construction zone. DOE provided the City a grant to fund the relocation of Community Park amenities and improvements to Sycamore Park, including the construction of Sycamore Trails Aquatic Center.

The canal area will be landscaped when cleanup is completed, and the former Community Park will be restored as park and green space. In 1998, the swimming pool will be demolished and planning and design of the new park will begin. The Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Department will hold neighborhood focus groups in that area during the design process.

"Vision for the Future" coming into focus



A group of citizens participating in Miamisburg's strategic planning process recommended the removal of security fencing around the Mound site. Local media turned out in September to watch a section of the fence along Mound Avenue being taken down in a special ceremony.

A 1997 process to develop a Strategic Plan for the City of Miamisburg, entitled "Vision for the Future," is nearly complete.

The Strategic Plan will provide direction to City officials for the next several years on eight issues determined by City Council and the public to be critical to the future of Miamisburg. Those issues are:

- Revitalization of downtown
- Conversion of Mound facility to commercial use
- Quality of life
- Citizen ownership/involvement
- Budget capacity
- Economic development
- Image
- Intergovernmental relations

Citizen groups of 8-12 people were set up early in the year to study each of these issues. There also were personal interviews, telephone surveys and three Town Hall Meetings conducted to provide other avenues for resident input.

City Council met this fall to review the results of the process and prioritize some of the key elements of the Plan for 1998. The completed Plan, including specific action steps to meet its objectives, a mission statement and set of community goal statements, will be unveiled soon.

"Council was very pleased with the results of the Plan and agreed with the key strategies developed by residents," Mayor Dick Church, Jr., said. "The time and effort put into this project by the many participants is very much appreciated."

Updated Strategic Plan information will be provided in future issues of *Civic Focus*, featuring the successful completion of Plan objectives.

Learn more about Miamisburg, including updated City news, on the worldwide web. Visit the City's official web site on the Internet at: www.mvcc.net/Miamisburg

You can also send your e-mail comments to City officials at mburg@mvcc.net.

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS
January 14,1998

Leah Dever named manager of DOE's Ohio Field Office

Leah Dever has been appointed manager of the U.S. Department of Energy's Ohio Field Office, where she is responsible for closure and environmental restoration of five nuclear facilities at Fernald, Mound, Ashtabula and Columbus in Ohio and the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York.

Annual budget projections are $550 million.

Dever replaces Phil Hamric who retired in March, 1997. Robert Folker, deputy manager of the Ohio Field Office had served as acting manager during this transition.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to lead the Ohio Field Office," said Dever. "A good project should be like a good story and have a beginning, a middle and an end. Here at the Ohio Field Office we have our end in sight.

"We expect to have all of our projects substantially complete by the year 2005," she said. "I am looking forward to finishing the cleanup of our sites and turning them over for other uses.

"We will be improving the environment, bettering our communities and saving money for the taxpayers," she said.

Dever has over 19 years experience in environmental planning and engineering in both the private and federal government sectors. Over the last 11 years, she has been a pioneer in the Department of Energy's goal to restore the environment at its old facilities and make itself the model for contemporary industrial practice for environmental protection. She was appointed as the Ohio Field Office manager on Nov. 12, 1997.



Leah Dever

Her previous assignment was as assistant manager for environmental management at the Nevada Operations Office, with a $80 million budget, where she managed groundwater contamination, soil contamination and industrial site cleanup of the Nevada Test Site. Dever began her federal career as an environmental scientist at DOE headquarters. There she assisted the department's operations offices at Albuquerque, Idaho, Nevada, Oak Ridge, Richland, Rocky Flats and Oakland through the difficult process of bringing their facilities into compliance with contemporary environmental law and practice.

Prior to joining the DOE, she served as an environmental scientist with several environmental engineering and planning companies where she assisted the impacts of large construction projects, evaluated applicability of environmental laws to federal facilities, prepared National Environmental Policy Act reports and hazardous waste permit applications and managed the integrated master schedule for the Army's chemical agent disposal project on Johnston Island.

Dever received a B.A. in biology at Thiel College in 1974 and an M.S. in biology/ecology from Pennsylvania State University in 1977.

She grew up on a Christmas tree farm in rural Pennsylvania where she developed her lifelong love of the natural world. Within the DOE, she is known for her open inclusive management style and her commitment to working closely with community leaders.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT BUILDING DATA PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

Ohio EPA

The following Building Data Packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning January 15, 1998. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from January 15, 1998, through February 15, 1998.

BDP 43: Devices Development
BDP 35/59: Nondestructive Testing Facility

Written comments may be sent to U.S. Department of Energy, c/o Jane Greenwalt, P.O. Box 66, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-0066 or by E-Mail to: *jane.greenwalt@em.doe.gov*
Questions can be referred to DOE Office of Public Affairs at (937) 865-3116.

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

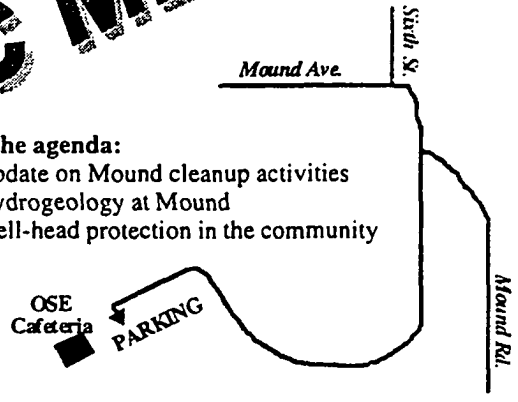
Thursday,
January 15, 1998
6:30 p.m.
Mound Plant Cafeteria
Mound Road
Miamisburg, Ohio



Come and join others in the Miamisburg community to learn about what is happening at Mound as the Department of Energy works towards a successful remediation of the site. Become part of this ongoing effort.

MAC MEETING

On the agenda:
- Update on Mound cleanup activities
- Hydrogeology at Mound
- Well-head protection in the community



THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS
January 14,1998

1997 – a year of growth in Miamisburg

New pool complex leads 1997events

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

1997 was a year of growth for the city of Miamisburg and a year of planning for future growth.

Perhaps the most visible sign of that growth was the opening of the new Sycamore Trails Aquatic Center at the corner of Heincke and Maue roads in June.

The large, state-of-the-art swimming pool complex was a popular addition to the city as more than 60,000 swimmers enjoyed the facility.

Business growth was evident in the city in 1997 as well with two expanding corporations announcing that they would relocate to Miamisburg. Bass Inc., a provider of automation software and hardware products to the supermarket industry, will locate into the office building at 495 Byers Road, formerly occupied by NCR. Procase Inc. will consolidate two manufacturing plants form Kentucky and California into a facility at 4700 Lyons Road. These two businesses alone will eventually mean more than 300 additional jobs to Miamisburg.

Commercialization and cleanup of the Mound facility was ongoing in 1997 and the effort reached several milestones as businesses continued to expand and locate at the facility.

The U.S. Department of Energy selected a new contractor for the site, Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio. Negotiations for the transfer of the Mound property to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation continued as did clean up efforts at the site.

Legislation that will facilitate more businesses coming into the site was passed that releases future property owners from any liability for environmental contamination discovered later on the site.

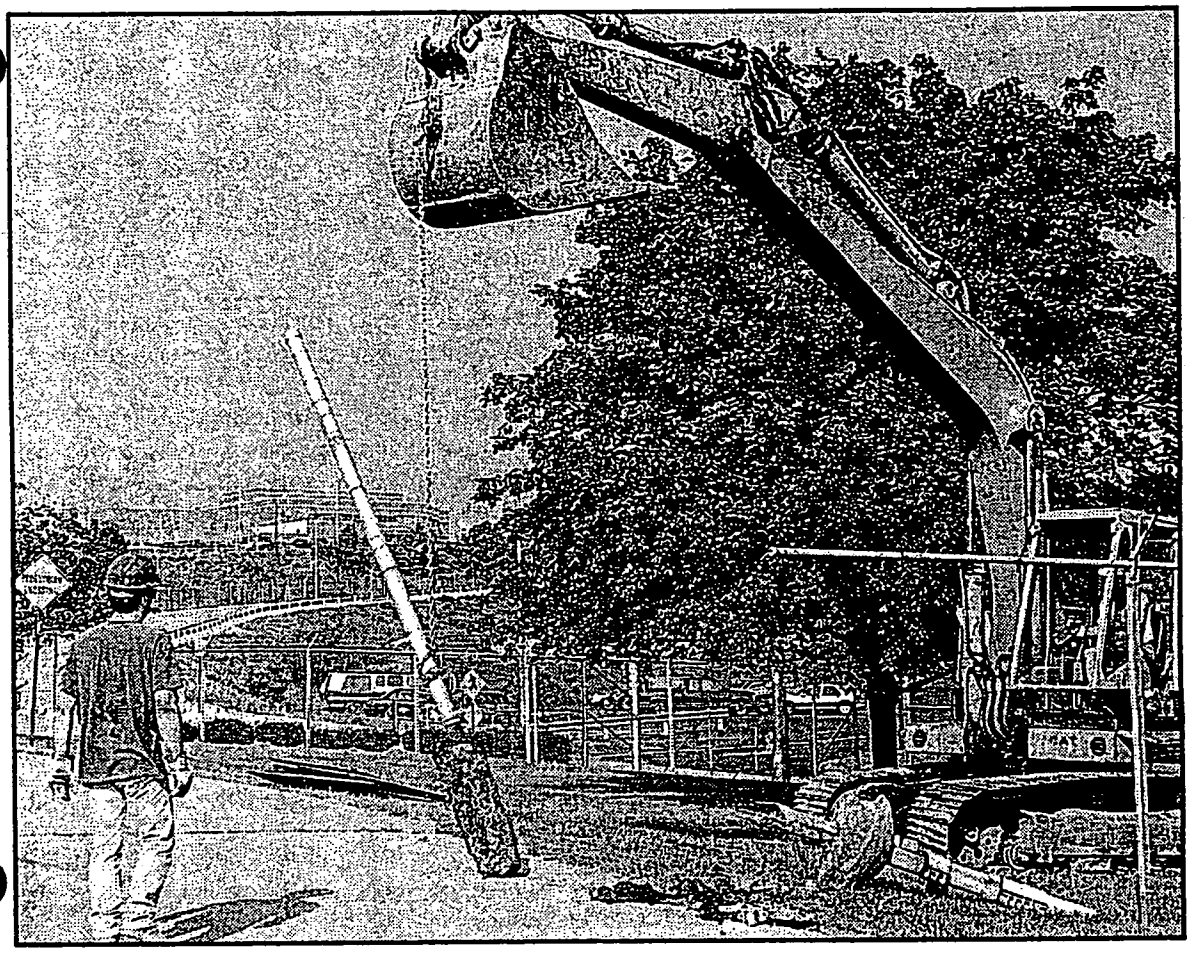
More than 30 private businesses are now located at the Mound site.

Downtown Miamisburg revitalization efforts are continuing full steam ahead as the Historic Miamisburg Community Partnership hired its first full-time executive director, Randy Daniels and the historic Baum Opera House became the home site of Playhouse South. Two new restaurants located in the downtown area during the year as well, Fogle's Cafe and the Coffee Corral.

Residential growth in Miamisburg continued in 1997 with construction continuing in several subdivisions. Housing starts in Miamisburg increased more than 15 percent during the year.

The infrastructure of the community received some updates in 1997 as well as several road projects were completed.

The State of Ohio completed renovations of Ohio 725 from Lawrence Road to the Dayton Mall area and that project included landscaping improvements along 725 that included greenery, stone walls and fencing. Phase II of the Maue Road improvement project between Heincke and Gebhart Church roads was completed as was the replacement of the Linden Ave. Bridge.



Fences surrounding the Mound facility came down in 1997 as part of the commercialization efforts.

Community service a highlight of 1997 in Miamisburg, says Church

Mound Cleanup and Reuse

The Miamisburg Mound facility experienced a year of transition in 1997 as the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced in August that it had selected a new contractor for the site. Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio was chosen from among five finalists to succeed EG & G Mound as the new contractor, and the company assumed full operational control on October 1.

This historic contract is the first awarded by DOE for the purpose of its closure and exit from a major defense production facility. The mission of Babcock & Wilcox is to accommodate that exit by completing site operations, carrying through with full environmental cleanup of the area and assisting with conversion efforts. Retired Navy Vice Admiral Pete Hekman is the project manager for B & W, and he has outlined for City officials an innovative and aggressive work plan for the site. I am confident that his company and its sub-contractors have the experience and expertise to successfully achieve their mission in a timely fashion.

As DOE continues preparing for its exit from Mound, efforts are well underway to assure that the site continues to provide jobs and produce important tax revenue for the City. As December concluded, negotiations were nearing completion on a sales agreement that will transfer ownership of Mound from the federal government to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC). The MMCIC is a non-profit economic development agency of the City overseeing the conversion of Mound from government installation to private commercial use. The ownership transfer is an important and exciting development for the whole Mound conversion process and shows tangible progress in the privatization efforts.

In addition, important legislation was recently passed that will release future property owners at Mound from any liability for environmental contamination discovered later on site. This is similar to existing legislation already in place for Department of Defense facilities, such as the DESC location in Kettering. Its adoption is essential for the MMCIC's ability to market Mound property to private business as it becomes available for commercial use. The long-term strategy at Mound is to convert the site to a private industrial and technology park, and already there are more than 30 private businesses on site. We expect to see employment from these businesses reach 350 in 1998.

There is one additional newsworthy development at Mound to report. The $20 million environmental cleanup of the Miami-Erie Canal is being completed this winter, with the last railroad car loads of soil from the Canal bed being shipped to a disposal facility in Utah. This project has been the most visible component of the cleanup within the Miamisburg community and entailed the removal of some 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Completion of the Canal cleanup is still more evidence of the progress being made at Mound. In the coming year, the Canal area will be landscaped and restoration of the former Community Park to new and improved park space will begin.

As national chairman of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), which includes leaders from 13 communities across the nation which host DOE sites, I participated in a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Energy Federico Pena last fall. The Secretary expressed his continuing support for the Miamisburg project and other similar projects across the country. He also emphasized the Department's continuing commitment to health and safety issues surrounding its facilities. I join with our residents in anticipating additional good news coming from the Mound in 1998.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

GERMANTOWN

Vacant council seat filled

▶ Sherrie Neff brings financial expertise to the position.

By Sheila Tracy
FOR THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The empty chair in the Germantown Village Council chambers was filled by a Jan. 5 appointment of lifelong resident Sherrie Neff.



Sherrie Neff

Lack of interest left the two-year term vacant during the November election when there were three open council seats and only two candidates.

Council member Cecilia "Pepper" Townsend was re-elected along with Barry Wachter, who will be serving his first term.

Councilman Robert Flischel, whose term ended last year, decided at the last minute to reapply for the seat. However, council members had already begun searching for someone else.

"We talked to Mr. Flischel at various times about keeping his seat, but he said he was ready to retire," council member Larry Reedy said. "Mrs. Neff's financial experience in government and her interest in the village will help fill the gap. It wouldn't be right for me to pull my support now."

Reedy said he has high regard for the job Flischel performed for council and it was an unfortunate situation. However, he said Flischel understood his position and there are no hard feelings.

Having worked with government finances since 1983 at Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio — then called Monsanto — and now working with multi-million dollar budgets, Neff brings her expertise to the council table.

SEE NEFF/3

NEFF: Council seat filled

CONTINUED FROM 1

She said her time has been occupied with raising three children with her husband, Bob, and working the past 31 years. She takes care of family finances, as well as their lawn care business.

"The family came first, but now it's my time to do something for the community and get involved. Germantown has been good to us and I want to give something back."

Neff said she is very much her own person, but has always been the "woman behind the man," and known as "Bob's wife" when her husband was serving on the parks board.

"I've supported him all these years and saw how gratifying it is to be a part of a project, doing something good for the community. Now, I see an opportunity where I can do something. There's so much to do. I can't wait to get involved," she said.

Neff, who also writes and studies local history, said she yearns to begin working toward revitalizing the downtown area.

"I love Triangle Station and think it's a great addition to the community, but it would be nice to walk downtown to buy goods. So many of the buildings are closed up. We can go to the mall and get everything we need, but it would be nice to be able to put that back into our own community."

Neff is a member of St. Johns United Church of Christ and involved with the Women's Agape group with her daughter, Emily, 15, a freshman at Valley View High School.

Her son, Corae, 22, was recently sworn in as an auxiliary village police officer/dispatcher, while her younger son, Kyle, 18, a senior at Valley View.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) Mound Facility (Ohio EPA Number 05-57-0677) received a RCRA hazardous waste permit for the storage of hazardous waste in containers in two existing hazardous waste storage buildings from the Ohio Hazardous Waste Facility Board on October 18, 1996. The Mound Facility is located in Miamisburg, OH, 10 miles southwest of the City of Dayton. U.S. DOE has notified the Ohio EPA of modifications to the Permit that have been brought about by the contractor change and resultant organizational changes. The contractor change causes revisions to Section A, Section B, Section G, Section H, and Section L included in the Part B Permit Application.

U.S. DOE has scheduled a public meeting concerning the proposed modifications for January 15, 1998, in the Mound facility cafeteria in OSE Building beginning at 7 p.m.

The purpose of this public notice is to inform potentially interested parties and stakeholders that, as required by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), the U.S. DOE is opening a 60-day comment period, beginning December 31, 1997, and ending March 1, 1998, in order to allow those parties the opportunity to review the proposed changes. Copies of the proposed changes and supporting documentation are maintained for review at the Mound Facility's CERCLA Public Reading Room, located at the Miamisburg Senior Adult Center, 305 Central Avenue, in Miamisburg, OH. The reading room is open from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Public comments should be directed to:
Mr. Thomas Crepeau
Ohio EPA
Division of Hazardous Waste Management
1800 WaterMark Drive
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049

The permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Ohio EPA contact person listed below. Individuals who require additional information from U.S. DOE, please contact Mrs. Jane Greenwalt at 937-865-3116. If you require additional information from the Ohio EPA, please contact Mr. Chris Cotton at 937-285-6093.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MOUND

Plant shifts hands

▶ The city of Miamisburg takes over the 306-acre former weapons trigger operation today.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The city of Miamisburg may have found a bargain in a slightly used nuclear weapons plant.

At 12:30 today, the United States Department of Energy will sign a sales contract turning the 306-acre site over to the community, marking just the second time the government has sold a former nuclear weapons plant to the private sector.

The purchase price is $10.

"I think we'll pay cash," said Michael Grauwelman, head of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp, which was formed in 1994 to develop the property. The MMCIC, a not-for-profit corporation, will be the new owner.

Both buyer and seller think they are getting a good deal.

The Mound plant has long dominated both the physical and the community landscape of Miamisburg. For most of the latter half of this century, government workers labored in strict secrecy behind thick concrete walls, building key components for the nation's nuclear arsenal. At its peak in the late 1980s, the Mound Plant was the city's major employer, with approximately 2,300 workers.

The federal government, which has operated an environmental cleanup operation since it announced the plant's closure, doesn't need to make money on the sale. It will save millions of dollars by reducing the cost of maintaining it. The Department of Energy has the authority to dispose of the property under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

The sale will allow the community to more actively seek new businesses for the site. Miamisburg's goal is to turn the site into the Mound Advanced Technology Center by the year 2005. The city hopes to eventually attract 1,720 high-value jobs.

"This is very important to us," Grauwelman said. "This makes it clear where it's going to go and now we can make investments back into the site."

Grauwelman said the corporation lost a company that wanted to invest $350,000 last year because it could not guarantee the company a long-term lease or option to purchase.

Currently, there are 30 private companies, employing 260 people, at the complex. Many of the companies, such as the National Discovery Center, are being formed by former workers at the Mound seeking to use their technological skills in private business.

Babcock & Wilcox took over the environmental cleanup of nuclear materials this year and will finish the job in the next five years. Under the terms of the contracts, the Department of Energy, Babcock & Wilcox and the MMCIC will work together to complete the cleanup to industrial standards approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio EPA. Buildings will be turned over as their cleanup is completed.

It has been less than five years since the Energy Department announced it was going to phase out nuclear trigger production at the Mound, an operation made expendable by the end of the Cold War. Since 1993, the Miamisburg community has worked to transform the site into a technology center to keep jobs and business in the area.

"The sale of the Mound facility signifies an important milestone for the Department of Energy," said Bob DeGrasse Jr., director of the energy department's Office of Community and Worker Transition. "The transfer has been a collaborative effort between the community, the contractor and the Department of Energy for early closure of a facility."

The Pinellas plant in Largo, Fla., is the only other nuclear plant to be returned to private hands. However, the Mound project is the largest single-site transfer in the Department of Energy's history and the first time it has transferred a National Priority List (Superfund) site.

"The sale will strengthen the local economy through the creation of new businesses and job opportunities," DeGrasse said.

Grauwelman said the past four years have been a whirlwind. "This is all new to the Department of Energy and new to us. We are on the cutting edge of all of this."

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Tony Hall, D-Dayton, last year that gave indemnity to potential businesses was key in advancing plans for the technology park, Grauwelman said. It protects companies from liability from environmental damage.

Sale provisions

The sale of the Mound plant began with negotiations one year ago. Its provisions include:

▶ The Department of Energy is selling the property in the best interest of the United States and to minimize the negative impacts of the plant's closure.

▶ The transaction includes real property and improvements, excluding buildings that will be razed because of contamination. A contingency for buildings associated with the radiothermal generator program is provided until the future of the mission — the production of power sources for deep-space missions — is determined.

▶ Property will be transferred as environmental restoration by the government is completed.

▶ The Department of Energy will hold harmless and defend the MMCIC against future environmental liability.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-2270 or e-mail him at dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

MONDAY, JAN. 26, 1998

THE MIDDLETOWN Journal

Feds handing over Mound plant

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — The U.S. Department of Energy, which has owned the Mound nuclear weapons plant for nearly 50 years, has a message for its host community: the site is all yours.

At a ceremony scheduled for today, the department is expected to sign documents promising to sell the plant site for a nominal fee of $10 to Miamisburg, about 10 miles southwest of Dayton. The city plans to develop it as a high-tech industrial park.

U.S. Rep. Tony Hall, whose congressional district includes Mound, called it a "historic moment."

"The Mound plant will become the first major production facility in the nuclear weapons complex to be transferred completely from the Energy Department," the Ohio Democrat said.

In 1996, the Energy Department transferred its 90-acre electronics production plant in Pinellas County, Fla., over to the county for private development. The 306-acre Mound complex will be the second such transfer.

"It's huge," Michael Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., said of the deal. "We've been working toward this for quite a long time."

It will be the first time the Energy Department has transferred a Superfund hazardous-waste site over to the private sector.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)



BILL REINKE/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Mayor Dick Church of Miamisburg tells Leah Dever, manager of the Department of Energy's field office, where he used to ride sleds as a kid on the Mound property.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dream for Mound steps toward reality

▶ The Department of Energy officially sold the former weapons plant to a local group Monday.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Miamisburg Mayor Richard Church grew up in the shadow of the Mound Plant and remembers as a child going sledding there with friends — until security guards protecting the secret nuclear work being done there would kick them off the hill.

Church felt like things were sliding downhill just as fast in May of 1993, when a phone call from the Department of Energy informed him that the Mound — Miamisburg's largest employer — was shutting down, part of the defense cutbacks at the end of the Cold War.

"We were totally shocked," Church recalled Monday.

Church characterized that day five years ago as being handed a lemon. "We had to find a way to make lemonade," he said.

Church, Congressman Tony Hall and other dignitaries gathered Monday for a ceremony in which the Energy Department officially sold the former weapons plant to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation for the nominal price of $10. The MMCIC was formed in 1994 to redevelop the 300-acre Mound into an advanced technology center.

"This transfer of the Mound property is a historic moment for the nation," Hall said. "Mound will become the first major production facility in the nuclear weapons complex to be transferred completely from the Department of Energy."

Currently, 30 private companies employ 260 people at the Mound. The MMCIC goal is for employment to reach 1,750 by the year 2005.

"By the year 2005 there will be more people working, more taxes coming in from those facilities than there would have been as government bases," said Hall.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-2270 or e-mail dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT PRS DATA PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following Potential Release site (PRS) Data Packages will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning February 12, 1998. Public comment will be accepted on these packages from February 12, 1998, through March 16, 1998.

PRS 107/108/109: G Building Gasoline Tank
PRS 363: Elevated Soil Gas Location

Written comments may be sent to U.S. Department of Energy, c/o Jane Greenwalt, P.O. Box 66, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-0066 or by E-Mail to: *jane.greenwalt@em.doe.gov*

Questions can be referred to DOE Office of Public Affairs at (937) 865-3116

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program
OhioEPA

MOUND PLANT
BUILDING DATA PACKAGE
Information Notice

Building GP44 will soon be dismantled. A Building Data Package describing Building GP44 and its dismantlement is available in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio.

Questions can be referred to DOE Office of Public Affairs at (937) 865-3116

DARE richer for Msbg., thanks to program at the Mound

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

Babcock & Wilcox, contractors for the Mound, have given a helping hand to the Miamisburg Police Department's DARE program so that program can, in turn, help the youth of the city through it's drug awareness program.

Through a special program at the Mound, DARE recently received some much needed office equipment.

The program donated six cabinets, two file cabinets and two desks to the DARE program.

"It's a program where we are offering equipment that's no longer needed at the Mound to schools and non-profit organizations that can use it," said Doug Levan, personal property manager at Babcock and Wilcox. "Otherwise, we would just be auctioning off the equipment for pennies on the dollar.

"We would much rather give the equipment to those agencies and schools that can get some use out of it," he said.

"We didn't have the money to buy the equipment and it was nice to be able to get the stuff we needed from the Mound," said Community Relations Officer Tony Beran of the Miamisburg Police Department. "This will help our program out a lot."

Levon said the program began in November and he has

(Continued on Page 6)



JOHNNY KNIGHT (left) and Tony Beran of the Miamisburg Police Department collected donated office equipment from Mound for the department's DARE program.

DARE ...

(Continued from Page 1)

sent out 300 letters to area schools telling them about the offer.

"The most requested thing has been computers for the schools," he said.

The program will run through the end of Babcock and Wilcox's Mound contract with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

Additional soil tests to check for contaminants

State health and environmental officials will conduct additional soil tests at a Dayton school and maintenance yard after preliminary tests showed slightly elevated levels of polonium-210 and lead 210, radioactive materials used when the site was used for atomic research in the 1940s.

The Grace A. Greene School, 503 Edison St., and a maintenance yard, 1601 W. First St., will be tested in March to see if the contaminants are dispersed over a larger area or the preliminary findings were an isolated event. The area, which is monitored by the Department of Energy, was part of the Manhattan Project in the early 1940s before the operation moved to the Mound in Miamisburg.

Spokesmen for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Health said that there is no current health or safety risk. Exposure would have to come from ingesting the soil, according to Frank Talbot of the health department. Results of the additional tests should be available by June.

Two of six preliminary soil samples showed higher than normal concentrations of polonium 210 and lead 210, both classified by the U.S. EPA as carcinogens. Both substances occur in nature at "background" levels.

Brian Nickel of the Ohio EPA said Wednesday that research into the history of the former plant showed that it used lead ore to extract the polonium 210, which was used for atomic bomb triggers.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1998

Draft report eyes quicker cleanup of Mound, Fernald sites

The Energy Department says that if it gets enough money, it should be able to meet or beat its goals for cleaning up contamination at sites in Fernald and Miamisburg. The department Monday released a draft report and opened a 60-day period for comment on its nationwide cleanup strategy. The document predicted that if Congress in the next several budgets provides $6 billion a year for cleanup, Fernald will be ready to begin the closure process by 2005. By then, the former Mound Plant in Miamisburg is expected to be cleaned up and ready for an ownership transfer.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1998

THE MIDDLETOWN Journal

Fernald closure may begin in 2005

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Energy Department says that if it gets enough money, it should be able to meet or beat its goals for cleaning up contamination at sites in Fernald and Miamisburg.

The department on Monday released a draft report and opened a 60-day period for comment on its nationwide cleanup strategy.

The document predicted that if Congress in the next several budgets provides $6 billion a year for cleanup, Fernald will be ready to begin the closure process by 2005.

By then, the former Mound Plant in Miamisburg is expected to be cleaned up and ready for an ownership transfer. In both cases, the department warned that the schedule would be "significantly delayed" if Congress provides $5.5 billion instead of the desired $6 billion.

Release of the draft report marked a new stage in the department's handling of 353 cleanup projects nationwide, but had no effect on existing target dates reached through negotiations at sites such as Fernald.

The Fernald and Mound sites earlier were designated "accelerated pilot closure sites," where officials would try to speed the cleanup process to gain experience that could be applied elsewhere.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

March 4,1998



Demolition crews take down a part of Miamisburg history in preparation for future.

STEVE SANDLIN PHOTO

Mound coming down as part of clean up

Demolition crews began taking down a building at the Mound last week, continuing the clean up of the site in preparation for the transfer of the site eventually to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation for commercial use.

The building that is being demolished is Building C, a one story structure with a basement, constructed of concrete block with 13,403 square feet of floor space.

The building was one of the 16 original buildings that were constructed at the Mound between late 1946 and 1948. It had been originally a part of the Administration Building, but was separated during the early planning. The building was originally the plant cafeteria and provided that service until 1986. Afterwards, it was used for offices, record storage, engineering project storage, maintenance storage and as an emergency shelter.

The building has been in a safe shutdown mode since 1996 and was not contaminated with radioactive or energetic materials.

During the first three weeks of February, subcontractors worked in the building to remove asbestos. Work is expected to take four to six weeks for the demolition, clean up and grading of the site and will eventually be used as a staging area for future clean up projects on Mound's Main Hill.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MOUND REBOUND

Once-secret weapons plant opens for business

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The skills to make nuclear weapons triggers are still put to use at the Mound plant- but now the work is building precision tools, pistons and circuits, conducting sophisticated lab tests and solving engineering problems.

That means Miamisburg is on the way to turning a $10 investment into 1,750 jobs.

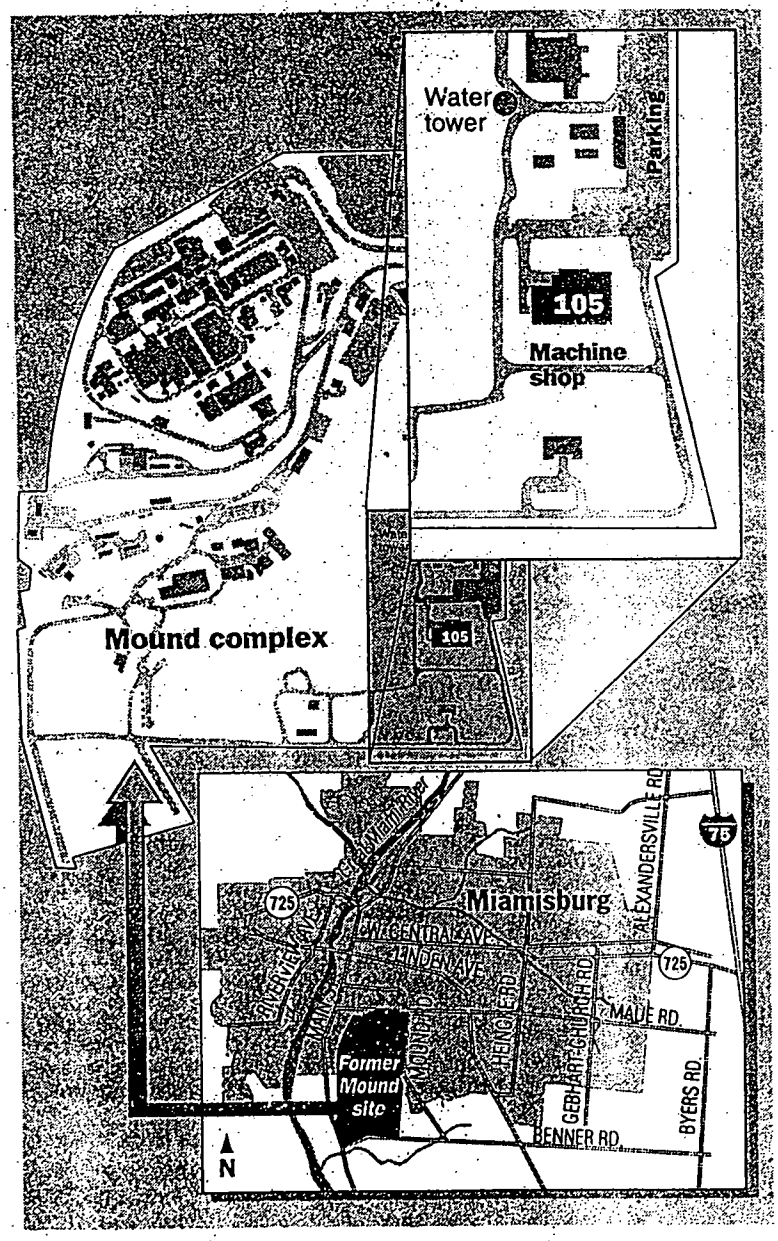
In late January, the nonprofit Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. formally assumed ownership of the 306-acre Mound property, a former U.S. Dept. of Energy nuclear weapons plant. The purchase price was $10.

In 1993, the MMCIC was formed to create a privately owned technology and industry park. By 2005, the corporation hopes to see the Mound as active and busy as during its late 1980s peak- but now devoted to private research and industry.

The project still has a long way to go. The government still is cleaning up the environmental problems at the former Superfund site, and the MMCIC must find sources for the approximately $40 million needed to fully develop the park.

However, the plan is off to a good start. Already there are nearly 30 companies with 260 employees doing business there. Contractors employ roughly 900 more people finishing the Energy Dept.'s cleanup, and as buildings are restored they will be turned over for sale or lease.

InfoPLUS compiled the following list of companies doing business at the Mound. For more information, contact the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. at (937) 865-4462.



A brief history of the Mound

1949: Work shifts to the Mound from a Dayton Monsanto plant. In an underground building with 1-7 foot thick concrete walls, workers extracted polonium from irradiated bismuth, using delicate chemical processes. Polonium was used to start the chain action in nuclear weapons.

1970s-80s: Work continues through the Cold War as the United States and Soviet Union amass nuclear arsenals. The Mound plant eventually employs 2,300 workers and is Miamisburg's largest employer.

1990: Superfund cleanup underway at site. Now run by Babcock & Wilcox; to be completed by 2003.

May 1993: With the end of the Cold War, the Department of Energy announces it will shut down operations at the Mound. But a 20-year, $2 billion cleanup forecast takes some sting off the news. Miamisburg begins plans that lead to formation of MMCIC.

1997: Legislation sponsored by Rep. Tony Hall cuts liability of businesses and serves as incentive to locate at Mound.

January 1998: The Mound becomes the first major nuclear weapons production facility to be transferred completely from the Department of Energy.

COMPANY	TYPE OF BUSINESS
American Technologies	Provides environmental and energy services.
B&J Technical Solutions	Repairs computer numeric-controlled machine tools, lasers and coordinate-measuring machines.
CD Systems, Inc.	Chemical processing for pharmaceutical and defense industries.
CareNow of Greater Dayton	Provides pathway management for managed health care systems.
EG&G Optoelectronics	Specializes in ordnance development, having built ignition devices for the recent Cassini space mission to Saturn.
Frontier Electronics, Inc.	Provides specially configured integrated computer systems to area manufacturers and research organizations.
Global Manufacturing Solutions	Engineering consulting, industrial engineering, ordnance development and analysis of air bag inflators.
Industrial Imaging Associates	Specializes in nondestructive imaging.
Inorganic Specialists, Inc.	Provides interdisciplinary problem solving, testing and materials development through material science.
Kinetica, Inc.	Conducts chemical process safety and process development evaluations for industry and government.
MCK Analytical	Conducts laboratory testing for environmental, analytical and industrial research and development.
Motor Carbon, Inc.	Develops and builds carbon pistons.
Mound Flexible Circuits Corp.	Fabricates high volume flex circuits supplying consumer electronics and computer industries.
Mound Engineering & Analysis Group	Mechanical design, nondestructive testing and ISO/QS 9000 turnkey systems.
Mound Laser & Photonics Center	Development and application of laser material processing.
Mound Manufacturing Center	Precision machining for the aerospace, medical, defense industries.

Mound Metrology Inc.	Offers NIST (National Institute of Standards & Technology) traceable calibration services for a variety of measurement and test equipment.
Mound Metallurgical, Inc.	Full service material analysis through electron microscopy, metallography and mechanical testing.
Mound Technical Solutions	System design, development and fabrication.
National Discovery Center	Specializes in surface science, providing answers to materials problems in manufacturing.
Porter House, Inc.	Environmental remediation consulting and training.
Precision Joining Technologies	Specializes in advanced welding processes.
Project Performance Corp.	Management consulting for environmental engineering and information systems.
Thaler Machine Company	Precision machining for tool work production and development. An established Dayton area business that expanded operations at the Mound Advanced Technology Center.
Wheatville Technology	Analysis of small particles through IR micro-spectroscopy.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS
March 25,1998

Miamisburg to seek $350,000 ED/GE grant for Mound site work

by STEVE SANDLIN
Assistant Editor

The city of Miamisburg will seek a $350,000 grant from the Montgomery County Economic Development/Government Equity (ED/GE) program to help fund east boundary improvements on the Mound site.

The city council approved the seeking of the grant at their March 17 meeting.

Dan Byrd of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) said that ED/GE grant would be another "piece of the puzzle" to fund improvements on the eastern boundary of the Mound site that would include road improvements, water and sewer system improvements and the relocation of the entrance to the Mound site.

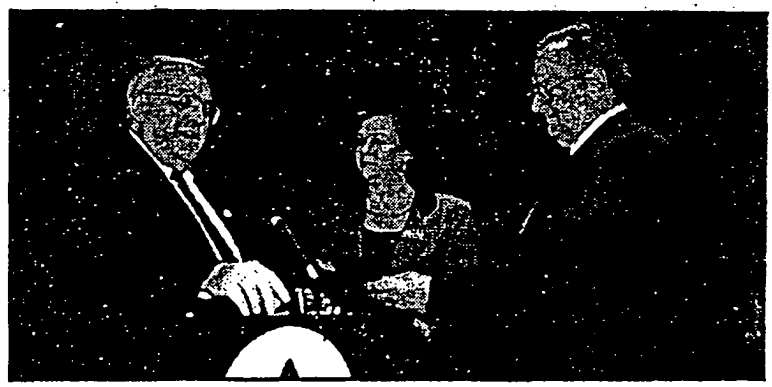
He said the total project cost will be an estimated $3.3 million with $1 million to come from the federal government, $1 million to come from the state, $100,000 from the city and the balance of an estimated $985,000 to come from the MMCIC.

"The Mound is an island unto itself," said City Manager John Weithofer. "It has water and sewer services on site, but we will need to move those services into the city's utility system."

Byrd said the grant would help the Mound site retain 80 jobs and help lead to the addition of another 150 jobs.

In other business, Mayor Dick Church Jr. presented Miamisburg Schools Superintendent Carl Berg and Board of Education President Cathy Bates with a plaque and a $1,000 donation to the Miamisburg Education Foundation in appreciation of the school allowing the city to use school facilities for council meetings while the city's council chambers was undergoing renovation.

Council was also introduced to the Miamisburg Police Department's newest police officer, Jeff Muncy.



MIAMISBURG MAYOR Dick Church Jr. presents a plaque to Miamisburg School Superintendent Carl Berg and Cathy Bates, president of the school board.

City of Miamisburg

CIVIC FOCUS

Spring 1998 www.mvcc.net/Miamisburg

Recent events signal positive progress at Mound

Reuse and redevelopment plans moving forward

Things are happening at the Mound. Good things.

The Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation's (MMCIC) announcement in January that it had reached agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to accept ownership of Mound property was just the latest in a recent line of positive developments at the facility. In the last several months:

- Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio (B & W), was selected by the DOE to succeed EG & G as site contractor. B & W said in its bid proposal that it could meet DOE cleanup objectives and completion schedule.
- In its first month of operation on the site last fall, Babcock & Wilcox set a record for the number of rail car loads of contaminated soil shipped from the facility. The entire Miami-Erie Canal cleanup project is nearly complete.
- A portion of the site's security fencing along Mound Avenue was removed, projecting a more relaxed and accessible environment to the community and to commercial prospects.
- Congress passed legislation that will release future owners of DOE sites from liability for contamination that might be later uncovered on the property.

"I think we've reached a point in the conversion process where all parties share and are working to achieve the same vision for Mound," said Mike Grauwelman, president of the MMCIC. "This can only lead to an increase in the project's level of success."

Mound is the largest of only two DOE sites that have ever been returned to private ownership. The sales agreement calls for the MMCIC to pay a nominal $10 fee for the 305-acre complex, which will be transferred in parcels as they become available and as environmental restoration occurs.

The official documents transferring ownership of the site were signed Jan. 26 during a special ceremony attended by local media and several dignitaries including U.S. Rep. Tony P. Hall, Ohio Rep. Don Mottley and Montgomery County Commissioners Charles Curran and Don Lucas.



Mike Grauwelman

Why does the MMCIC want to own Mound property?

The facility has been a major source of income tax revenue for the City of Miamisburg for many years, and Mound has unique assets (i.e. buildings, technology, equipment, etc.) that can be utilized by private business as the DOE completes its mission on the site. By taking ownership from the federal government, the MMCIC can more effectively market those assets and make physical improvements where necessary so that the entire complex is more attractive to prospective businesses. This will ensure that the site maintains jobs and contributes to the economic health of the City and region.

Conversely, if the MMCIC did not exist and was not active in developing

• *Story continued on page 8*

• *"Mound" continued from page 1*

reuse plans, the DOE would complete its operations at Mound, conduct environmental cleanup as budget constraints permitted and close the facility. It is not the DOE's mission to oversee future reuse of its sites, although it does provide important cooperation and assistance to MMCIC efforts here.

"The MMCIC's ownership of Mound will allow the community to have significant control over future reuse and redevelopment of the facility," Grauwelman said. "We will serve as the conduit through which private ownership will eventually occur. In that role, we will work to pull together the various funding resources available to us and put the site into a condition that makes it increasingly viable for commercial use."

The MMCIC is a corporate entity created by the City under State law that is responsible for overseeing privatization and reuse efforts at Mound. City Manager John Weithofer emphasizes that the City of Miamisburg was not involved in the sales transaction and is not accepting any liability, present or future, from the acquisition.

Grauwelman said there are about 30 private businesses at Mound, employing approximately 260 people. The most recent commercial addition is CareNow of Greater Dayton, which works with local emergency service agencies to better manage the routing and resolution of medical emergencies. CareNow has 10 full-time employees and occupies a 6,000-square-foot building.

March 30, 1998
Inside Energy
Front Page
"Corps Dumps DOE Plan For FUSRAP Sites"
By: Jeff Barber

CORPS DUMPS DOE PLAN FOR FUSRAP SITES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers told Congress last week that it won't be able to meet the 2002 deadline DOE established for completing the cleanup of 22 sites that once conducted defense-related work for the Manhattan Project or the Atomic Energy Commission, and that its costs for the work will likely be much higher than DOE had estimated.

The report was requested by the House and Senate Appropriations committees as part of language in the FY-98 energy and water development spending bill that transferred responsibility for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) from DOE to the Corps. A copy of the report was obtained by *Inside Energy*.

DOE last June estimated that it could complete the cleanup of the FUSRAP sites by 2002 at a cost of about $983 million. The proposal, which was included in DOE's larger plan to accelerate its environmental management program to complete much of the work by 2006, assumed a number of the FUSRAP sites would be cleaned up only to a point at which they would be released for industrial or restricted industrial use. The department's plan estimated that restoring the sites to a condition that would permit less restrictive future uses, such as for residential or recreational purposes, would extend the program's completion date to

CORPS DUMPS DOE PLAN FOR FUSRAP SITES . . . . . begins on page 1

2004 or 2006.

In its report, the Corps offered two sets of cost projections and timelines for completing the work. Under the first, which assumes Congress will be willing to increase annual appropriations for FUSRAP above the current $140 million ceiling, the Corps said it could finish cleaning up the sites by 2006 at a cost of $1.56 billion. That projection assumes the sites would be released for restricted or industrial future uses.

If it were to complete the cleanup to a point where the sites could be released for less restrictive or future land use, the Corps estimated it would not finish the work until 2008 and would need at least $2.25 billion.

To accomplish the first scenario, the Corps estimated it would need $323 million for the program in FY-2000; the second would require Congress to appropriate $384 million in FY-2000.

Should, as seems likely, Congress decide to limit annual appropriations for the program to a level at or near the current $140 million mark, the Corps said it would take until 2011 and $1.88 billion to release the sites for industrial or restricted future use. A more comprehensive cleanup, under the same funding projections, points to a completion deadline of 2018 at a cost of $2.89 billion.

Although both the timelines and cost estimates included in the report exceed those outlined by DOE, the Corps dismissed the department's projections as unrealistic. "There are sufficient programmatic and site-specific uncertainties associated with DOE's draft accelerated cleanup plan that the ability to complete the FUSRAP program on such a schedule is questionable. In [the Corps'] estimation, because of these uncertainties, completion of remediation ... for the remaining 22 sites could not be accomplished by 2002."

Moreover, the report suggested that DOE's June 1997 estimate was reached by changing the scope of the cleanup in at least two instances. In the first the department proposed to store, rather than remove.

March 30, 1998
Inside Energy
Front Page
"Corps Dumps DOE Plan For FUSRAP Sites"
By: Jeff Barber

contaminated materials from the Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, N.Y., and to modify the future land use designation for a FUSRAP site in St. Louis from "industrial" to "restricted industrial."

"In other words," the report said, "the draft accelerated cleanup plan does not represent a faster and cheaper way of accomplishing the same scope of work defined in the 2006 Ten Year Plan; the draft accelerated cleanup plan represents a revised cost and schedule to accomplish a significantly smaller scope of work."

A DOE official familiar with the program last week acknowledged that the targets established in the draft 2006 plan were optimistic, and would have depended to a great extent on the agency's ability to get local parties to agree that the sites would be restricted only to industrial uses in the future.

Still, the Corps' own estimate projects that it would need until at least 2006 to clean up the sites to the same level of future use.

"If you look at the Corps' numbers, its costs and schedules are significantly higher and it is planning more conservative cleanups than had DOE," one source said. "What they're doing is criticizing DOE for listening to stakeholders and for planning Cadillac cleanups."

Indeed, language in the report that appears to suggest the Corps will take a less conservative approach to cleanup than DOE may prove controversial with residents living near the sites and state officials, the source predicted.

In the report, the Corps said the "selection of appropriate remediation objectives and criteria is the key variable that affects the volume of contaminated material to be remediated and, therefore, the cost and schedule, at each site. DOE generally chose conservative criteria, reflecting in part, the influences of local communities and state regulators," the report said.

"These choices may not represent the [best] use of taxpayer resources and, because of higher costs and longer schedules, may actually delay remediation at some of the sites." The Corps' report said it "believes that the adoption of criteria, which protect human health and the environment, but do so with appropriate consideration for cost, regulatory and community acceptance, and land reuse requirements, would be the more appropriate remediation strategy. ... If [the Corps] uses the more conservative approach as implemented by DOE in recent years, the cost and time to complete would increase significantly."

The report also is silent on what DOE continues to consider to be a significant problem with the transfer — the lack of a clear regulator for the cleanup work. Energy Secretary Federico Peña told House appropriators earlier this month that the department does not believe it can legally transfer its self-regulatory authority to another federal agency and it is unclear which, if any agency, has authority to enforce regulatory provisions as the Corps completes the cleanup work.

Moreover, sources familiar with the program questioned what provisions the Corps has made for ensuring the health and safety of workers engaged in the cleanup of radioactive contamination — a task in which the Corp has only limited experience.

How last week's report will be received by members of Congress, who largely look favorably on the Corps, is an open question and one that is potentially critical to DOE's environmental management program.

Some members of Congress are already considering the possibility of moving responsibility for completing the cleanup of three sites DOE has targeted for early closure — the Mound and Fernald sites in Ohio and the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado — to the Corps.

At a hearing last week before the House Appropriations subcommittee on energy and water development, Michigan Republican Rep. Joseph Knollenberg floated the idea that the Corps could be brought in to complete some of DOE's cleanup work. — *Jeff Barber*

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

Thursday,
April 16, 1998
6:30 p.m.
Mound Plant Cafeteria
Mound Road
Miamisburg, Ohio

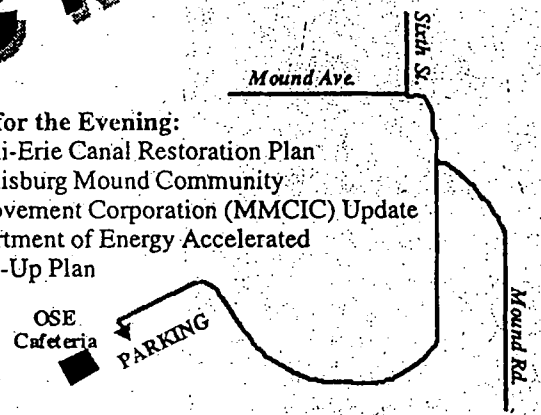


Come and join others in the Miamisburg community to hear about what is happening at Mound.

MAC MEETING

Topics for the Evening:

- Miami-Erie Canal Restoration Plan
- Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) Update
- Department of Energy Accelerated Clean-Up Plan



Let's Talk Miamisburg

Tune in ***tonight*** at 7 pm
for the latest information on the Mound facility and a live discussion with MMCIC President Mike Grauwelman.

Be ready to call 438-8887 with questions or comments about the on-going conversion of the site to commercial use.

Produced by

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Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

WEST DAYTON

Soil to be tested for polonium-210

▶ The site was used for atomic research in the 1940s.

By Derek Ali
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

A group of environmental and governmental agencies collected an additional 150 soil samples Monday from near a Dayton Board of Education maintenance facility at 1601 W. First St. and Greene JROTC Academy.

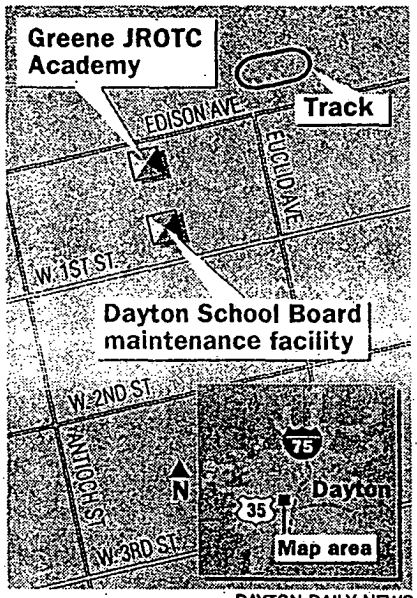
The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Health with assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base conducted an extensive sampling because the sites are located near a school building.

Slightly elevated levels of polonium-210, a radioactive material handled at the site when it was used for atomic research in the 1940s, were found at the sites, according to a report released in February.

The federal government rented the maintenance facility property in 1940s to conduct experiments to extract polonium 210 from ore as part of the Manhattan Project, which produced atomic weapons.

"There were about a half dozen sites in Dayton used for the Manhattan Project," said Ohio EPA spokeswoman Lynne Barst.

The experiments were conducted prior to the construction of the Mound Plant in Miamisburg. Barst said the school board property was decontaminated in 1950, but the agencies decided to test the soil because "there was a potential that some radioactive material got released there."



DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Officials of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Health have said that there is no current health or safety risk unless a person ingests the soil.

Two of six preliminary soil samples showed higher than normal concentrations of polonium 210 and lead 210, both classified by the U.S. EPA as carcinogens — agents that can produce cancer, according to the report.

The February report indicated four samples collected in August were normal, while two showed elevated levels of polonium 210, Barst said. Four samples were collected from the maintenance facility and two from near a running track at the school.

"The key site is the maintenance property across the street from the school," Barst said.

The results are expected in early summer.

▶**CONTACT** *Derek Ali at 225-2263 or e-mail him at derek_ali@coxohio.com*

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

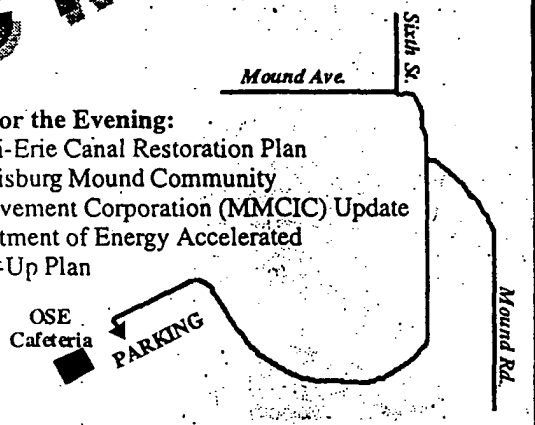
Thursday,
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Mound Road
Miamisburg, Ohio



Come and join others in the Miamisburg community to hear about what is happening at Mound.

MAC MEETING

Topics for the Evening:
- Miami-Erie Canal Restoration Plan
- Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) Update
- Department of Energy Accelerated Clean-Up Plan



ATSDR

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announces the final release of the Mound Plant Public Health Assessment. ATSDR received written public comments on the previous version of the document, which was released in December 1996. The final release document includes ATSDR's responses to the public comments.

ATSDR concluded the Mound Plant poses no apparent public health hazard. The agency is exploring the feasibility of reviewing Mound Laboratory notebooks from the 1950's for information that was not available during the preparation of this public health assessment.

The Final Release Mound Plant Public Assessment can be viewed in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, Senior Adult Center, 305 Central Ave, Miamisburg, 937-866-8999. To request a copy, call ATSDR at 1-800-447-1544 and ask for the Mound Plant Public Health Assessment.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mound plant no hazard

▶ A study says one threat was from sewage releases in the Great Miami River in 1982-83.

MIAMISBURG (AP) — The Mound nuclear weapons plant poses no apparent health hazard to nearby residents, according to a federal health study.

The final version of the study, conducted by the Atlanta-based Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, was released Thursday. A preliminary version, which reached the same conclusions, was released in December 1996.

The agency said releases over the years of radioactive plutonium or tritium posed no health risk. Historic data was insufficient to determine whether radioactive polonium or nonradioactive substances ever posed a health risk.

The plant, which was built in 1949, produced triggers for nuclear weapons. Over the years, radioactive and hazardous substances were released into the air, water and soil at the 306-acre site about 10 miles south of Dayton.

The agency was required to conduct a health assessment of the site because the Mound plant is on the Superfund list of the nation's most hazardous sites. The agency evaluated plant emissions, cancer data, worker studies and interviewed residents.

The ATSDR said it identified only one instance in the past where exposure could have caused adverse health effects. It said that in 1982 and 1983, releases from Mound's sanitary sewage-treatment facility into the Great Miami River posed a temporary hazard to people swimming, boating or fishing downstream.

The Energy Daily

627 National Press Building • Washington, D.C. 20045 • (202) 638-4260 • Fax: (202) 662-9744

Wednesday, April 22, 1998 | ED Volume 26, Number 75

New Mound Operator, But Same Problems, Union Tells DOE

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

Despite a change in site contractors and Energy Department enforcement action over similar past lapses, there have been more breakdowns in worker radiation monitoring at DOE's Mound site, prompting the local workers' union to seek an investigation by DOE headquarters, *The Energy Daily* has learned.

Union officials charged in a March 18 complaint to DOE headquarters that Mound laboratory managers in January botched bioassay testing—such as urine testing—to assess workers' exposure to radionuclides during cleanup operations at the Ohio nuclear weapons site. As a result, they said worker exposures initially were underestimated and had to be recalculated.

The union also alleged that the lab's

(Continued on page 2)

Davis: Alliant Is Ready For New Energy Business

BY DENNIS WAMSTED

Erroll Davis, Jr., is not afraid to speak his mind.

Davis, president and CEO of Alliant, the newly completed triparty merger of WPL Holdings, IES Industries Inc. and Interstate Power Co., told reporters Tuesday that the review process was "unduly long and challenging."

It took almost two and half years from start to finish to gain approval for the merger, which creates what is just the 30thlargest investor-owned utility in the nation, he pointed out. In contrast, it only took some seven months for Boeing—with annual sales almost 20 times larger than the merged Alliant—to gain approval for its takeover of McDonnell Douglas

It is "flattering" to think the merged companies have the market power that was implied by the lengthy regulatory reviews, he said. But Davis added that the company now has to move forward quickly to make up for the time lost during those reviews.

For starters, Davis said the company is operating under the assumption that it will be disaggregated at some point, whether by choice or by regulatory mandate. As such, the company is divided along functional lines: Alliant Utilities, Alliant Power, Alliant Industries and Alliant Corporate Services.

(Continued on page 3)

Low Oil Prices Are Beginning To Hurt—IPAA

NEW YORK—Low oil prices are beginning to have an impact in the United States, the Independent Petroleum Association of America reported here Tuesday, leading to a pronounced drop in domestic production.

In the most dramatic change from its 1997 estimate, IPAA's supply and demand committee downgraded its projection of U.S. oil production in 1998. The association now projects that 1998 domestic production will average 6.32 million barrels per day (mbd), down 1.4 percent from 1997 and also off 100,000 barrels per day from earlier projections.

Going forward, Scott Espenshade, IPAA vice president of economics, told *The Energy Daily* the association expects soft prices and the resulting fall off in production to result in lower average output through 2000 than previously had been expected.

"It's a price story," Espenshade said. "Producers are cutting back on oil-directed drilling."

Oil prices hit a low in the $13 per barrel range in March and have since bounced back slightly.

In its long-range forecast, released concurrently with the short-run projections, IPAA predicts that total oil imports (crude and products) will hit 10.7 mbd by 2000 and 13.2 mbd in 2010, up from the 10 mbd expected this year.

Domestic production, meanwhile, will decline by an average .7 percent through 2010, falling to roughly 5.9 mbd in that year. U.S. production has not been below six mbd since 1950.

On the natural gas side, IPAA remains bullish. In 1998, IPAA projects that U.S. gas production will hit 19.16 trillion cubic feet (tcf)—up 1 percent for the year, mainly as a result of warmer than normal weather this past winter. The United States is expected to import 2.9 tcf, almost all of it from Canada.

In its long-range gas forecast, IPAA projects 1.5 percent annual growth for domestic production through 2000, then 1.4 percent average growth through 2010. However, under IPAA's estimates, gas will not reach the much ballyhooed 30 tcf in future demand by 2015. Instead, IPAA projects 27.2 tcf in 2010.

The biggest increase in gas consumption in 1998 over 1997 is for electricity generation, which is expected to increase by 3.2 percent. By 2010, IPAA expects electric generation to consume 5.1 tcf of natural gas, just under 19 percent of total demand.

As a result of warm weather, residential consumption is projected to fall by .4 percent this year.

—HOWARD BUSKIRK

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New Contractor, But Same Problems... (From page one)

problems—which involve a new computer system—could prevent the processing of complete worker dose assessments until June. However, officials with Babcock & Wilcox, which operates Mound for DOE, and DOE Mound officials said the union was mistaken and that worker dose assessments are being calculated by hand.

In another incident cited in its complaint, the union, Local 7-4200 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), also charged that due to lack of "real-time" monitoring techniques, workers were exposed to excessive radiation levels in carrying out a February 1998 project to change ventilation filters at a waste disposal facility. Only after the project was completed were radiation measurements calculated and workers informed that radiation concentrations during the project had exceeded "stop work" levels, the union charged. Two of the workers subsequently were directed to undergo additional bioassay testing and saw their work restricted due to concerns about radiation uptakes.

"There have been a couple of incidents at the Mound site recently that must be brought to your attention," Michael Gibson, the local's vice president, told Keith Christopher, director of DOE's Office of Enforcement and Investigation, in the March 18 complaint. "I ask you to investigate both situations. I feel it demonstrates noncompliance with DOE's occupational radiation protection rule and/or quality assurance rule.

"These situations indicate employees are at significant risk of exposure and I look forward to your assistance in this matter," Gibson added.

> ***'These situations indicate employees are at significant risk of exposure and I look forward to your assistance in this matter.'***

A spokesman for DOE's Office of Environment, Safety & Health confirmed the union's complaint had been received, but declined any further comment.

Peter Hekman, Mound site manager for B&W, said the union's concerns on bioassay testing were "a misunderstanding." He said the computer glitches were a temporary problem, that worker dose assessments were quickly corrected and that bioassay testing had not been interrupted.

On the second incident involving the alleged lack of real-time monitoring, Hekman acknowledged workers learned belatedly that radiation concentrations had exceeded stop work levels. But he noted the workers were in protective gear, and that radiation levels had exceeded B&W's internal stop work controls—not DOE's much higher regulatory limits. He said the additional testing of two workers was a standard precautionary measure to assure no excessive dose was received.

Hekman said the union's complaint reflected continuing worker suspicions stemming from a series of lapses in worker radiation monitoring that plagued Mound in the years leading up to B&W's takeover of the site last fall. EG&G operated the plant prior to B&W.

Gary Nolley, president of the OCAW local, told *The Energy Daily* Tuesday that the continuing worker concerns are not surprising in that B&W retained several key managers that had been in charge of EG&G's worker safety programs. Nolley said top B&W site managers had tried to be responsive to the union's concerns, but added: "The system is failing us."

Also concerned about the situation are Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) and Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio), who have been pressing DOE to correct the Mound worker safety problems. They are concerned that DOE still has not followed through on promises made two years ago to fix the worker safety problems at the site.

DOE sought to underscore its concerns last year following B&W's takeover of Mound. The department fined EG&G $112,500—one of its largest safety penalties to date—for repeated serious lapses in radiological monitoring of workers. DOE cited EG&G for failing to test worker urine or other bioassay samples for radiological contamination. Later testing indicated some of the workers had been contaminated. DOE said at least 108 cases were identified in which the bioassay samples were not submitted for testing in 1997, as was required under the contractor's radiation work permits. The department also pointed to improper calculation of radiation doses received by workers who had submitted bioassay samples. While EG&G said those workers received no dose, corrected assessments indicated some workers may have absorbed plutonium-238 contamination.

DOE said EG&G exacerbated those problems by failing to take effective corrective action. Although those problems were first identified in 1995, EG&G failed to take steps to fix the faulty monitoring program—and DOE took no timely enforcement action to force a remedy.

The poor response by EG&G and DOE prompted OCAW to file suit in August 1995 accusing EG&G of gross mismanagement of worker safety programs and even intentional concealment of hazardous working conditions. The suit said EG&G did not properly test workers for exposure to radioactive contaminants and failed to tell some workers when testing indicated they had been exposed. In line with its traditional contractor indemnification policies, DOE provided the legal defense for EG&G and has been negotiating with OCAW on a settlement. Sources said the litigation was close to final settlement.

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Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)
Sunday, April 20, 1998

Mound Advanced Technology Center meeting new needs

By LAIMA RASTIKIS
Mound Advanced Technology Center

HIGH-TECH

As business opportunities knock across the Miami Valley, a growing variety of companies are answering the call by locating at the Mound Advanced Technology Center (MATC).

With 30 companies and 264 employees, the site represents businesses involved in high-tech research and development, production and business-to-business services.

"Some companies locate here because of the sophisticated equipment and labs available," said Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., the economic development organization for Mound.

"Others just want to take advantage of our competitive lease rates for business and office space," he added.

One MATC company is Inorganic Specialists Inc., a materials science laboratory that is developing a carbon supercapacitor to power future electric vehicles, among other research and development projects.

"People are interested in our work because the batteries currently available for electric vehicles can't discharge energy fast enough for acceleration," said company president Dr. Dave Firsich. "Mound offers me a tremendous pool of technical expertise that I can access by just walking down the hall."

Another company, Motor Carbon Research LLC., is involved in carbon materials technology and currently is working on a project to develop a low-cost manufacturing process for carbon pistons for internal combustion engines. The goal is to reduce the air pollution caused by these types of engines, according to Joe Hager, principal investigator for this 2-year-old company.

The first company to open at the MATC was Mound Manufacturing Co., a precision machining business started by a group of former Mound employees who operated the Mound machine shop. The company now works for customers in the aerospace, defense, medical and canning industries, as well as NASA and the Department of Energy.

Mound Metallurgical Inc. is a metallurgical analysis laboratory that helps its industrial customers solve problems, improve quality and become more competitive.

It provides testing and analysis of metals, ceramics, plastics and other synthetics, and focuses on failure analysis and in-process checks for manufacturing operations. Electron microscopy is one of its highly specialized service offerings.

"When our customers come to us with a broken part such as a bolt, we can tell them exactly why it failed," said owner Tim Critz. "In this way, they can change the process or the raw material to prevent problems or failure."

continued on page 7

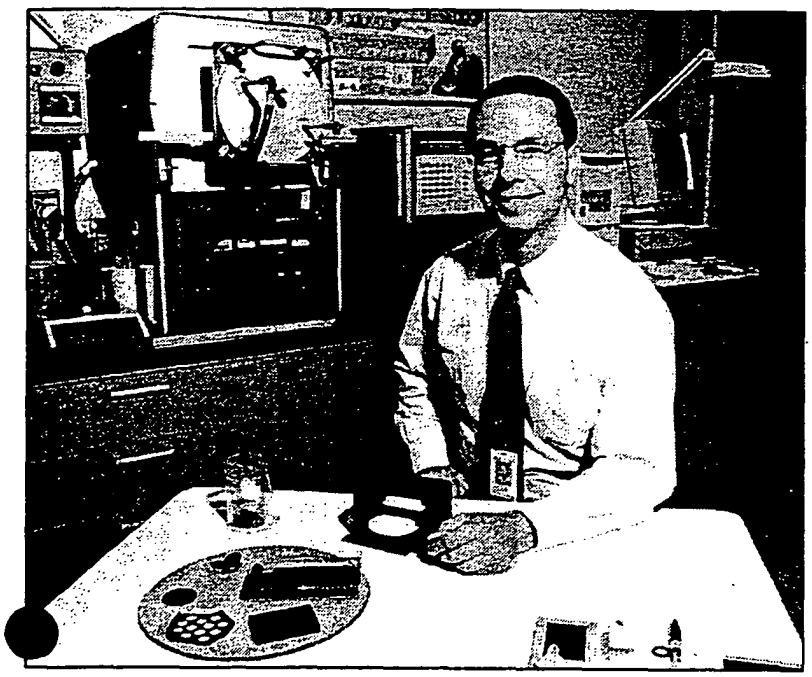


Photo courtesy of Mound Advanced Technology Center

Inorganic Specialists Inc. is operating at the Mound Center.

Mound

continued from page 6

One of the MATC business-to-business service tenants is CareNOW of Greater Dayton, a company that works with local emergency service agencies to provide "pathway management," a health-industry trend focused on managing health care costs by directing emergency callers to the most appropriate treatment facility. It operates in the former Mound communications center.

The newest company leasing office space at Mound is EHS Technology Group. The company provides environmental, health and safety management and consulting services to a variety of industries, from aerospace and automotive to medical products and construction.

According to Grauwelman, the Mound Advanced Technology Center is available to all types of businesses, from start-ups to established companies looking for a place to grow.

"We've found a lot of advantages here for our technology-development business," said Motor Carbon's Hager. "It's the best environment I could imagine for a start-up company like ours."

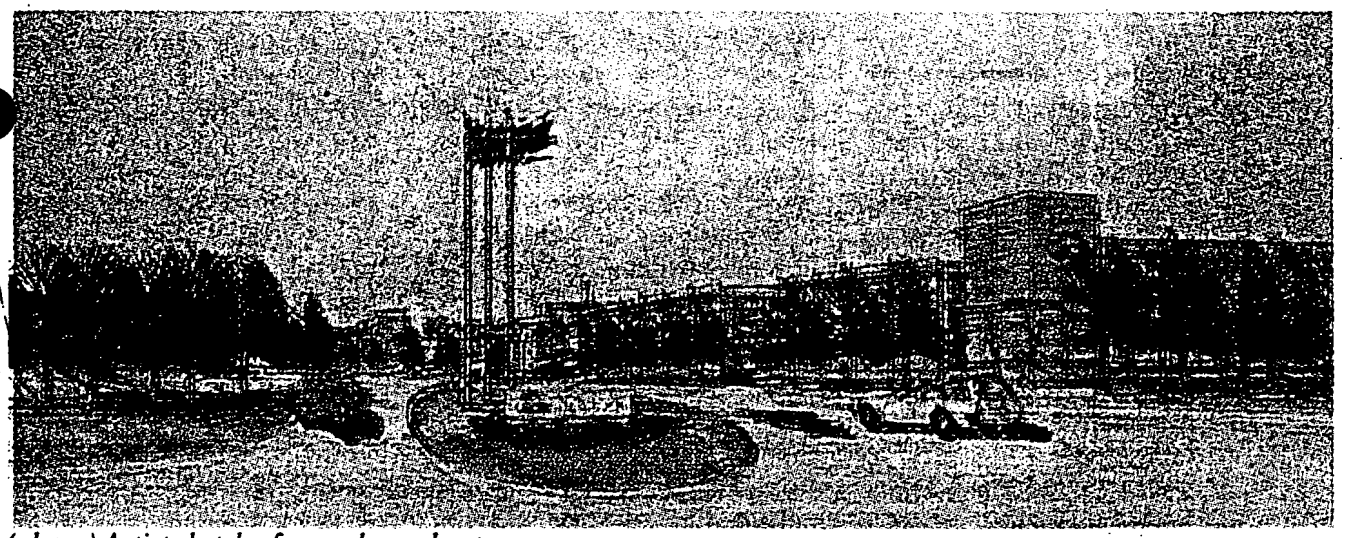
Mound Advanced Technology Center

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Business. Industry. Commerce.

They're all part of the new Mound, the Miami Valley's up-and-coming industry and technology park. The best opportunities await your company... if you act now.

Whether you're a start-up or an established firm...
a high-tech research and development lab or a manufacturer...
a consulting firm or a business-to-business services company...



(above) Artist sketch of new planned entrance

Thirty companies—representing a variety of industries —now enjoy the competitive advantages of locating at the Mound Advanced Technology Center.

Your company can too.

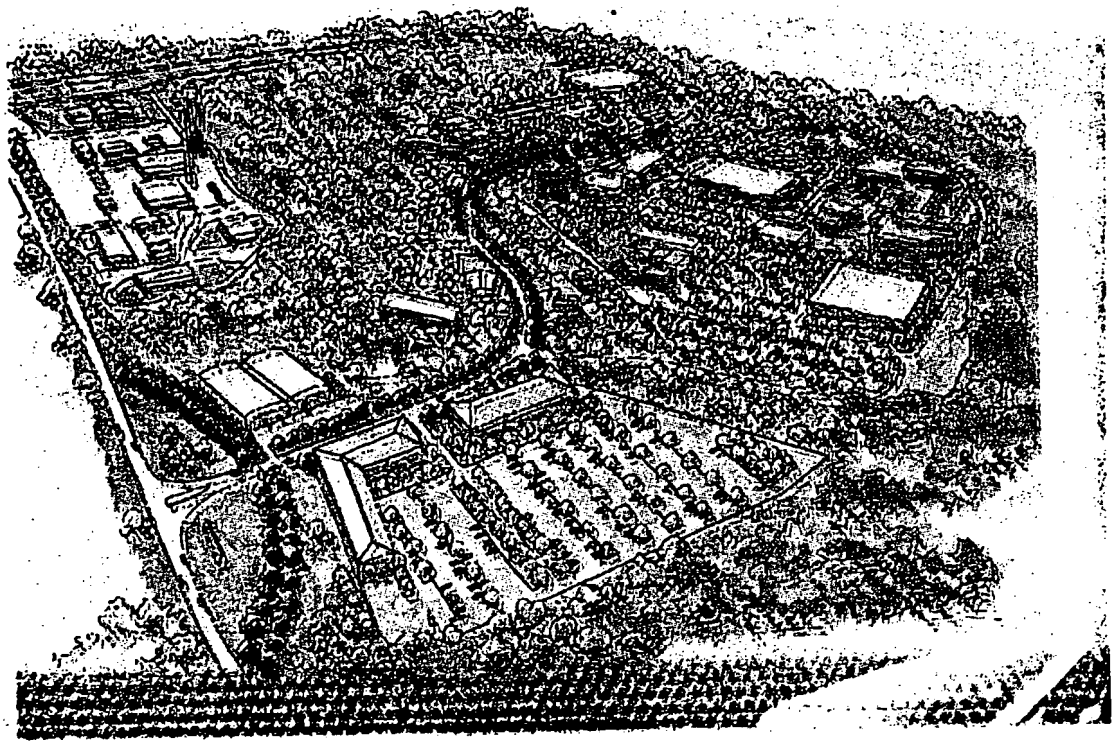
(below) redevelopement plans

Want to learn more?

Call today to explore the business opportunities at the Mound Advanced Technology Center or to schedule a tour. Contact Jeff Kamphake, marketing manager for the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation, at (937) 865-4462. Or visit our Web site at:www.mound.com.

MIAMISBURG
Mound
COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT
C O R P

P.O. Box 232 • Miamisburg, OH 45343-0232



The Mound Advanced Technology Center offers...

- Competitively priced business space for lease, including
  - Office space
  - Laboratory space
  - Light manufacturing space
  - Class 100 clean room
  - Equipped print shop

  and all space can be modified to meet your specific requirements.

Plus...

- Equipment, for sale or lease, to support a variety of operations, including...
  - Analytical chemistry
  - Advanced ceramics
  - Micro-electronics fabrication
  - Surface modification
- 100 acres of prime development property adjacent to the site.
- Access to world-class experts in a variety of technical areas—right on the Mound campus.
- Industrial security.
- Convenient location.

The Mound Advanced Technology Center is ready for your business.

Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS

April 29,1998

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

OhioEPA

MOUND PLANT BUILDING DATA PACKAGE

Information Notice

Magazine 8 will soon be dismantled. A Building Data Package describing Magazine 8 and its dismantlement is available in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio.

Questions can be referred to DOE Office of Public Affairs at (937) 865-3116



Weston opens new offices

Bill Robertson, President and CEO of Roy F. Weston Inc. and Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. cut the ribbon for Weston's new offices. Weston is a subcontractor for Babcock & Wilcox, the contractor for the Mound facility.

Mound tries to reduce worker-test backlog

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — The operator of the former Mound nuclear weapons plant is trying to reduce a backlog of test samples for worker exposure so it can resume radioactive cleanup of the site.

The U.S. Department of Energy said Monday it had ordered a temporary halt in the cleanup work at the site, about 10 miles southwest of Dayton, because of delays in the test results.

Mark Becker, spokesman for plant operator Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio, said the company agrees with DOE's decision to suspend work.

"Our intention is to get the backlog processed," Becker said.

He said 311 samples remained to be analyzed, but he did not know how long it will take.

Had workers been exposed to any excessive levels of radiation, it likely would have triggered detectors at the cleanup sites, Becker said.

The Energy Department's Ohio field office ordered the Miamisburg-based Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio to suspend cleanup until problems with the laboratory that tests workers for radiation exposure through urine, or bioassay, samples are fixed.

"I am extremely concerned about the delay in counting a number of bioassay samples and the quantity of samples presently backlogged in the bioassay laboratory," said Leah Dever, manager of the DOE field office.

Ms. Dever said the department is committed to timely communication of test results to the work force.

Messages were left for Gary Nolley, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 07-4200, which represents Mound workers.

Jeff Sherwood, a spokesman for the Energy Department in Washington D.C., said ordering a halt to such work was unusual.

"That happens only rarely," he said.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

Radiological work at Mound suspended until samples analyzed

The U.S. Department of Energy has ordered contractor Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio to suspend all radiological work at the former Mound nuclear weapons plant in Miamisburg until processing of a backlog of bioassay samples. The urine samples are submitted by workers in areas where they could be exposed to radioactive materials and are analyzed to look for excessive exposure. The suspension will continue until the backlog is corrected, according to a DOE spokeswoman.

OAKWOOD

Radioactivity tests continue at atomic sites

▶ The locations were used by the U.S. in the development of the first atomic bomb.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

State officials conducted tests Monday for radioactivity in Oakwood at the site of a building that was part of the nation's race to build the first atomic bomb.

Officials plan to return today to take core samples at the Runnymede Playhouse site, located near Runnymede Road and Dixon Avenue.

The Ohio EPA and state Department of Health plan to dig 10 feet deep to take core samples on Runnymede, according to Ohio EPA spokeswoman Lynne Barst.

The site was part of a research project into ways to trigger a nuclear explosion conducted at several sites around Dayton. The operation moved to the Mound in Miamisburg in 1949.

Charles Allen Thomas, a local chemist who later founded Monsanto Chemical Co., was a member of a select group of scientists working on the Manhattan Project, a secret U.S. project to build an atomic bomb during World War II.

One project site was the Runnymede Playhouse, which was demolished and transported to Oakridge, Tenn., along with 150 truckloads of dirt in 1949. Another building was on West First Street, near the Greene JROTC Academy and a board of education garage. That location was tested last month, when the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency discovered in the soil slightly elevated readings of polonium 210 and lead 210, radioactive materials used to make bomb triggers, state officials said.

Test results of both sites will be available by late summer, Barst said.

Historical research on the Oakwood site indicates that the process used there in the 1940s did not use lead 210, she said.

Polonium 210 has a half-life of 138 days, meaning that every 138 days its radioactivity is reduced by half.

State health officials said that the Dayton and the Oakwood facilities pose little health risk.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at (937) 225-2270 or by e-mail dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS

May 13,1998

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Mound Laser and Photonics Center merges with Laser Fare

It was commercial matchmaking at its finest that brought together Mound Laser and Photonics Center (MLPC) and Rhode Island-based Laser Fare Inc., a company that specializes in laser materials processing. The acquisition provides the Mound technology company access to new industrial markets, a broad range of materials processing capabilities and additional financial resources.

MLPC, which commercialized the defense-related laser and photonics technologies developed by the Department of Energy's Mound Laboratory, expands geographical markets for Laser Fare, a wholly owned subsidiary of Infinite Group Inc. (NASDAQ-IMCI). At the same time, the Mound company offers new levels of innovation and creativity through its applications laboratory and materials processing activities.

Current capabilities within the MLPC include a laser marking system, a pulsed laser deposition (PLD) facility for the deposition of thin films to improve surface properties of materials, evaluation of laser-material interactions and applied optics applications.

"The Midwest region, long known for its expertise in materials and materials science, represents a platform for growth in the application of laser technologies in the automotive, aerospace, machine tool and other industries," said MLPC president Dr. Larry Dosser. "MLPC can now offer the full range of laser materials processing services currently available at Laser Fare's Rhode Island facilities."

The acquisition also brings to the Miami Valley the capabilities of Express Tool, an Infinite Group company that uses conformal cooling and proprietary thermal management techniques in the fabrication of high productivity tools for the plastic-injection molding and die-casting industries.

"The acquisition of MLPC represents a diversification in both capabilities and geographic markets for Infinite," said Clifford G. Brockmyre, CEO and president of Infinite Group Inc. "Laser Fare's expertise in materials processing and MLPC's experience in laser and photonics applications will allow us to offer a powerful combination of capabilities to enhance our customers' competitiveness."

MLPC is one of 28 businesses with 264 employees located at Mound Advanced Technology Center, a former Department of Energy nuclear weapons site undergoing defense conversion.

Infinite Group Inc. is an industry leader in the areas of laser materials processing, advanced manufacturing methods and laser-applications technology.

USA TODAY · THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1998

EPA approves nuclear dump in New Mexico

By Traci Watson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — A massive federal dump for weapon-related radioactive waste was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency Wednesday, paving the way for the first shipment on June 19.

Opponents vowed to file lawsuits that would keep the underground site near Carlsbad, N.M., closed.

The government plans to store 5 million cubic feet of low-level radioactive waste at the site. That kind of waste is now stored at 23 sites in 16 states.

The 23 sites are considered safe for short-term storage but were never meant to be permanent disposal dumps.

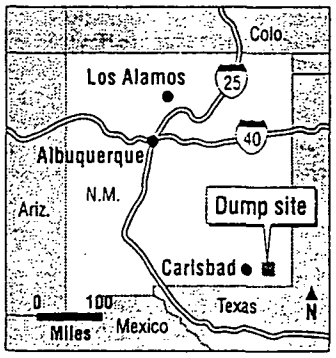
About 53 million people live within 50 miles of those 23 sites; 50,000 to 60,000 live within 50 miles of the Carlsbad site.

Activation of the New Mexico dump would be a triumph for the Department of Energy (DOE), which has been trying to open it for years. But lawsuits by environmentalists and changes in the DOE's plans have delayed the site's start-up.

"Our action today culminates a 24-year process and makes a historic milestone in our nation's efforts to clean up the environmental legacy of the Cold War," Energy Secretary Federico Pena said Wednesday.

The waste is one of the most troublesome remnants of the Cold War arms race. Known as transuranic waste, it consists of tools, clothing and other items that were contaminated with radioactive material, mostly plutonium, during the manufacture and dismantling of nuclear weapons. The material will remain radioactive for thousands of years. The government expects to have 5 million cubic feet of the stuff on its hands once it finishes cleaning up the nation's weapons factories in 2070.

But the dump has proved to be nearly as big a headache as the waste it's supposed to safeguard.



USA TODAY

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) has been under construction since 1980 and a matter of disagreement for even longer. It has already cost the federal government $2 billion and has an annual operating budget of $185 million.

The waste is to be stored in salt formations 2,000 feet beneath the desert surface. Scientists predict natural shifting of the salt will tightly entomb the waste barrels.

But people in nearby towns have objected to the waste being shipped down their main streets. And environmentalists and some scientists have highlighted what they say are flaws in the government's storage plans, such as the chance that oil drillers working nearby will bore into the waste.

The EPA's decision hasn't changed opponents' minds. "The EPA is ... being a team player and being kind to DOE," said Don Hancock of the Southwest Research and Information Center, an Albuquerque environmental group that plans to sue.

Still, the dump does have some backers in the Southwest. Residents of Carlsbad (population 24,952), expect WIPP's opening to stimulate the local economy. Mayor Gary Perkowski said: "We're happy, we're excited. We think it's time to get this project started."

News from BWX Technologies, Inc.

Babcock & Wilcox, a McDermott company

For Immediate Release

May 15, 1998

HEKMAN RESIGNATION ANNOUNCED AT MOUND

Peter M. Hekman, president of B&W of Ohio, Inc., has announced his resignation effective today. Mr. Hekman has been responsible for the U. S. Department of Energy's Mound site in Miamisburg, Ohio, since October 1997. He was named to the post when Babcock & Wilcox won the contract for the site.

In announcing the resignation, John Fees, president of B&W Services, Inc., said, "It is with much regret that I accept Pete Hekman's resignation. He is an individual of high integrity and character, who has had an outstanding career both in the military and in civilian life. I will be meeting with the DOE next week to discuss his replacement."

Mr. Hekman is a retired U.S. Navy Vice Admiral who also served as the manager of the DOE's Savannah River Site and was awarded the DOE's Exceptional Service Medal for his performance during Savannah River's period of contract and mission transition.

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BWX Technologies, Inc.
P. O. Box 11165
Lynchburg, Virginia 24506-1165

Contact: Ronald L. Hite
Public Relations Phone: 804/522-5937
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(Fax) 804/522-6963

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mound cleanup manager quits

▶ A backlog of radioactivity tests for workers has stalled the operation.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Peter M. Hekman, the former U.S. Navy vice admiral who took over management of clean up operations at the former Mound facility in Miamisburg, resigned as president of Babcock&Wilcox Ohio last Friday.

The resignation was effective immediately.

Hekman was instrumental in B&W Ohio winning the U.S. Department of Energy contract to complete the environmental restoration of the Mound last October. He formerly served as the manager of the energy department's Savannah River nuclear repository.

John Fees, president of the Virginia-based B&W Services, Inc. said he will meet this week with energy department officials to name Hekman's replacement.

Earlier this month, the Department of Energy suspended all radioactive operations at the Mound because of a backlog of untested weekly urine samples that are taken to detect overexposure to radiation.

The energy department said that work in radioactive areas will be suspended until the backlog is eliminated.

A B&W spokesman said that Hekman took responsibility for the testing delay, some of which was inherited when B&W took over for EG&G Mound, the former clean up contractor.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at (937) 225-2270 or by e-mail dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

The City of Miamisburg and the
U.S. Department of Energy
cordially invite you to attend a special ceremony to celebrate completion of the Miami-Erie Canal Restoration Project.

DATE *Friday, May 29, 1998*
TIME: *10:00 a.m.*
WHERE: *Community Park*
550 First Street

The Miami-Erie Canal restoration project has been a major component of the environmental cleanup project by the Department of Energy in and around the Mound site. The Canal property will officially be returned to the City, with a portion of the site to be used as a public park. The community is invited to attend this special ceremony to celebrate the successful restoration project and the return to use of Community Park.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY · UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MIAMISBURG
OHIO'S STAR CITY

BWX TECHNOLOGIES

City of Miamisburg

CIVIC FOCUS

Summer 1998 www.mvcc.net/Miamisburg

CIVIC FOCUS
City of Miamisburg

Mound capital improvements on the horizon

If seeing is believing, then future capital improvements will give Miamisburg residents all the reason they need to view Mound in an entirely new way. While 28 businesses with 264 employees already operate on the site, Mound's appearance has not reflected its changing character. However, capital improvements are being planned that will begin to physically transform the former Department of Energy (DOE) weapons plant into a business park for technology and industry.

"Our economic development efforts since 1994 have netted real business-growth results in a relatively short time," said James VanTassel, vice chairman of the board of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC), the organization created by the City of Miamisburg to manage Mound's reuse and redevelopment. "But when people see earth moving, they will be able to better understand our vision for Mound's new future."

MIAMISBURG Mound COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORP

The redevelopment project has been detailed in the Mound Comprehensive Reuse Plan, which was adopted last summer. Phase I focuses on the site's eastern boundary and includes reconstruction of Mound Road and the on-site Main Hill Road, a new entrance and utility work providing public sewer, lighting and water and storm systems. Project engineering is scheduled to begin in late 1998, with actual construction starting next spring.

The Phase I project area represents the first improvements to the site, which is being conveyed by DOE to the MMCIC under a sales agreement signed in January.

The MMCIC will contribute $835,000 toward the $3.35 million project, while the City of Miamisburg has committed $150,000. In addition, grant applications are pending with three potential sources: the State of Ohio Capital Fund ($1 million); the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce ($1 million) and Montgomery County's Economic Development/Government Equity program ($350,000).

The impact of these contributions will be doubled because they provide the leverage for a one-to-one dollar match committed by the Department of Energy for Mound's redevelopment, as provided in a memorandum of agreement between DOE and the MMCIC.

"This is an exciting time in Mound's evolution," said Mayor Dick Church. "When the transformation is completed, we believe Miamisburg residents will be proud of what this community has accomplished."

Kiosks providing Mound updates

Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, the contractor at the Mound facility, recently introduced interactive kiosks designed to keep the community updated on the latest developments at the site.

These kiosks, known as Mound Information Centers, are currently on public display in the Miamisburg Civic Center and in Miami Township administrative offices. A third Information Center is being rotated to various public locations throughout the community.

"We recognize the importance of the Mound facility within the Miamisburg community, and these kiosks were developed as a convenient way to keep interested citizens apprised of the latest happenings there," said Mark Becker, manager of public relations for B&W. "They are easy to use, fully computerized and will be updated on a regular basis with new information and photos."

For more information on the Mound Information Centers, call Becker at 865-4450.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

June 3,1998

DOE finishes Erie Canal clean up, releases Community Park to city

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

The city of Miamisburg and the U.S. Department of Energy held a ribbon cutting ceremony Friday to commemorate the completion of the Miami-Erie Canal environmental restoration project.

The Canal clean up, which has taken about two years, is one component of the DOE's comprehensive clean up activities in and around the Mound facility, which will restore the site to a condition suitable for reuse as a privately owned industrial and technology center. DOE is scheduled to complete clean up operations by the year 2005.

According to Nat Brown, director of the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project for the DOE at the site. the canal became contaminated in 1969 when an underground pipe burst and let a quality of plutonium out into the soil in and around the canal.

"But we were interested in the department leaving the site in the same condition as we found it," he said. "So we felt we had to do the canal clean up project."

Oba Vincent, the deputy director of the clean up project, said that the project entailed the removal of 38,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the area.

"Since Nov. 1996, we've removed 520 rail cars full of contaminated soil from the site," he said.

Vincent said the average radiation reading of

(Continued on Page 12)



CITY, STATE and federal officials cut the ribbon reopening Community Park after the canal clean up.
PHOTO BY STEVE SANDLIN

Community Park ...

(Continued from Page 1)

the site is now 25 pica curies, when the plan was to get the site down to 75 pica curies.

"We ended up having to remove over 50 percent more soil than we had estimated, but we were still able to get the site cleaner than we had planned and still stay on schedule," he said.

Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. was complimentary of the job done by the DOE's clean up crews.

"This Miami-Erie Canal restoration has been a model for a successful environmental clean up project involving public input, excellent communications and effective planning," he said. "Throughout this project, DOE has been a responsible neighbor, doing the right thing for the community. We appreciate the care taken to minimize the impact on residents and businesses in the immediate area."

Community park, adjacent to the canal, has been closed to the public during the construction period. The city was compensated by the DOE for the loss of the use of Community Park and used that grant to construct the Sycamore Trails Aquatic Center, which opened last June at the corner of Heincke and Maue roads. The old Community Waterpark is scheduled for demolition later this year and planning for newly designed park space at that location will begin. With the canal restoration complete, the city will unveil later this summer a new paved walkway/bikeway along the canal.

Anthony Whitemore, regional representative for Gov. George Voinovich, said at the ceremony "this community is showing what people can do when a community cares."

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
H BUILDING
MOUND PLANT, MIAMISBURG, OHIO
ACTION MEMORANDUM

Beginning June 10, 1998, and continuing through July 8, 1998, the Department of Energy will accept public comments on the ***Action Memorandum*** for H Building of the Mound Plant in Miamisburg, Ohio.

In this ***Action Memorandum***, the Department of Energy is recommending the decontamination of H Building.

This ***Action Memorandum*** has been reviewed by the regulatory agencies.

The public is invited and encouraged to review the ***Action Memorandum*** at the Mound CERCLA Public Reading Room, Miamisburg Senior Adult Center, 305 Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio.

All comments regarding the ***Action Memorandum*** should be received by July 8, 1998, and can be directed to: **U.S. Department of Energy**
c/o Paul Lucas
P.O. Box 66
Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-0066

and by E-Mail to: **paul.lucas@em.doe.gov**

Questions can be referred to DOE Office of Environmental Safety & Health at (937) 865-4578.

MESH is seeking health info through mailed health surveys

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

The Miamisburg Environmental Safety and Health (MESH) group is sending out copies of a health survey to Miamisburg residents in an effort to gather data and discover what effects the Mound plant may have had on the public health over the years, according to Sharon Cowdrey, president of MESH.

MESH is asking that everyone who has lived in Miamisburg for at least a year between 1947 and 1998 fill out the four-page health survey detailing medical problems that residents may have experienced. The survey is divided into several sections including general information, cancer, non-cancer and reproductive diseases and birth defects.

Cowdrey said that previous surveys have looked at very little health data and that MESH felt that such a survey was needed. MESH is a volunteer group of individuals committed to the public health stewardship of Miamisburg.

"The government has to be justified in spending millions of dollars for the clean-up of the Mound site," said Cowdrey. "And we feel that the health survey will send a clear message to the government that clean-up is important."

Cowdrey applauded the U.S. Department of Energy's efforts to clean up the Mound site.

"Other sites are jealous that we have the clean-up going on here that we have," she said. "This effort is really being looked at by other sites."

Cowdrey said that the information gathered from the health survey will remain completely confidential and that the Boston University School of Public Health will examine the data when the survey is completed.

"Boston University has sent people here for workshops to teach us how to conduct the survey," said Cowdrey.

For more information, if you need help in filling out the form, if you want additional surveys of have concerns, call Cowdrey at 748-4757 or call Lynn at 859-9848 or Sandy at 866-8101.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Babcock & Wilcox makes donations to community organizations

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

Ten local schools and organizations received contributions at a presentation ceremony Thursday from Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, the contractor charged with the final cleanup of the Department of Energy's Mound plant in Miamisburg.

The contributions are part of the company's proposal to the DOE and commitment to support charitable and educational activities in the community.

"Support of this type in any community is important, and the Babcock & Wilcox team is pleased to be behind this effort," said James R. Powers, acting president and site manager. "The contributions in all cases will benefit this community. We realize that organizations such as the ones that are receiving contributions play important roles for people of all ages."

Earlier this year, Babcock & Wilcox established a Charitable Contributions Review Board made of three community representatives to evaluate requests for funds and make recommendations to Babcock & Wilcox management. Members of that board are Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr., Miamisburg School District Business Manager Mike McCabe and Bobby Sweny of the Miamisburg Historical Society, with Mark Becker, director of communications for Babcock & Wilcox, representing the company.

Organizations receiving contributions included Miamisburg High School, the Miamisburg City School District, Miamisburg Education Foundation, Miamisburg Odyssey of the Mind, the Dayton Mohawks Association, Miamisburg Basketball Association, City of Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Department, Miamisburg Historical Society, the Baum Opera House Association and Miamisburg Helping Hands.

Four educational outlets were presented funds. Miamisburg High School received $3,000 as part of the company's Partners-in-Education Program and is to be used for the support of educational programs at the high school. Miamisburg City Schools received $1,500 to go towards the development of a Science and Math Materials Center proposed by the district's curriculum department. The Miamisburg Education Foundation received a check for $1,000 that can be used toward teacher grants for innovative classroom projects and for the student loan program. Another $1,000 was presented to the

(Continued on Page 2)



THE RECIPIENTS of donations from Babcock & Wilcox.

PHOTO BY STEVE SANDLIN

Mound donations ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Miamisburg Odyssey of the Mind program for the purchase of equipment and materials in support of the program that stresses problem solving by students in a creative and innovative manner.

Two youth sports organizations were also presented checks. A contribution of $1,000 was made to the Dayton Mohawks Association, an organization that works towards creating disciplined young men and ladies not only within the athletic arena, but also in academic and emotional development. The Miamisburg Basketball Association received $1,000 to be used in the operation of the program for gymnasium rental expenses and equipment.

The Miamisburg Parks & Recreation Department received $1,000 to support a series of five summer concerts in Miamisburg's Library Park. The money will be used to help underwrite expenses of the performing organizations.

Three community-based organizations also received donations.

The Miamisburg Historical Society received $1,000 towards the future development of a community museum in the Market Square Building. The Baum Opera House Association received $1,000 to go towards the indebtedness of the community structure. The Miamisburg Helping Hands received $1,000 to go towards the pantry's efforts to help the needy and less fortunate in the community.

"This is the first of many times that we plan to do this kind of thing," said Powers. "These organizations are important to the community, and they are important to us."

Babcock & Wilcox is also supporting several other community events, including acting as one of the sponsors of the Miamisburg Rotary Club's Junior Golf Classic and sponsoring several foursomes in golf outings sponsored by the Miamisburg Youth Center and the Historic Miamisburg Community Partnership.

Babcock & Wilcox has also been facilitating the process of making donations of excess Department of Energy property to schools, local governments and non-profit organizations. Donations have been valued at $250,000 so far and range from computer systems to office furniture.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

WHITE HOUSE

Holbrooke to be next U.N. envoy

▶ President Clinton is expected to name Bill Richardson his new energy secretary today.

By Jodi Enda
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE



Richardson



Holbrooke

WASHINGTON — President Clinton today will nominate Bill Richardson, the U.S. delegate to the United Nations, to be his new energy secretary, a White House spokesman said Wednesday.

The president will replace Richardson with Richard Holbrooke, framer of the Bosnia peace plan, according to the spokesman, who declined to be identified.

Both nominations require Senate confirmation.

Energy Secretary Federico Pena announced in April he would step down in July to spend more time with his family, and Richardson has long been rumored as Clinton's first choice for the job.

Richardson, 50, frequently dealt with energy issues in his former role as a Democratic congressman from New Mexico, which boasts the Los Alamos national laboratory and has housed some federal nuclear testing programs. He resigned his House seat in February 1997.

During his 14 years in Congress, Richardson trotted the globe in the role of troubleshooter. He negotiated face-to-face with Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Cuba's Fidel Castro as well as with leaders in North Korea and Sudan to help bring about the release of a total of 11 hostages.

Holbrooke, 57, former assistant secretary of state for European affairs, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his role overseeing the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995, which brought an end to more than four years of civil war in Bosnia. He is known among diplomatic circles as a top-notch negotiator with an uncanny ability to get to the heart of a situation.

Mound radiation cleanup to continue

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — The U.S. Department of Energy plans to resume radiation cleanup at the former Mound nuclear weapons plant after a seven-week halt because of delays in test results on worker exposure.

The cleanup, which was halted May 1, was to resume today.

Leah Dever, manager of the department's Ohio field office, said she is satisfied that plant manager Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio has put procedures in place to prevent any recurrence.

Dever said the company has processed the backlog of worker samples and notified workers of the results.

About 160 of the plant's 690 workers work in radiation cleanup.

James Powers, acting president of Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, said the testing program has been improved.

"We commend Ms. Dever for the radiological operations standdown and believe it demonstrates any additional problems in this area will not be tolerated," said Mike Gibson, vice president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 07-4200.

Mound, about 10 miles southwest of Dayton, produced triggers for nuclear weapons.

The 306-acre site is being converted into a private business park.

The backlog occurred because cuts in the workforce reduced the number of lab technicians who analyze the urine samples, the agency said.

In addition, some samples needed to be recalculated in January, which delayed testing of new samples by 10 days.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

Miamisburg

Cleanup resumes today at Mound Plant

Work to clean up the radioactive contaminated areas at the Mound Plant in Miamisburg will resume today, the Department of Energy announced. On May 1, the manager of the DOE Ohio Field office asked Babcock &Wilcox of Ohio, the Mound contractor, to stop work in contaminated areas because of a backlog of untested weekly urine samples taken to detect worker overexposure to radiation. B&W of Ohio has processed the backlog of samples, notified affected workers of the results and submitted a plan to the DOE that outlines ways to prevent a similar situation.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

Cleanup, processing of materials back on track at Mound

The cleanup and processing of radioactive materials at the former Mound Plant in Miamisburg resumed Tuesday after a six-week "stand-down on safety," according to Department of Energy spokeswoman Jane Greenwalt. The former nuclear weapons plant is undergoing a five-year accelerated environmental cleanup by contractor Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio. Meanwhile, the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. is developing the site into an advanced technology center. The safety stand-down was declared in early May as a result of a backlog of regular tests of employees who work around radioactive material.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Wednesday, June 24,1998

MESH to hold free health effects seminar at Burg Civic Center site

Miamisburg Environmental Safety and Health (MESH) will hold a health effects seminar to examine any environmental issues people may wish to discuss from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Miamisburg Civic Center Community Room.

Dr. Seth Tuler Ph.D of the Childhood Cancer Research Institute of Wooster, Mass. and the Center for Technology, Environment and Development at Clark University will conduct the seminar and speaker Steven Schrader of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health will speak on endocrine disruptions. The agenda will include a presentation and question and answer session on radiation and contamination issues from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; free lunch from 12 to 1 p.m.; survey studies including geographical surveys from 1 to 2 p.m. and the presentation on endocrine disruptions from 2 to 4 p.m. The seminar is free and the public is welcome to attend.

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT BUILDING DATA PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The following Building Data Package will be available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio beginning June 24, 1998. Public comment will be accepted on this package from June 24, 1998, through July 24, 1998.

BDP DS Bldg: Development/Standards

Written comments may be sent to U.S. Department of Energy, c/o Paul Lucas, P.O. Box 66, Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-0066 or by E-Mail to: *paul.lucas@em.doe.gov*

Questions can be referred to DOE Office of Public Affairs at (937) 865-4578

Work in contaminated areas are Mound restarts

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today that work in radioactive contamination areas at the Mound facility resumed Tuesday, June 23. On May 1, Leah Dever, manager of the DOE Ohio Field Office, directed its contractor at Mound to stand down (suspend) work in radioactive contamination areas until DOE was satisfied the bioassay problems were remedied. Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio (BWO) is the Mound contractor.

Dever said she is satisfied that BWO has remedied this situation and that procedures are in place that will eliminate recurrence.

BWO has processed the backlog of bioassay samples, notified affected workers of the results and submitted a plan to DOE that outlines the actions to be taken to prevent a similar situation in the future.

Dever said ensuring the health and safety of workers and Mound's neighbors is DOE's most important task.

James Powers, acting president and site manager of BWO, said the company is committed to the protection of the health and safety of workers at the site. Powers said, "The recent stand down has provided an opportunity to re-examine and internalize that commitment. With recent improvements to our bioassay program in place, we are ready to carry out the important mission at Mound."

Mike Gibson, vice president of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Worker's Union, Local 07-4200, said, "After several years of problems relating to worker radiation monitoring, we believe the issue has finally gotten the attention of the right people. The actions of DOE Deputy Secretary Moler and Ms. Dever made fixing the problem the contractor's top priority. We commend Ms. Dever for the radiological operations stand down and believe it demonstrates any additional problems in this area will not be tolerated."

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MIAMISBURG

Ceremony celebrates cleanup

▶ A new recreational area opens in Community Park on what was once plutonium-contaminated soil.

By Sandra Baer
FOR THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

"Turning bad into good" could be a fitting slogan for one Miami Valley city.

On May 29, the city of Miamisburg and the United States Department of Energy officially opened a new recreational area on what was once plutonium contaminated soil.

A ceremony to commemorate the event was held on the restored cleanup site at Community Park on Medlar Road south of Miamisburg.

"This Miami-Erie Canal restoration has been a model for a successful environmental cleanup project involving public input, excellent communications and effective planning," Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. said. "Throughout this project, DOE has been a responsible neighbor, doing the right thing for the community. We appreciate the care taken to minimize the impact on residents and businesses in the immediate area."

The restoration included removing contaminated materials from the bottom of the canal, removing nearby trees and replacing the old soil with clean soil using earth movers. Then, a one-mile-long, paved recreational path was built along the old canal.

"It's a multi-use path for biking, walking or Rollerblading," said Brad Feik, Miamisburg assistant director of Parks and Recreation. "They asked us what we wanted and we let them know that the community wanted a path like this. Eventually, there will be a fully developed park at the north end of the

SEE PARK/5

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Wetlands Involvement for the Installation of a Consolidated Waste Processing Facility Accessway at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Miamisburg Environmental Management Project

ACTION: Notice of Wetlands Involvement

SUMMARY: This is to give notice of DOE's proposal to construct an accessway for a consolidated waste processing facility at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project (MEMP), located approximately ten (10) miles southwest of Dayton, Ohio. The proposed activity would involve a small, isolated, man-made wetland in Montgomery County, Ohio. In accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022, DOE will prepare a Wetlands Assessment and conduct the proposed action in such a manner to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the surrounding environment.

DATES: Written comments must be received by the DOE at the following address on or before July 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: For further information on this proposed action, including a site map and/or a copy of the Wetlands Assessment, contact:

Mr. Robert S. Rothman
Waste Management/Legacy Waste Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Miamisburg Environmental Management Project Office
P. O. Box 66
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0066
Phone: (937) 865-3823
Facsimile: (937) 865-4489

FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information on general DOE wetland and floodplain environmental review requirements, contact:

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D. C. 20585
Phone: (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed activity would directly support the ongoing environmental remediation program at the Mound Plant. Construction of the accessway to the consolidated waste processing facility would enable the facility to accomplish volume-reduction, metal recovery, and waste packaging goals established for the site. Construction of the accessway would impact approximately 0.06 acres of a man-made, isolated wetland. The wetland is one of several delineated in the *OU9 Hydrogeologic Investigation: Wetlands Determination Report*, January 1994. The proposed action would result in long-term and direct impacts from the filling of an isolated, man-made wetland of 0.06 acres in size. The affected wetland would be backfilled with gravel during the construction of an accessway which is needed to support a consolidated waste processing facility. Best management practices would be utilized to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the surrounding environment.

ISSUANCE: Issued in Miamisburg, Ohio on June 23, 1998.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

Collaboration pays at Mound Center

▶ Miamisburg's high-tech research site is on track, thanks to politicians and business leaders on all levels.

Thanks to some intense rescue work, collaboration and creative partnerships over the last five years, Miamisburg's Mound site has been setting a good foundation for its re-use.

This work is appreciated all the more by those who lived through the chaos that burst in 1993 when the Department of Energy announced it would decommission the nation's premier complex for designing and perfecting nuclear-weapon components and spacecraft power systems. The threat was a heavy loss of all the concentrated brainpower and technological know-how of immense potential use commercially.

This work is appreciated all the more by those who lived through the chaos that burst in 1993.

At this point, Mound Advanced Technology Center has created 270 new private-sector jobs, with the target of creating more than 2,000 high-value jobs in 80 businesses by 2010.

The achievement shows what can be done when politicians at all levels focus aggressively on getting something worthwhile done. U.S. Rep. Tony Hall, with close support from Rep. David Hobson and Sens. John Glenn and Mike DeWine, successfully pushed legislation that allowed the wonderfully supportive and cooperative Department of Energy to lease buildings to the newly created Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation. Gov. George Voinovich championed the effort at the state level, while community business and political leaders joined hands locally.

Though more work and investment lies ahead, the foundation is laid — no small achievement now and no sure thing five years ago.

ENVIRONMENT

Former nuke sites are safe

▶ Testing of two locations linked to the Manhattan Project reveals no risk.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Two former nuclear production sites, one in Oakwood and one in Dayton, pose no health or safety risks, according to tests conducted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Health.

The site of the former Runnymede Playhouse, near Dixon Avenue and Runnymede Road in Oakwood, and two Dayton school board buildings off West First Street were used during the 1940s as part of the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb. The operations moved to the Mound in Miamisburg in the 1950s.

Testing and manufacturing at the two locations used Polonium 210 and Lead 210, both radioactive materials classified as Class A carcinogens that can cause cancer in humans. Polonium als occurs at normal, background levels.

State officials conducted a radiological walk-over and collected soil samples last spring a the Greene JROTC Academy an the adjacent athletic field (John Ahlers Park). Four soil samples showed normal polonium readings. Two samples showed slightly elevated readings and will have additional tests done.

In Oakwood, 13 of 20 soil samples showed normal readings. Seven samples, taken at depths greater than one foot, showed slightly elevated readings.

Ohio Department of Health o cials determined there are no current adverse health or safet effects from continued normal use of the properties.

The Runnymede Playhouse was demolished in the '50s. Thi Dayton locations are still in us as a school maintenance buildi and an ROTC school.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-2 or e-mail him at dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

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Dayton, OH
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The Runnymede Playhouse was demolished in the '50s. The Dayton locations are still in use as a school maintenance building and an ROTC school.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-22 or e-mail him at dale_dempsey@coxonio.com

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

DOE workers to raise funds for Shawnee

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

Once again, workers at the Mound site will join with the Fernald nuclear site in Cincinnati to raise funds for the Shawnee people who used to live in the area.

Last year, the group sent a semi-truck full of clothing, food, toys and blankets to the Shawnee who live in Oklahoma in recognition of their having inhabited the lands where the Department of Energy sites are located.

"This year, we hope to send them two semi-trucks full of



LEAH DEVER speaks to DOE employees.

things," said Teresa Fort, Native American Employment Manager

(Continued on Page 4)

Shawnee ...

(Continued from Page 1)

of the Mound site. "They need children's clothing, food, toys and blankets."

FORT SAID that items will be accepted through Nov. 4 via boxes located on site at the Mound and the Miamisburg Civic Center. Those with large donations should contact Fort at 865-3755.

Last year, Randy Farrell of Germantown donated the use of his truck and drove the donated items to Oklahoma using a trailer donated by Landstar Ranger.

Joe Shumaker of Fernald said that the Shawnee in Oklahoma are desperately trying to keep their spiritual customs and language alive in the face of great poverty and the aid given by the DOE workers is badly needed.

Boundary Project is next improvement plan for Mound

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

The next major project scheduled in the commercialization of the Mound site is a improvement project for Mound Road, according to Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC).

Grauwelman detailed the plans at the Sept. 1 meeting of the Miamisburg City Council.

The project will widen Mound Road to three lanes in the area, improve the road leading to the main parking lot in the northern portion of the site and create a new road in the southern portion of the site, as well as adding new water lines to the site.

"The project will also add curb, gutters and sidewalks to the west side of Mound Road in the area," said Grauwelman.

The Boundary Project will cost an estimated $3.5 million.

GRAUWELMAN SAID that costs will be paid by a potpourri of funding. The city will commit $150,000, the MMCIC will pay $850,000 and the MMCIC is seeking a grant of $1million from the Economic Development Administration. He also said the city is seeking a $350,000 grant from the Montgomery County Economic Development/Government Equity program and $1 million from the state's capital equity program, as well as a $350,000 grant from the Issue 2 program.

"By November we should have some answers on the grant applications," said Grauwelman.

In related business, Grauwelman said that Nat Brown has stepped down at the site manager for the Department of Energy and that the DOE will soon name a replacement. He also said that Babcock & Wilcox

(Continued on Page 4)

Msbg. council ...

(Continued from Page 1)

has named Sandy Baker as the head person at the site from their company.

In other business, the city council:

• Appointed John L. Woods to the Board of Zoning, Building and Housing Appeals, Daryl Scott and Barbara Shade to the Citizens Urban Forestry Advisory Board, Rita A. Thomas to the Civil Service Commission and Patricia E. Van Arsdale to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

• Agreed to a project management agreement with R. Keith Phillips for the completion of various city construction projects.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

AGE DISCRIMINATION

AARP files suit over jobs lost

▶ The organization says 100 Mound employees were unjustly fired by Babcock & Wilcox.

By Wendy Hundley
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The litigation arm of the American Association of Retired Persons has filed an age discrimination lawsuit against the company that operates the Mound site in Miamisburg.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court in Dayton, names four workers who allege their employment was terminated because of age.

The workers were terminated Sept. 30, 1997, when Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio took over as prime government contractor of the facility at the expiration of EG&G Mound Applied Technologies Inc.'s contract.

The former employees worked at the facility for 21 to 31 years.

"Babcock & Wilcox, at the onset of its contract with the United States Department of Energy, clearly chose to keep only those young Mound workers whose age and years of service would keep them from qualifying to retire with pension and insurance benefits during its contract to operate Mound," Mary Ellen Signorille, a lawyer with the AARP Foundation Litigation, said in a statement.

No one from Babcock & Wilcox was available for comment Friday.

The AARP, seeking class action status, alleges that 100 Mound employees lost their jobs due to age and benefit discrimination.

Former Mound workers claim age bias

The Associated Press

DAYTON — Four former workers at the Mound nuclear weapons plant claim in a lawsuit filed against the plant operator that they lost their jobs because of their age.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in U.S. District Court by Donna Shepherd of Somerville; Kenneth Hacker of Springboro; Anthony Burwinkel of Blanchester; and Margaret Bush of Miamisburg. The plant operator, Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, is the defendant.

The workers asked the court to make it a class-action lawsuit to represent what they said were more than 100 workers in a similar situation.

The workers, all over 40 years of age and who were employed at the plant between 21 and 31 years, said they lost their jobs last September because Babcock & Wilcox refused to hire them when the company took over operation of the plant from EG&G Mound Applied Technologies.

Mark Becker, spokesman for Babcock & Wilcox, said Friday he had not seen the lawsuit and declined to comment.

The plant in suburban Miamisburg began operation in 1949, producing triggers for nuclear weapons. Weapons work at the plant has since ceased.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
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SMALL BUSINESS

Mound venture paying off



After three years of hard-scrabble entrepreneurship, Chuck Woods and William Bankes are starting to get those peace dividends everyone talked about at the end of the Cold War.

The two former Mound plant researchers launched Global Manufacturing Solutions Inc. in 1995 as part of the effort to convert the former nuclear weapons plant into a high-tech industrial park. They quit their jobs as employees of plant contractor EG&G Mound Applied Technology and pursued plans to become a producer of advanced-technology air bag detonators.

The going has been tough. The need to generate investment capital has forced them to take on all manner of consulting and low-volume manufacturing jobs. Woods, company president, admits they have had months when he didn't pay himself.

Their fortunes changed almost overnight about seven months ago when they built a small machine to demonstrate a rapid, low-cost way to make metal casting patterns for low-volume production.

The standard process usually takes weeks and costs $10,000 to $15,000.

Their method uses a computer-controlled machine, takes minutes and costs a fraction of the standard method.

Their first demonstration almost instantly resulted in orders for hundreds of patterns, which they've been scrambling to fill with their lashed-together demonstrator.

They're just starting to market the process, but they're starting to generate the cash flow they need to keep their company solvent while funding their air bag technology development.

— *Dayton Daily News*

▶ More details, 3F

Duo creates a prototypical success

▶ A scientist and an engineer find a better way to make patterns for metal castings.

By Timothy R. Gaffney
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Customers don't just drop in on Global Manufacturing Solutions.

For starters, there's the burly security guard at the plant gate. He wants to know who you are, whether you're a U.S. citizen, where you're going, and why.

If you get past that, you still have to find Global's building. It's down a twisty road in a small gully where wooded hills flank a dumpy spread of bunker-like buildings and parking lots.

Global isn't trying to hide from its customers. It just happens to be located in a secluded part of the 305-acre Mound Advanced Technology Center, a former nuclear weapons site where, until recently, fortress-like security guarded top-secret research and production of H-bomb parts. Mound is being redeveloped into a commercial industrial site, but some of the security remains.

That hasn't stopped customers from finding Global since founders Chuck Woods and Bill Bankes bolted and clamped together a machine that drastically cuts the time and expense involved in making patterns for metal castings.

Woods, the company's president, and Bankes, its vice president, have filled hundreds of orders for patterns and are just now starting to advertise their new process. They've hired two employees, doubling their work force.

"Our original business plan was to make airbag detonators," Bankes said. Air bag detonators are the small explosive charges that rapidly inflate automobile air bags.

Their goal is still to develop advanced air bag detonators, using their knowledge of the



technologies used in making the non-nuclear devices that trigger nuclear warheads. But their pattern-making business has blossomed from what they thought was just a small consulting job they took on to generate some sorely needed cash.

Bankes, who was an industrial engineer when he did weapons work for the Energy Department, was working on a master's degree in business administration at the University of Dayton when he ran into Mark Merten, project engineer for the Dupps Co., a Germantown manufacturer of process machinery.

Dupps' main market is the rendering industry. "We're looking to expand into new markets," Merken said, but he needed an affordable, fast way to make prototype parts to show potential customers. He said all of the other methods he had investigated, including rapid-prototyping techniques using styrene plastic, were too slow and lacked the level of precision he needed.

He started asking Bankes if he and Woods could design something better.

On the Internet

▶ Global Manufacturing Solutions Inc.:
www.globalms.com/
▶ Mound Advanced Technology Center:
www.mound.com/

'We're making enough money to pay the bills and pay ourselves a salary and invest a little bit in (airbag) technology.'

CHUCK WOODS
Co-founder Global Manufacturing Solutions

"Mark started throwing these incredible challenges at us and Chuck doesn't back off of anything," Bankes said.

Woods, who was a materials scientist and later a manager, said he "beat my head against the wall for a couple of weeks trying to figure out the science" needed to do what Merken wanted.

Finally they lashed together a tabletop machine just to demonstrate the technology. It was a crude job — parts of it bristled with C clamps — but when Merken brought in specifications for a steel screw the size of a bucket, it whipped out the prototype in eight minutes.

"The next day we had orders for a couple of hundred (parts.) Wham! We went into scramble mode to refine the machine" for production, Woods said.

They're still using the same machine while they work on a production unit, but Woods said their business is "starting to blossom." Industrial customers order parts to be used as molds, prototypes, or display models for trade shows.

Woods said building their business "really has been a struggle." He said they found no help help in raising venture capital, and working on a site still largely controlled by the Energy Department has added complications.

"We're hanging in there (at Mound) because we have a synergistic relationship" with other budding businesses that can offer world-class technical help, Woods said. And the prototype business has improved their cash flow over the last six months.

"We're making enough money to pay the bills and pay ourselves a salary and invest a little bit in (airbag) technology," he said. "... I think we're still in the struggle (phase) but we're transitioning out of it."



ELISABETH HEIMLICH/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Bill Bankes, vice president of Global Manufacturing Solutions, says the company has expanded from its original product of air-bag detonators.

Franklin Chronicle-News

Sept. 15, 1998

Popular teacher-coach battles cancer

By DOUG GRAVES
The Chronicle

CARLISLE — Carlisle High School teacher and basketball coach Guy Fogle has the reputation of being an upbeat guy, and that hasn't changed despite his battle with cancer.

According to Fogle, the past two months has been a real eye-opener and has made him appreciate each new day.

"You'd be surprised how vulnerable you feel when something like this grabs you," he said.

"You realize how fragile life is and it puts a whole new perspective on things. I haven't stopped hugging my kids. You go through something like this and if you're not a believer you soon will be. It's certainly amazing what prayer and modern science can do."

During a brief workout on the basketball court recently Fogle thought he had pulled a groin muscle.

"Playing basketball and staying active you occasionally get pain but after a few days the pain didn't go away," he said.

Infact, it got worse, and Fogle became worried. A trip to Dr. Rick Chamberlain i Franklin resulted in devastating news — Fogle had testicular cancer.

"Within five minutes of my examination Dr. Chamberlain was making me an appointment to see an ultrasound specialist. He knew right away what I had. "It's like other cancers in that if you treat it early enough your chances of survival increase significantly."

Testicular cancer attacks those in the 18-35 age group. Approximately 20,000 cases are diagnosed annually in the United States.

Two days after being diagnosed Fogle underwent his first surgery in Cincinnati. He then was sent to the Cleveland Clinic where he underwent a seven-hour operation to remove more cancerous cells. He remained in the hospital for nine days and stayed with his in-laws in the Cleveland area for another week to recuperate.

"The cancers that I had attacked the lymph nodes and when that happens the cancer wreaks havoc on your body," Fogle said. "The doctors removed some those lymph nodes. The good news is that chemotherapy is not necessary. The doctors decided to leave things alone. Besides, my blood count is normal now. The doctors felt they got to the cancer early enough. I attribute that to Dr. Chamberlain for acting so quickly."

FOGLE'S BOUT with cancer comes as no surprise to this third-year teacher and former full-time TV sports annoucer.

"I became concerned because I have two older brothers who battled the same thing," Fogle said. "My dad died of prostate cancer three years ago and my grandfather also died of cancer. Mine was a little different, though, because I was diagnosed as having four different types of cancer. The four types of cancer that I had were real aggressive so we had to act quickly."

Fogle points the blame to the nuclear testing that was done at the Mound in Miamisburg many years ago.

"It might be heredity, but it might be proximity of Carlisle to the Miamisburg Mound," he said. "You can sit in retrospect and think of all the radiation and testing they did up on the hill. I grew up at 718 Central Ave., and looking back through the past 15 to 20 years there's been an extremely high cancer rate on that street and in Carlisle in general.

"Back then on Central Avenue nearly every house had an incidence of cancer. That to me is suspect. But then again, the doctors in Cleveland told me there is a chance that it is hereditary. It seems like it does run in our family."

Only time will tell if he's free from cancer. He must still undergo testing every six weeks for the next two years.

"The good thing was getting treatment early," he said. "I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Chamberlain because he didn't allow me time to think about it."

See "FOGLE" on Page 12



The Chronicle/DOUG GRAVES

Guy Fogle shares his ordeal with Carlisle High students Ryan McIntosh (left) and Travis Martin.

Fogle

Continued From Page 1

Concern from those in Carlisle, Fogle says, also lifted his spirits.

"I received so many cards, letters and flowers and received a lot of calls from my ball players. And that's pretty medicine. It picks your spirits up.

"Carlisle High has been wonderful to me, too. They told me not to come back to school until mid-September, but I can't sit around like that. I started teaching the school year but every few days I have to take some time off. It wears me down a little bit. But by mid-October I should be back to strength."

News Release

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For immediate release

September 21, 1998

Contact: Mark Becker, BWO-Mound, 865-4450
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New President Named for Mound Facility

Peyton Sanford (Sandy) Baker has been appointed president of Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, Inc., and will manage the U.S. Department of Energy's Mound facility in Miamisburg, Ohio. The announcement was made by Dr. E. Allen Womack, Jr., president of BWX Technologies, Inc.

Baker has been managing director, Babcock & Wilcox Egypt, in Cairo, where he was responsible for operations of a B&W joint venture corporation involving 23 international partners and more than 1,100 employees in the production of major utility power stations. In this capacity, he directed factory operations, technology transfer, government and labor relations, and was a member of the board of directors.

From 1990 to 1994, Mr. Baker was general manager of the Babcock & Wilcox ERI Division in Indianapolis, Indiana, with responsibilities for a $25 million manufacturing facility that was the single supplier of missile warheads and advanced capability warheads for the missile and ordnance industry.

For the previous 16 years, Mr. Baker held various management responsibilities for the company's Naval Nuclear Fuel Division in Lynchburg, Virginia, including manager of the division's quality program for component fabrication.

In announcing the appointment, Dr. Womack said, "Sandy Baker brings to Mound a down-to-earth management style and leadership qualities which will successfully complete our mission at Mound. I am very confident of his ability to get the job done."

Commenting on his appointment, Mr. Baker said, "I am very excited about the opportunity to work with such an excellent team on such an important program for the Department of Energy and the community of Miamisburg. I look forward to participating in the successful completion of this most worthwhile environmental restoration project."

The former Babcock & Wilcox Government group, now BWX Technologies, Inc., was awarded the DOE contract for Mound in 1997 to manage the environmental remediation and site transition project.

BWX Technologies, Inc., is a major operating unit of McDermott International, Inc., a leading worldwide energy services company. The company and its subsidiaries manufacture steam-generating equipment, environmental equipment, and products for the U.S. government. They also provide engineering and construction services for industrial, utility, and hydrocarbon processing facilities, and to the offshore oil and natural gas industry.

-30-

Dayton Daily News
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MISSION AT AN END

Last shipment of radioactive tritium marks the end of the nuclear era at Mound Plant

Business, 5B





BILL REINKE/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Ray Knight guides a forklift carrying a symbol of the last bulk tritium from the Mount Plant on Monday. The time of the actual removal is a government secret. Jim Young is the security guard in the background.

Nuclear arms era over for Mound

U.S. ships last radioactive tritium

By Timothy R. Gaffney
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

A fortress-like tunnel that burrows into a hill at the Mound Plant made a fitting backdrop Monday for a ceremony marking the end of the plant's work on nuclear weapons.

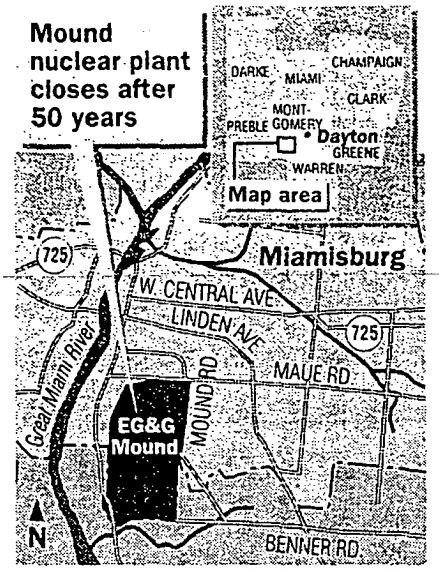
Gathered at the concrete tunnel's mouth, government officials and plant workers watched as a green forklift loaded a steel drum into the back of a plain white truck. It was the symbolic loading of the last drum of the Mound's radioactive tritium, a key element in hydrogen bombs.

When asked, Mound officials conceded the drum didn't really contain tritium, a radioactive gas that is used to increase the power of nuclear weapons. They said it was the closest they could come to celebrating the real event because the details of actual tritium shipments are secret.

"There's still tritium on the site," said Mark Becker, a spokesman for Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio, which operates the plant under a Department of Energy contract.

But sometime before Thursday, he said, Mound would load the last drum of tritium and ship it to DOE's Savannah River plant in South Carolina.

In Mound's work with tritium, vessels containing the substance would be removed from nuclear warheads and shipped to the site, where technicians would remove the gas, purify it, and load it into new vessels to be put back into the weapons. The work was done in buried facilities surrounded by walls about 20 feet thick, hardened against the possibility of nuclear attack.



DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The work was critical to maintaining America's nuclear stockpile because tritium has a half-life — the time it takes for half of it to break down — of 12 years. Mound's work replenished the warheads.

"It was a mission of great importance and it was very secret," said Leah Dever, DOE's Ohio Field Office manager.

Nobody appeared to shed any tears over the end of this chapter in Mound's history. And Miamisburg officials were all smiles.

"Just think, seven years ago, we were fighting to keep this here," Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church said.

DOE decided to end Mound's weapons work in 1991 as part of a major downsizing plan after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. The site employed about 2,000 people at the time, most of them scientists, engineers and highly skilled technicians.

Miamisburg and Ohio challenged DOE's claims that the move would be cost-effective. Their efforts failed, but they won DOE's cooperation in a plan to convert Mound into a high-tech business park.

The site now has about 860 people working for Babcock and Wilcox or DOE. Most of their work involves decontamination and cleanup. Michael Grauwelman, director of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., said conversion efforts have created 28 private companies employing about 270 people.

With the last shipment, the only tritium left will be residual material in pipes and other processing equipment, said Patrick Burns, manager of the tritium disposal program. He said as much of that will be recovered as possible. Once decontaminated, the tritium facilities will be demolished or made available for commercial use, he said.

Burns, a 22-year Mound employee, said one more ceremony is planned to mark the secret final shipment: "We're going to have a pizza party after work."

Last of tritium



Associated Press

Ray Knight guides a forklift on Monday at the former Mound nuclear weapons plant in Miamisburg. The last bulk amounts of radioactive tritium will be transported from the plant this week. See story on Page A4.

Final shipment to leave Mound

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — A radioactive gas used for decades to make bomb triggers at the former Mound nuclear weapons plant will soon be a memory at the site, the U.S. Department of Energy announced Monday.

The final bulk amount of tritium will be shipped to the department's Savannah River, S.C., plant later this week. It caps a nearly three-year effort and leaves only residues of the substance remaining to be cleaned up.

Tritium was one of the most widely used radioactive materials at the plant. The government phased out production after the Cold War ended, and radioactive materials now are being removed from the site.

"We've reduced the risk to our community," Leah Dever, manager of the Energy Department's Ohio field office, said during a ceremony in front of a concrete bunker on the 306-acre site where the tritium had been stored.

Tritium is radioactive hydrogen gas used to make triggers for nuclear bombs and increase their power. The plant has a history of accidental tritium releases.

In 1989, an accident during an experiment caused the heaviest discharge of tritium from the plant in 20 years and contaminated four workers. No evacuations were necessary.

In 1994, some tritium-contaminated soil was washed into the Great Miami River after a water line broke. And in 1996, a small amount of tritium was released into the air after a pipe broke.

"The removal means the potential environment risk at Mound has been further reduced," said Dick Church, mayor of this city of 19,000 people about 10 miles south of Dayton.

The city is turning Mound into privately owned light industrial park. There are currently 28 businesses with 270 employees at the site.

"Each step along the way is significant, and it should be celebrated," Church said.

Dewaine Eckman, the Energy Department's project manager for the cleanup, said small amounts of uranium, actinium, plutonium are still being stored at the site.

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PLAGUE SURROUNDS NUCLEAR PLANTS

Scientists have been concerned for decades about radiation from nuclear production and its link to cancer. But the illnesses emerging now are something different.

Report traces pattern of illnesses

An unexplained pattern of illnesses has been found in hundreds of people living near the nation's nuclear facilities, *The Nashville Tennessean* reports Tuesday. At least 410 people living near or working at 13 nuclear weapons plants and research facilities across the country suffer from respiratory, neurological and immune system problems, according to the newspaper. In a year-long investigation, its reporters found ill residents and workers in Tennessee, Colorado, South Carolina, New Mexico, Idaho, New York, California, Ohio, Kentucky, Texas and Washington. The U.S. Department of Energy, which oversees the plants, said there is no scientific evidence that toxic contaminants from the facilities caused the chronic illnesses. But the victims - and other experts - believe further investigation is warranted.

- Full story
- Officials' statements about the illnesses
- Government help can be frustrating
- Sick find best medical help is out of reach
- Energy Dept. says it didn't know
- Science offers no quick answers
- For 50 years, they lived in toxic area
- Rather than fight claims, victims want help
- How can victims be helped, and who will pay?

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Plague surrounds nation's nuclear plants

A mysterious pattern of illnesses - from immune systems gone haywire to brain malfunctions doctors can't explain - is emerging around this nation's nuclear weapons plants and research facilities.

The ill live in places unlike others, where poison bomb ingredients floated into the air, sank into the soil and leaked into the water for half a century.

No one has ever taken a comprehensive look at their health - not the federal government that owns the sites, the public health agencies charged with protecting their well-being, nor the politicians who represent them in Congress.

Scientists have been concerned for decades about radiation from nuclear production and its link to cancer. But the illnesses emerging now are something different.

In 1997, *The Tennessean* found scores of people suffering a pattern of unexplained illnesses around the Oak Ridge nuclear reservation in East Tennessee. This year, the newspaper found hundreds of people with similar illnesses around 10 other nuclear weapons sites nationwide.

"It's like the devil has been let loose in my body," said Freddie Fulmer, 41, a former worker at the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River nuclear site near Aiken, S.C. Fulmer, declared disabled in 1995, suffers from a degenerative joint and spine disease, kidney ailments and a rare disorder that causes his immune system to attack, rather than protect, his internal organs.

"Every single morning my whole body hurts so badly I can barely get out of bed to go stand under a hot shower until I can move around using my cane," Fulmer said. "And then there's the weird stuff, like once I had a fever for seven months straight. But, like everything else, the doctors couldn't tell me why or help me."

He is one of 410 people in 11 states interviewed by The Tennessean who are experiencing a pattern of unexplained immune, respiratory and neurological problems attacking their bodies and minds. Illnesses include tremors, memory loss, debilitating fatigue and an array of breathing, muscular and reproductive problems.

The newspaper found ill residents and workers in Tennessee, Colorado, South Carolina, New Mexico, Idaho, New York, California, Ohio, Kentucky, Texas and Washington state. In many cases, the ill were not aware scores of others in their own communities are suffering like them.

Activists believe many people are suffering from illnesses at other weapons sites across the nation, too. And top scientists say the newspaper's findings are disturbing.

"It is criminal. There is no doubt these people are sick and need help," said Dr. Victor Sidel, former president of the American Public Health Association and distinguished professor at New York City's Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Sidel, a co-founder of the Nobel Prize-winning activist organization Physicians for Social Responsibility, added: "The government has both an ethical and moral responsibility to come forward and help them as a public health policy, whether specific links between the illnesses and the weapons centers can ever be established."

Many of the ill believe, and some experts agree, that their ailments stem from exposure over time to low levels of many toxic agents that were

released into the environment near nuclear weapons sites.

But the ill have no scientific evidence. Their belief stems from what they see happening to themselves and others.

The government has traditionally required proof of harm before medical help is offered. So the ill must prove toxic exposure has hurt them, or hope the nation will help them based on anecdotal evidence.

There's no question that ill workers live in places with uncommon quantities of contaminants: radioactive elements like plutonium and cesium; chemical compounds such as the solvent carbon tetrachloride and cancer-causing PCBs; toxic metals, such as lead, mercury and arsenic.

The government acknowledges the contamination and has launched billion-dollar cleanup plans. But, federal officials say, contamination rarely reached workers or residents in harmful amounts, although they're looking for what caused health problems.

"Where there's a plausible connection we'll follow up on it," said Peter Brush, DOE's acting assistant secretary for environment, safety and health. "Plausible connection" between nuclear sites and worker health is being studied, he added.

But, those studies haven't keyed on people, looking instead at such things as levels of poison in ants in Idaho and turtles in Tennessee.

Some scientists say it is time to consider helping the sick.

"It's really inappropriate for us to simply use science as an out, and say 'We just don't understand this, we'll come back when we do,'" said Dr. Bernard D. Goldstein, a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine. "We have to at least be responsive to people now."

Many of the ill are longtime workers at complexes opened during World War II or the Cold War to produce more than 70,000 nuclear weapons for the nation's defense.

"We were saving America," said Ray Guyer, 60, who worked at the Rocky Flats complex near Denver for more than 30 years. Doctors found radioactive plutonium in a bone spur from his knee, but they can't explain his dizziness, numbness, rashes or other health problems.

"We were young and believed in what we were doing," he added, his voice cracking with emotion. "Now we just need some help."

A few of the ill said their health problems began three or four decades ago. Most said symptoms began in the 1980s and 1990s.

Why would people be getting sick now, years after Cold War weapons production ceased? And why would only some be getting sick? Certainly, most people around these sites remain healthy.

"Those are two hard questions because we don't know what controls" the start of disease, said David Ozonoff, chairman of Boston University's Department of Environmental Health and a top expert in tracking disease.

Political leaders, like scientists, have differing views about what to do.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., whose state is home to a major nuclear weapons site, promised to "encourage the Department of Energy to carefully review these findings and determine how best to act."

But Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., the only physician in the Senate, said "The health complaints gathered from people living in communities near nuclear plants certainly raise questions. Before drawing any conclusions, however, we must be careful to rely on scientific evidence."

That is little consolation for Gay Brown, 57, who grew up near the Oak Ridge nuclear reservation and was a special education teacher before becoming totally disabled in 1977.

Now, Brown leads a "pretty lonely life," rarely leaving her house except to go to the doctor or hospital for illnesses she describes as "weird things going on in my blood and immune system. My bones and muscles hurt so bad at times, I can't stand to be touched. I've got awful skin rashes that won't go away. There's the thyroid problems, memory loss, blackouts ... oh, just about everything is breaking down, inside and out."

By Susan Thomas, Laura Frank and Robert Sherborne, The Nashville Tennessean

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Officials' statements about the illnesses:

"If there is evidence of similar illnesses at other sites around the country, it should be of concern to everyone, and the appropriate federal agencies should look into the matter."

- U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., who last November asked the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate unexplained illnesses in communities surrounding Tennessee's Oak Ridge nuclear reservation.

"These people are suffering and they need help immediately. We need to know the extent of the problem to find out who is currently suffering. And the only way to do that is through an official national survey. That's what the CDC is for, and I would call for this to be undertaken immediately."

- U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., who represented the Savannah River Site area until recent redistricting and twice requested CDC help for ill residents in her state.

"Our staff ought to be going into these communities and asking them about their health concerns. For some DOE sites, we've not been up to the task. For God's sakes, we've got to be accountable. I don't know why we should have to prove (what caused the illnesses) to make the case. When we see these kind of problems associated with these sites, it's not Nobel science."

- Barry L. Johnson, assistant U.S. surgeon general, and associate director of the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry.

"Trying to look at these symptoms to alleviate them is of public health value. That doesn't mean we have to prove what caused them... We have to at least be responsive to people now."

- Dr. Bernard D. Goldstein, elected member of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, and director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute.

The Nashville Tennessean

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The Nation's Homepage

Government help can be frustrating

Energy Department officials say they have tried to help the ill near the nation's nuclear weapons and research facilities. But some of those attempts have frustrated and infuriated the ill they're intended to help.

In Oak Ridge, Tenn., DOE paid an expert in urban trash recycling nearly $25,000 to do his first "health survey" in the largely African-American neighborhood called Scarboro, less than 600 yards from the nation's storehouse for highly enriched uranium. The resulting May 1997 report recommended young people be educated in recycling and said the top community concerns were police harassment and transportation issues.

Two months ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did its own survey and found something the recycling expert missed: One of every three children in the neighborhood suffers severe respiratory problems.

At the Rocky Flats plant, DOE paid $80,000 in 1996 for a health survey of plant neighbors in suburban Denver. The 11-question survey asked if respondents had concerns living near Rocky Flats. It didn't ask if they had any health problems. This led one respondent to add an addendum: "Whoever wrote this survey should have included this ... People may be sicker than you realize."

At the Hanford plant in southeast Washington state, DOE has promised a "medical monitoring" program to check people for thyroid problems after decades of massive radioactive iodine releases. But the program would give checkups only, not medical care. A lawsuit is pending because DOE has not yet funded the program, which was approved in February, 1997.

DOE has spent more than $100 million since 1991 on multiple epidemiological studies on workers at most of the sites. "Epi studies," as they are known, use statistics to try to link diseases to a cause. Many have been inconclusive, a fact that doesn't surprise Tim Connor, member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on Energy-Related Epidemiological Research and author of a book on the topic.

"These studies are analogous to sending a whaling fleet with harpoons out to find a catch of shrimp," Connor says. "There might be reason to believe a problem is there, but with the existing tools of epidemiology, it's very hard to bring home the catch and prove it."

If people are waiting for these studies to prove these sites caused their health problems, they're wasting their time, says John Till, president of Risk Assessment Corp., a scientific research firm in Neeses, S.C.

His company has worked on several of the studies, which he says are useful for identifying potential effects of the most serious releases.

"But you'll never be able to confirm any plants caused anyone's particular disease," Till says.

"We'll never be able to tell a person with certainty that their health problems are caused by a certain contaminant."

The Nashville Tennessean

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Science offers no quick answers

Dr. Tara O'Toole was in charge of health and safety for the U.S. Department of Energy when her boss came to her with a request.

Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary had heard reports that people near some DOE sites were complaining of health problems and wanted to find out if exposures from the sites were making people sick.

"The secretary came to me and said, 'People want to know. It's hanging over our heads. Let's just spend the money on it and get the answer,' " O'Toole recalls.

Unfortunately, it's not that easy. "It's naive to believe science can just find the answer," says O'Toole, who left DOE last year and is starting a center at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore to study biological weapons.

The bottom line is this, say O'Toole and other top scientists and doctors: Science can send people to the moon, clone sheep, and genetically engineer tomatoes, but it can't yet determine if the toxic mix of substances released from the nation's nuclear weapons production sites made anyone around them sick.

For starters, the health effects of most chemicals are poorly understood. Too much arsenic causes death. But what effect, if any, does chronic low-level exposure to arsenic have? What about tiny amounts of arsenic, uranium and the solvent trichloroethylene mixed together? No one knows. It's never been studied. Add another variable: Each person's body reacts differently to environmental assaults.

"There may be an average exposure, but not an average individual," says Ken Olden, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. In other words, if several people are exposed to the same toxic substance, each can have a very different reaction. Some may have no reaction at all.

Scientists around the nation, funded by the national institute, are trying to decipher the puzzle. Some are beginning to track how different genes in the human body react to different poisons. Others are beginning to study different combinations of toxic agents found commonly at the most contaminated places in the country. DOE sites are among the most contaminated.

But study results are years away.

The institute plans to take blood and urine samples to try to determine what chemicals have done to the subjects' bodies. Some of the ill people *The Tennessean* interviewed around DOE sites have complained that no one is taking biological samples from them. But biological samples are no panacea.

"A health impact can occur decades after exposure," says Owen Hoffman, a former Oak Ridge environmental scientist-turned-consultant.

He has studied health risks to people around several of the DOE sites, including Oak Ridge, Colorado's Rocky Flats and Washington's Hanford facilities.

By the time the health problem shows up, Hoffman says, evidence of what caused it might be gone.

So, where do these scientific uncertainties leave the hundreds of ill people living near nuclear weapons facilities? In a very unpalatable place, says O'Toole: "These people are on the edge of known medicine."

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For 50 years, they lived in toxic area

Just before 2:30 p.m. on Mother's Day 1969, one of the most dangerous substances known to man burst into flames at the nuclear weapons complex called Rocky Flats, 16 miles northwest of Denver.

Highly ignitable plutonium left unattended had spontaneously started a fire that burned uncontrolled for four hours.

Officials said little plutonium escaped. But a subsequent investigation revealed to Denver residents for the first time that plutonium had been released both accidentally and routinely from the site since it was built in 1952.

Denver wasn't the only city kept in the dark. For decades, the U.S. Department of Energy was not required to tell anyone what it was doing at its nuclear development sites.

That began changing in the 1980s, and the newly released information showed a half century of toxic bomb byproducts that were dumped, stored and buried are now leaching toward populated areas.

Today, the DOE is still trying to figure out what poisons went where and how to clean them up. The process is not moving at a speed many of the sites' home states would like.

Earlier this year, Washington's governor announced plans to sue the federal government for its failure to contain more than a million gallons of radioactive waste that leaked from underground tanks at the Hanford nuclear reservation. The contamination is moving through the ground toward the Columbia River, which provides water for drinking and irrigation in that agricultural area.

"This," Gov. Gary Locke said of the escaping waste, "is an underground Chernobyl waiting to happen." DOE officials say they are negotiating with the governor's office trying to resolve the dispute.

Idaho's governor sued the federal government in 1995 over its failure to remove millions of gallons of highly radioactive waste from underground storage tanks that sit above that state's largest drinking water aquifer. DOE settled the same year.

Most recently, the governors of Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio signed a letter urging the DOE to immediately convert a poisonous uranium compound contained in thousands of steel cylinders into a safer form. The rusting cylinders have been stored at sites in the three states for decades.

While officials are trying to prevent further contamination, they are still dealing with the Cold War legacy: Hanford, in its first 30 years of production, released more radiation into the air, soil and water than Soviet officials say escaped at Chernobyl, the worst nuclear accident in history. Chernobyl, however, was an instantaneous escape compared to Hanford's long-term, low-level releases.

One of Hanford's most controversial releases was the "Green Run," a secret Air Force experiment that intentionally vented radioactive iodine into the air over two days in 1949.

These releases were kept secret until the 1980s. The Air Force continues to withhold information about the project, which was designed to test monitoring equipment that spy planes could use to find weapons production sites in the Soviet Union.

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory performed one of the most dangerous processes in the nuclear weapons production cycle, using chemicals to extract reusable radioactive material from used parts. It then injected the radioactive waste from this process into the ground. Other radioactive waste was burned.

Officials at the lab also melted down 26 nuclear reactors in tests. It is not known how much radiation or other poisons escaped.

At Oak Ridge, more than 2 million pounds of mercury were released into the air, water and soil during the 1950s and early 1960s. Uranium was vented through the roofs of production buildings. Tons of other chemicals, metals and radioactive particles were placed in pits and ponds that are now leaching.

At Savannah River, an accidental release in 1991 unleashed a large amount of radioactive tritium, a hydrogen bomb fuel.

Additionally, the plant released smaller amounts of other radioactive byproducts of nuclear weapons production each year, including krypton-85, strontium-90, iodine-131, cesium-137, uranium and plutonium.

At Los Alamos, decades of research and testing have also released toxic agents to the air, soil and water. Tritium, cesium-137 and strontium-90 have been found in shallow groundwater in two nearby canyons; tritium has also been detected in wells near the Rio Grande River.

In 1993, after holes were found in buried drums storing radioactive waste, New Mexico fined the lab $600,000 and required it to dig up the drums for safer storage.

At Rocky Flats, the worst release took place over 10 years, • 1959-1969. Officials stored oil laced with plutonium and chemicals in steel drums outdoors on a concrete pad starting in 1958. They realized the drums had begun to leak within a year, but they took 10 years to fix the problem.

Meanwhile, winds shooting off the Rocky Mountains, sometimes as high as 90 mph, picked up soil contaminated from the leaking barrels and blew it toward Denver.

Plutonium processing at the Flats stopped in 1989, when another highly visible event brought its contamination picture more clearly into focus.

On the morning of June 6, a small army of FBI agents raided the site, collecting evidence a congressional report later said showed a pattern of "serious environmental crimes."

The U.S. Justice Department settled with DOE and its contractor, Rockwell Inc., as a grand jury was hearing evidence. Rockwell pleaded guilty to five felonies and five misdemeanors. The $18.5 million fine it paid was smaller than the bonuses Rockwell received during the time the crimes were committed.

An internal DOE memo showed officials knew some of the Rocky Flats practices were "patently illegal." The 1986 memo from an environment, safety and health official states "good press ... has taken attention away from just how really bad the site is."

By Susan Thomas, Laura Frank and Robert Sherborne, The Nashville Tennessean

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How can victims be helped, who will pay?

How can the ill around the nation's nuclear weapons sites be helped? Suggestions vary from an advocacy program to help them better navigate the health care system to opening environmental health clinics in their neighborhoods.

Thorny issues remain: Who should be helped and who should pay?

Whatever the idea, there is growing consensus that the ill need medical care they currently aren't getting.

Here are some of the ideas:

- **Create an ombudsman program.** Dr. Tara O'Toole, who left her post as U.S. Department of Energy assistant secretary for health and safety last year to become a consultant, says perhaps a government-funded ombudsman could help provide medical care.

The Energy Department or the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention could pay for the advocates, O'Toole says. They could give advice to the ill when insurance companies balk at paying for needed tests or when doctors don't know how to proceed with unexplained illnesses.

"I recognize people are suffering," O'Toole says. "I think they deserve a humane response."

But while the DOE could fund an ombudsman, further action must come from the nation's leaders, she says: "The Department of Energy doesn't have the capability to address this issue. It will have to be addressed by the White House through new policy, or Congress through new laws."

The DOE doesn't have the resources or the expertise to devote to the issue without taking away from its current responsibilities, she says.

"I'm more concerned right now about the people who are doing the cleanup" at these sites, O'Toole says. "People are in harm's way as we speak. We have a responsibility to prevent future disease."

When O'Toole worked for the DOE, the department considered sending ill people around its sites to see specialists in occupational and environmental medicine, she says. That never happened because the DOE's legal department warned that recognizing people may have been harmed and trying to help them would force the government to choose whom to help. That, the lawyers said, would ensure lawsuits.

But, O'Toole says, she recognizes help not lawsuits is what ill people living around these sites want: "They want to feel better."

O'Toole says she doesn't believe all the illnesses are related to exposure from the nuclear sites. But, she adds, "that doesn't mean that there aren't people out there who've been affected."

- **Use the Veteran's Affairs medical system.** The nation has a moral responsibility to go a step further than providing an ombudsman, says Dr. Howard Frumkin, chairman of environmental and occupational health at Atlanta's Emory University.

The government could pay for people's health insurance through a voucher program. Or they could be allowed to use the medical program offered military veterans, he says.

"The Veteran's Affairs system serves a class of people who were put in

harm's way for the nation's sake," Frumkin says. "The ill people living near DOE facilities could be considered one of those groups. We know we probably put these people in harm's way. If we knew 50 years ago what we know now, we would have operated these sites differently.

"Now the least we can do is take care of them."

A prerequisite to care would be some indication that communities are experiencing high levels of illness or highly unusual illness, Frumkin says.

Using veteran's hospitals could be a double benefit, he adds.

The nation's VA medical system is facing a decline in patients as World War II veterans age and die, he says. The VA system could use a boost to its mission, he adds. And while VA hospitals have come under criticism for their quality of care, some of the ill around DOE sites might benefit from experimental treatment being offered ill gulf war veterans, many of whom share similar symptoms.

By tapping into an existing system, costs for medical care would be lower, too.

"This would be a calculable figure," Frumkin says.

- **Expand a federal doctor-sharing program.** Another existing, though little-used, avenue of medical care might be broadened to help the ill. This one is a joint program between the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry. The association is a network of mostly university-based doctors specializing in toxic exposure; the agency tracks health issues around toxic waste sites, including DOE sites.

Under this 21-month-old program, association specialists are paired with doctors of people living near environmental hazards.

"The purpose of this entire project is to deal with communities' health concerns," says Dr. Pamela Tucker, senior medical officer with the disease registry's division of health education and promotion.

The doctors try to determine potential toxic exposures: Did the patient work with chemicals? Eat fish from a contaminated creek?

Live down wind from releases? Then, the doctors do a physical examination, looking for signs of toxic exposure and discussing how specific poisons can target different parts of the body.

The specialists log unusual cases into a database, which can be used to track trends. The program is free to the ill and can be initiated with a request from citizens of the community.

The program would have to be expanded, though, to help the hundreds of ill around DOE sites. It currently employs just over a dozen people.

- **Open community environmental health clinics.** One Oak Ridge advocate for the ill has met with O'Toole in Washington, talked to Frumkin in Atlanta, and wants to learn more about the disease registry's doctor-sharing program. Each idea has merit, says nurse Sandra Reid, who heads the nonprofit Environmental Health Liaison.

But more is needed, she believes.

Reid and a handful of others at sites across the nation want specialized environmental health clinics opened in their neighborhoods to give medical care, track trends in the illnesses, and research an area of medicine that is in its infancy.

"We want to bring together experts who are scientifically credible and advocates for the people to try to evaluate what can be done," says Reid, whose husband, William, is a physician to some of the ill in Oak Ridge. "We want to bring people together at all of these sites."

Reid has enlisted experts in immunology, radiation biology and other medical

specialties to work on a formal proposal they hope will win grant money from government and private institutions. The plan calls for a pilot project to start by surveying the ill to define the health problems they're experiencing. It would eventually establish a full-scale clinic with the goal of developing new treatments.

"Some of what might be done for people will be experimental," Reid says. "People would have to realize that. We can't waste any more time trying to figure out where all this illness came from. These people are getting more and more sick."

By Susan Thomas, Laura Frank and Robert Sherborne, The Nashville Tennessean

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BRIAN AURICCHIO, 07, ASTHMA, CONCENTRATION LOSS, FRUSTRATION SHOWN IN BEHAVIOR, IN SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES

CATHY AURICCHIO, 37, FIBROIDS IN UTERINE (CONSIDERING HYSTERECTOMY), ALLERGIES, MEMORY LOSS

JOE AURICCHIO, 42, INTESTINAL DISORDER, POLYPS REMOVED, ALLERGIES, MEMORY LOSS, SLEEP DISORDER

BARBARA OSARCZUK, 53, THYROID DISORDER, NINE BENIGN TUMORS REMOVED, BREAST CANCER, MASTECTOMY, RED SKIN

KATHY POLLIZATTO, 56, BREATHING DIFFICULTIES, BREAST CANCER, CONGESTIVE HEART DISORDER, DEGENERATIVE BONE DISEASE

LAUREN SNELL, 06, ASTHMA. RARE SOFT-TISSUE CANCER CALLED THABDOMYOSARCOMA, LEARNING DISABILITIES

JOAN WEISNER, 46, ASTHMA, SEVERE ALLERGIES, REPEATED BRONCHITIS, REPEATED PNEUMONIA, MEMORY LOSS, FATIGUE, REPEATED BLADDER INFECTIONS, NO SENSE OF TASTE OR SMELL

JOHNATHAN WEISNER, 12, ASTHMA, CONCENTRATION LOSS, LEARNING DISABLED, REPEATED EAR INFECTIONS AND STREP THROAT, SEVERE UNEXPLAINED COUGHING MADE HIM MISS 3 MONTHS OF SCHOOL LAST YEAR

LIAM WEISNER, 14, ASTHMA, SEVERE MIGRAINE HEADACHES, CONCENTRATION LOSS, REPEATED EAR INFECTIONS, STREP THROAT, PNEUMONIA, LEARNING DISABLED.

FEED MATERIALS PRODUCTION CENTER

FERNALD, OHIO

KITTY OETERS, 37, HEADACHES, DIZZINESS, OPEN SORES ON LEGS FOR NO REASON

TERESA PATRICK, 35, CHRONIC REPRODUCTIVE DISORDERS, HAS HAS SEVERAL MISCARRIAGES, HAS HAD CHILD WITH SEVERE GENETIC DEFECTS WHO DIED

DANIELLE PHELPS, 16, PREMATURE LUNGS, UPPER RESPIRATORY DISORDER, CEREBRAL PALSY, LEGALLY BLIND, BOWEL DISORDER, WHEELCHAIR-BOUND

RONALD PHELPS, 13, SEVERE SPEECH PROBLEMS, ALMOST TOTAL HEARING LOSS

TERESA PHELPS, 34, NONE OF 3 CHILDREN FULL-TERM, FEMALE PROBLEMS, REPEATED CYSTS ON FACE AND EAR THAT MUST BE REMOVED

VANESSA PHELPS, 18, FEMALE ORGANS DISORDER, HEAVY CYCLES

RUTH SELLET, 61, IMMUNE DISORDER, DIABETES, LEFT LEG AMPUTATED, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, HEART PROBLEMS, IMMUNE DISORDER, DIABETES, HEART PROBLEM, SEVERE WEIGHT LOSS, UNEXPLAINED COUGH LEADS TO VOMITING

MOUND PLANT

MIAMISBURG, OHIO

DANIELLE GORE, 19, A "HOT SPOT" ON HER LEG THAT BURNS, CYSTS ON OVARIES, ULCERS, COLON DISORDER

SYNDIA NORVELL, 53, LUNG DISORDER, SHALLOW BREATHING AND PAIN, STOMACH DISORDER FOR YEARS, POOR CIRCULATION, 3-BYPASS HEART SURGERY 1997, ACID REFLUX DISORDER

SHARON SIZEMORE, 42, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, UNEXPLAINED KIDNEY DISORDER WITH AT LEAST FOUR ATTACKS OF BLOOD IN URINE

KITTY SNOWDEN, 43, CHRONIC SORE THROATS, IMMUNE SYSTEM PROBLEMS, HEADACHES, REPEATED RASHES, SEVERE JOINT AND MUSCLE PAIN, HAIR LOSS, CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME, RASHES

DIANA TRAGESSER, 42, ASTHMA, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, MANY DIFFERENT RASHES, EPPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS, FIBROMALGIA, FEMALE PROBLEMS, TWO BENIGN BREAST TUMORS, MIGRAINE HEADACHES, ARTHRITIS, PARTIAL HYSTERECTOMY IN 1991

SANDRA WOODWARD, 50, ASTHMA, A "HOT SPOT" ON HER ARMS THAT BURNS, SUSPECTS PLUTONIUM AS CAUSE, THYROID DISORDER, MIGRAINE HEADACHES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, EPPSTEIN-BAR VIRUS, THREE TYPES ARTHRITIS

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

LOS ALAMOS, N.M.

AMANDA ARCHULETA, 10, SEVERE ALLERGIES, BORN WITH SEVERE CLEFT PALATE BIRTH DEFECT, HAS HAD 12 TO 14 CORRECTIVE SURGERIES, A TOTAL RECONSCTRUCTIVE OPERATION IS SCHEDULED AT AGE 18

AMBROSIO ARCHULETA, 05, ALLERGIES, BORN WITH CLEFT PALATE BIRTH DEFECT, IS PREPARING FOR SURGERY

VICTORIA ATENCIO, 12, ALLERGIES, DIZZINESS, SLEEP APNENA, HEADACHES, ARTHRITIS ESPECIALLY IN HANDS

JAMIE BARONE, SEIZURES, RASHES THAT PEEL SKIN OFF HANDS, ANXIETY, MIGRAINE HEADACHES, DRY COUGHS, WHEEZING

JON BARONE, ASTHMA, HEADACHES, NOSEBLEEDS, JOINT AND MUSCLE PAIN, RECURRENT STREP INFECTIONS

JOSHUA BARONE, A DISORDER CALLED "AVASCULAR NEUCROSIS" WHICH LIMITS BLOOD FLOW TO THE HIP AND LEG BONES, CHRONIC PAIN, ASTHMA, JUVENILE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

MORIAHA BARONE, ASTHMA, ABNORMALLY LARGE TONSILS

TRACY LYNNE BARONE, ABNORMALLY LARGE TONSILS, CONCENTRATION LOSS

JEANNIE COSADOS, 46, TWO BENIGN BREAST TUMORS, HEADACHES, RESPIRATORY

RODNEY E. COSADOS, 08, SEVERE ASTHMA, NOSEBLEEDS, HEADACHES

RODNEY P. COSADOS, 31, ASTHMA, SEVERE ALLERGIES, SEVERE AND OFTEN NOSEBLEEDS, HEADACHES, JOINT PAIN

KAREN FRED, 37, CONSTANT, REPETITIVE HEADACHES, JOINT AND MUSCLE PAIN ESPECIALLY IN ARMS, LUNG DISORDER WHICH CAUSES HEAVY COUGHING BOUTS

ANDREW HERRERA, 13, ASTHMA, HIVES AND/OR RASHES

LAWRENCE HERRERA, 18, ASTHMA, HEADACHES, UNSUAL WATERY EYES

DELORES LUJAN, 53, CHRONIC INSOMNIA, REOCCURRING THROAT CANCER

JASON LUJAN, 28, SEVERE ALLERGIES, UNEXPLAINED HEART ATTACK AT AGE 23

PONCE LUJAN, 34, ASTHMA, CHRONIC COUGHING, DRY NOSE, RASHES, HIVES

STEVE LUJAN, 64, BAD ALLERGIES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, PROSTATE DISORDER, 2 BACK SURGERIES, JOINT PAIN

BERNIE MARTINEZ, 72, LUNG DISEASE, SURGERY TO REMOVE NON-MALIGNANT MASS FROM LUNG, ARTHRITIS, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

FRED MARTINEZ, 23, CHRONIC ALLERGIES, DIZZY SPELLS, BLACKOUTS THAT COME WITHOUT WARNING AND LAST UP TO A MINUTE

JEFF MARTINEZ, 40, LUMP-LIKE TUMORS ON INSIDE LEFT ELBOW AND RIGHT INDEX FINGER, ASTHMA, ALLEGIES, HEADACHES, EAR INFECTIONS, NOSEBLEEDS

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

HEALTH

Scores living, working near nuke plants report illnesses

▶ The Mound in Miamisburg was one of the sites in a newspaper's unscientific study.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Hundreds of people living near or working at federal nuclear weapons plants and research facilities in 11 states, including Ohio, are suffering an array of unexplained illnesses, *The* (Nashville) *Tennessean* reported Tuesday.

The newspaper interviewed 410 people whose ailments include tremors, memory loss, fatigue and a variety of breathing, muscular and reproductive problems. The newspaper conceded that the study was not scientific.

No direct link between the illnesses and the nuclear sites has been established, but the sick people want the federal government to conduct a comprehensive study to try to find the cause, the story said.

"It's like the devil has been let loose in my body," said Freddie Fulmer, 41, a former worker at the Department of Energy's Savannah River nuclear site near Aiken, S.C., who suffers from a degenerative joint and spine disease, kidney ailments and a rare disorder that causes his immune system to attack his organs.

The Mound nuclear weapons plant was one of 13 sites included in *The Tennessean's* study. However, the study focused on six primary weapons sites that did not include the 306-acre site about 10 miles south of Dayton. In a story on secondary sites, the paper included an interview with a Miamisburg woman who said she believes her health problems may be related to the plant. The woman said she has migraine headaches, thyroid problems, high blood pressure, three types of arthritis and chronic fatigue.

In explaining its story, the newspaper said the reporters were acting as journalists, not as scientists.

A federal health study by the Atlanta-based Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, released earlier this year, found the Mound plant, which was built in 1949 and produced triggers for nuclear weapons, poses no apparent health hazard to nearby residents.

Last year, *The Tennessean* found scores of people suffering various ailments around the Oak Ridge nuclear complex in East Tennessee. U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., asked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate and the agency has begun conducting studies.

DOE NEWS

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Bulk Tritium Leaves the Mound Site

Today, the Department of Energy announced that a significant milestone will soon be reached at its Mound facility in Miamisburg, Ohio. All the accountable bulk tritium at the site will be gone. Mound, built in the 1940's to produce components for nuclear weapons using radioactive tritium, is one of the sites being cleaned up by DOE in the aftermath of the Cold War. Although a small amount of tritium remains in facilities and process equipment, by removing the bulk tritium, a potential environmental risk has been reduced. Removal of the bulk tritium is instrumental to the completion of the cleanup of the site.

The final shipment of bulk tritium brings to an end a 32-month project. The successful completion of this project is the result of coordinated efforts of employees of DOE and its contractor, Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio, and employees at the DOE Savannah River site in South Carolina where the tritium will be shipped.

The Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson, was delighted by the accomplishment and sent his congratulations. "This kind of progress shows how the Department is meeting its commitments for a cleaner environment."

In her remarks at an event to celebrate the completion of this project, Leah Dever, Manager of the DOE Ohio Field Office, stated that by shipping this tritium off the site "We have reduced a risk to the community and it was a job well done. It clears the way so we can dismantle and decontaminate facilities so they can be used for peaceful purposes." As buildings are cleaned they will be transitioned to the Miamisburg community through the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation for economic development.

Sandy Baker, President of BWO, said "This is indeed a significant milestone. We have successfully and safely completed a project that was on the critical path to overall site clean-up and restoration. BWO applauds the efforts of its highly dedicated team of employees who contributed to this important achievement."

-DOE-

Tritium Gas Shipment Milestone Accomplished

The week of September 28, 1998 will mark the final shipment of the accountable tritium gas from Mound to Savannah River. This brought to an end a 32-month project to ship gaseous tritium offsite as a metal hydride in a container known as a Hydride Transport Vessel (HTV).

The HTV technology uses uranium metal which reacts with hydrogen isotopes to form a solid compound uranium hydride or UH_3. When the hydrogen isotope is tritium, uranium tritide, or UT_3, is created. As a metal hydride the gas could be shipped safely as a low volume solid at a low pressure. Through the life of the project over 10,000 standard liters (approximately 350 cubic feet) of hydrogen containing high concentrations of tritium was shipped from Mound to Savannah River in South Carolina in 199 HTVs.

HTV loading operations began at Mound in February 1996 with a single unit being loaded over a two-day period. Process improvements developed during the project increased the loading rate by as much as a factor of three. Additional improvements increased the quantity of gas loaded on each HTV which significantly reduced the number of HTVs to be loaded and shipped to remove the tritium bulk gas from Mound. The impact of these developments is shown by the fact that nearly one-fifth of the HTVs loaded were shipped in the final three months of the project.

The successful completion of this project was the result of a coordinated effort of the contractor and DOE staffs at the Mound and Savannah River plants. The Tritium Disposition Group was responsible for this milestone effort which included technicians, engineers, and scientists from the HTV Loading and Packaging teams, as well as, Analytical and Radiological Control teams.

Illnesses at nuclear sites under review

The Associated Press

DENVER — U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson says he will investigate reports of health problems among people living near or working at federal nuclear weapons plants and research centers in Ohio and 10 other states.

About 410 people told The Tennessean, a newspaper in Nashville, Tenn., that they are suffering from unexplained illnesses including tremors, memory loss, fatigue and a variety of breathing, muscular and reproductive problems. Their doctors cannot explain why they are sick.

No direct link has been established between the illnesses and the Department of Energy sites. But doctors, scientists and lawmakers say it's large enough to warrant a comprehensive study to try to find the cause.

"I'm going to follow this," Richardson told the newspaper after a private meeting Friday with residents near the Rocky Flats nuclear site in Denver. "My view is we ought to get to the bottom of this. I want to be absolutely sure we're erring on the side of making sure there are no problems."

Scientists have been concerned for decades about radiation from nuclear production and its link to cancer. But no one has ever looked into noncancerous illnesses.

During a 22-month investigation, the newspaper found ill people at 13 DOE sites in Ohio, Tennessee, Colorado, South Carolina, New Mexico, Idaho, New York, California, Kentucky, Texas and Washington.

Richardson provided meeting participants and reporters with copies of a letter sent Thursday to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, saying he looks forward to working with her "to craft public health agendas that are responsive to the concerns of residents near DOE sites."

A Shalala spokeswoman said she hadn't received the letter.

Supply lines spread to Ohio, and so did sicknesses

BY SUSAN THOMAS, LAURA FRANK and ROBERT SHERBORNE
The Nashville Tennessean

After the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb in 1949, American leaders wanted to ensure they had bigger and better weapons from a supply line that could not be easily interrupted.

So they set about creating a network of new weapons plants to duplicate the operations of earlier sites, and upgraded some others.

Though generally smaller in size, these secondary U.S. Department of Energy sites handled many of the same poisons as their larger and more familiar counterparts, leaving behind a legacy of the most hazardous wastes known to man.

The *Tennessean* found sick people — dozens of them, altogether — around seven of these secondary sites, where physicians also say they cannot explain the baffling array of illnesses.

Here are two from Ohio:

Fernald

"I did smoke cigarettes, but my doctor said cigarettes didn't have anything to do with what has happened to me," said Ruth Sellet, 61, whose health problems include the inability to breathe deeply, coughing spasms which often end in vomiting, severe weight loss, heart problems and diabetes which led to the amputation of her left leg.

"Of course, I really can't say for sure that everything that has happened to me is because of the plant. I can't prove that. But when all of a sudden these DOE people come to the door and tell you not to use water from your well anymore, you start wondering about everything."

Ms. Sellet grew up near the Fernald nuclear components plant, which from 1953 to 1989 converted uranium ore into uranium metal, shaped it into specific designs, and sent it to other weapons sites.

In 1988, as part of a class-action lawsuit filed by local residents, DOE acknowledged that over the years uranium had leaked from the plant in these quantities: 100 tons of uranium dust had floated into the air and more than 70 tons had been dumped into a local river. Local groundwater was found to be contaminated with uranium, along with numerous other weapons production byproducts.

DOE settled the class-action suit in 1989, paying Fernald residents $78 million. Ms. Sellet's family received $7,000. DOE also later installed a public water system in the area.

Miamisburg

"I started getting severe migraine headaches when I was only in the 10th grade," said Sandra Woodward, 50, a Miamisburg native who could see the Mound nuclear plant from her yard. "Since then, my health has gradually gone down over the years.

"I've got thyroid problems, high blood pressure, three different types of arthritis, and the Epstein-Barr virus (which has been linked to chronic fatigue). After awhile, you get to the point you have to wonder why everything like this is happening to your body."

Beginning in 1948, the Mound plant produced nuclear and non-nuclear components for weapons, including devices that detonate atomic bombs. In 1969, the plant began recycling tritium, a hydrogen bomb fuel, from dismantled nuclear weapons, work it continues today.

Evidence that tritium and radioactive plutonium, another bomb fuel, escaped the plant has been discovered in air, water and soil sampling. Traces of tritium were found in the Miamisburg Community Park swimming pool in 1992. This year, DOE completed a $43 million project to remove plutonium from the park soil.

"I am sure living near the plant has had an impact on my health," Ms. Woodward added, "because beyond my own problems, everybody I know is either sick or already dead."

Fernald plant brought danger close to home

BY BEN L. KAUFMAN and TIM BONFIELD
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Fourteen years ago, managers of the Fernald uranium processing plant in northwest Hamilton County lowered their veil of secrecy and began to reveal a history of unwarranted radioactive releases.

Radiation had wafted over nearby homes and fields for decades; pollutants had percolated through the soil into ground water from which neighbors drew drinking water; contaminants had washed off the 1,050-acre site into a nearby creek that emptied into the Great Miami River.

The most significant health risk, however, was caused by radon gas leaking from the plant's waste storage silos.

Studies sponsored by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), released this year and last, concluded that about 85 people have died or are expected to die from lung cancer because they lived near the plant for long periods of time.

Blame for the pollution has been heaped on NLO Inc., which operated the Department of Energy facility from 1952 to 1985.

Led by attorney Stanley M. Chesley, neighbors within a 5-mile radius of the Department of Energy facility sued and won $78 million from taxpayers for emotional distress, lost property values and medical monitoring.


S. Chesley

That case cost taxpayers more than $15 million for lawyers for NLO Inc., which was reimbursed all of its costs by DOE.

Few workers or neighbors have shown their illnesses were caused by those radioactive and chemical releases, but the settlement allows long-term health studies to establish whether contamination from Fernald may have sickened anyone.

Mr. Chesley later won $20 million for workers and former employees at Fernald.

Taxpayers also covered those damages and NLO attorneys fees.

Production ended at Fernald in 1989.

In 1992, Fluor Daniel won the contract to clean up the site, which is expected to take about 10 more years.

So far, considerable progress has been made on projects to treat ground water, demolish old buildings, and haul away thousands of barrels of low-level radioactive waste.

However, efforts to deal with the most dangerous waste — the radon-emitting sludge in the K-65 silos — have been plagued with cost overruns, failures and scandal.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MIAMISBURG

Mound may lose link to Energy Department

▶ The move would allow the DOE to vacate the Miamisburg site.

By Timothy R. Gaffney
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Dayton may greet the 100th anniversary of powered flight by losing a key part of the space program it pioneered in the 1960s: nuclear generators and heaters for deep space probes.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced Friday in the *Federal Register* its intent to relocate the work from the Mound Plant in Miamisburg. This would remove the last remaining DOE mission, allowing the agency to vacate the site by February 2003.

The year 2003 will mark one century since Daytonians Orville and Wilbur Wright made the world's first powered flight.

DOE is considering moving the work to one of five sites in Idaho, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. It plans to hold a public hearing at each site, including at Mound, in November.

Removing the last work involving radioactive isotopes from the site would strike a blow to commercial redevelopment efforts, said Michael J. Grauwelman, director of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp.

"We believe the program really does fit and support where the region is going," Grauwelman said. Most of the businesses that have sprung up there have leveraged Mound expertise or equipment to start high-tech enterprises.

The work itself has involved about 40 highly skilled jobs, including engineers and scientists.

DOE and program managers at Mound could not be reached for comment Monday.

SEE MOUND/**8B**

MOUND: Last link to DOE may leave

CONTINUED FROM 5B

Grauwelman said he isn't bothered by the program's use of plutonium-238, a radioactive isotope that is not used in weapons but is extremely toxic. It's already encased in metal capsules when it arrives on the site, he said, and the two buildings that house the operations are separate from commercial activities.

The Mound operation assembles devices called RTGs and heat sources. RTGs — short for Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators — have powered every space probe to the outer planets beyond Mars. The plutonium gives off heat, and RTGs convert the heat into electricity. Heat sources use plutonium heat to keep delicate spacecraft equipment from freezing in the cold of space.

While RTGs made it possible for NASA to send space probes to Jupiter, Saturn and beyond Pluto, they have also caused controversy. About 500 people protested the space agency's most recent launch of an RTG-powered probe, the Cassini spacecraft launched toward Saturn in 1997, because it carries about 72 pounds of plutonium.

Cassini's two RTGs have been feeding it electrical power steadily and should continue to work long after the spacecraft loops into orbit around Saturn in 2004.

Ironically, the facility that made the RTGs may not last so long.

Mound plant may lose link to space program

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — The U.S. Department of Energy is thinking of moving the production of nuclear generators for space probes from the former Mound nuclear weapons plant, a move that would eliminate 40 jobs and end DOE's presence at the 50-year-old site.

According to a notice in the Federal Register, the department may move the work to one of five other DOE sites: Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Pantex near Amarillo, Texas; Hanford near Richland, Wash.; the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas; or the Idaho National Engineering lab near Idaho Falls.

"The primary reason is the rest of the Mound site is being phased out," Earl Wahlquist, the department's associate director for space power systems, said Tuesday. "But the final decision has not been made."

The department has ended weapons production at Mound, a 306-acre site that is being converted into a business park.

The Mound operation assembles devices called RTGs and heat sources. RTGs — short for Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators — have powered every space probe to the outer planets beyond Mars.

Radioactive plutonium gives off heat, and RTGs convert the heat into electricity. Plutonium-generated heat also keeps delicate spacecraft equipment from freezing in the cold of space.

Wahlquist said the work could be moved to a site with a larger safety and technical infrastructure. He said it would involve modifying existing buildings and installing new equipment, but not building new facilities.

But any attempt to transfer the work might meet resistance from Rep. Tony Hall, an Ohio Democrat whose congressional district includes Mound. Hall opposed a bid by the department to move the work to Washington state in 1990, and the transfer never happened.

"He will oppose the move if it does not make sound economic and environmental sense," said Michael Gessel, Hall's press secretary.

Gessel said Mound has had the RTG program since the early 1960s.

"There is a core of dedicated experts who would be difficult to replace, and the facilities are there," he said. "There are sound reasons from the perspective of the program to keep the work there."

Wahlquist said the department might try to encourage some of the Mound workers to follow the work to a new site.

Michael Grauwelman, director of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., said he would like to see the RTG work stay at Mound, but be turned over to a private company.

"The technology capabilities that reside within that program we believe enhance the region's overall efforts in that area," said Grauwelman. "We think that's an opportunity."

Wahlquist said that while keeping the work at Mound was a possibility, turning it over to a private company was unlikely.

Springboro resident to manage Mound facility

For The Journal

MIAMISBURG — Peyton Sanford "Sandy" Baker of Springboro has been appointed president of Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio Inc. and will manage the U.S. Department of Energy's Mound facility in Miamisburg.

The announcement was made by E. Allen Womack Jr., president of BWX Technologies Inc.

Baker has been managing director, Babcock & Wilcox Egypt, in Cairo, where he was responsible for operations of a B&W joint venture corporation involving 23 international partners and more than 1,100 employees in the production of major utility power stations. In this capacity, he directed factory operations, technology transfer, government and labor relations and was a member of the board of directors.

From 1990 to 1994, Baker was general manager of the Babcock & Wilcox ERI Division in Indianapolis, with responsibilities for a $25 million manufacturing facility that was the single supplier of missile warheads and advanced capability warheads for the missile and ordnance industry.

For the previous 16 years, Baker held various management responsibilities for the company's Naval Nuclear Fuel Division in Lynchburg, including manager of the division's quality program for component fabrication.

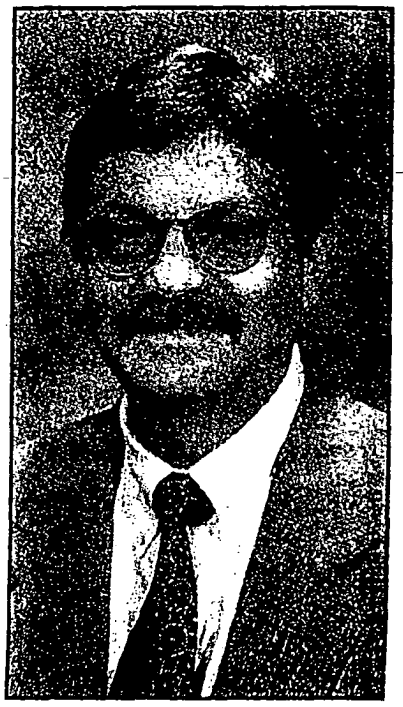
The former Babcock & Wilcox Government group, now BWX Technologies Inc., was awarded the Department of Energy contract for Mound in 1997 to manage the environmental remediation and site transition project.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

October 7, 1998

Sandy Baker to head Mound site clean up for Babcock & Wilcox

Baker appointed president



Sandy Baker

Peyton Sanford (Sandy) Baker has been appointed president of Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio Inc. and will manage the U.S. Department of Energy's Mound facility in Miamisburg. The announcement was made by Dr. E. Allen Womack Jr., president of BWX Technologies Inc.

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For the previous 16 years, Baker held various management responsibilities for the company's Naval Nuclear Fuel Division in Lynchburg, Va., including manager of the division's quality program for component fabrication.

In announcing the appointment, Dr. Womack said "Sandy Baker brings to Mound a down-to-earth management style and leadership qualities which will successfully complete our mission at Mound. I am very confident of his ability to get the job done."

Commenting on his appointment, Baker said "I am very excited about the opportunity to work with such an excellent team on such an important program for the Department of Energy and the community of Miamisburg. I look forward to participating in the successful completion of this most worthwhile environmental restoration project."

The former Babcock & Wilcox Government group, now BWX Technologies Inc., was awarded the DOE contract for Mound in 1997 to manage the environmental remediation and site transition project.

BWX Technologies Inc. is a major operating unit of McDermott International Inc., a leading worldwide energy services company. The company and its subsidiaries manufacture steam-generating equipment, environmental equipment and products for the U.S. government. They also provide engineering and construction services for industrial, utility and hydrocarbon processing facilities and to the offshore oil and natural gas industry.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

October 7, 1998

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The Action Memorandum for PRS 304 is available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio. Public comment on this document will be accepted October 1, 1998 through October 31, 1998.

Potential Release Site 304:
Excavated Materials Disposal Area
Rader's Hill

Questions can be referred to Paul Lucas at (937) 865-4578.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

October 14, 1998

DOE may move RTGs from Mound

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

The U.S. Department of Energy wants to move the Heat Source/Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (HS/RTG) program away from the Mound site and the city of Miamisburg plans to fight to keep the program at the site.

The DOE announced in the Federal Register last week, its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact

(Continued on Page 16)

RTGs ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Statement (EIS) for the proposed transfer of the HS/RTG operations from the Mound site. The HS/RTG is used in the space program as the power source for deep space probes. The EIS is required by the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposed action is to transfer the operations to one of five alternative sites. Being considered are the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, Tenn., the Pantex Plant, 17 miles east of Amarillo, Tex.; the Hanford Site, north of Richland, Washington; the Nevada Test Site (NTS), 60 miles northwest of Las Vegas and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), 50 miles west of Idaho Falls, Idaho. In addition, the "No Action" alternative is to leave the operations at the Mound site.

Public meetings will be held in the vicinity of all the sites in November, including Mound. The date, time and locations will be announced through the local media as soon as determined but at least 15 days prior to the date of the meetings.

"We certainly intend to fight to keep the program at the Mound," said Mayor Dick Church Jr. "We have contacted our Congressional delegation for any help that they may be able to give us in keeping the RTG program here."

MAKEOVER

Unisys CEO motivates workers with simplicity

▶ Lawrence Weinbach uses a cheerleading style with employees at the computer services provider.

By Steve Farr
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLUE BELL, Pa. — If Unisys Corp.'s chief executive officer has learned one thing during his management career, it's this: Keep it simple.

Lawrence A. Weinbach, hired a year ago to guide the former mainframe computer maker as it transformed into a computer services provider, avoids grand mission statements.

"Most employees don't know what they are," he said.

Instead, he has inspired his sophisticated work force by repeating a mantra a child could understand, one that stresses the importance of the company's reputation, customers and employees.

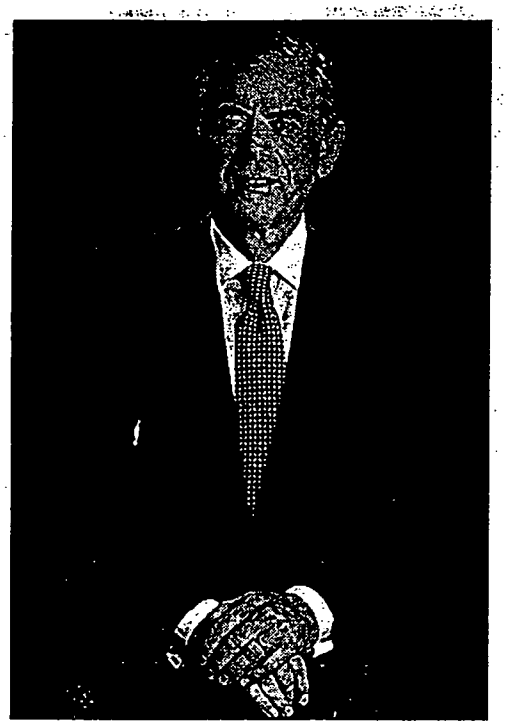
"If one of the legs is broken, you can't sit on the stool," Weinbach said at company headquarters in a Philadelphia suburb, a tiny gold stool pinned to his lapel.

His cheerleading style seems to work. Unisys, which was just showing signs of consciousness before Weinbach arrived as chairman, president and CEO in September 1997, appears to have shaken off its stupor.

Revenue is up 8 percent since January and is expected to top $7 billion this year. First Call Corp., which surveys industry analysts, predicts profits of $1.02 a share, more than double last year's.

This fall, nearly two years ahead of Weinbach's schedule, Unisys will have paid off $1 billion of debt. The company soon plans to launch a $30 million advertising campaign touting its expertise in services, including the setup and maintenance of computer networks.

To complete the makeover, Unisys job recruiters began returning to college campuses for the first time in years.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unisys Corp. Chief Executive Lawrence Weinbach, shown in this undated photo, is credited with helping the company's revenue jump 8 percent since January 1998.

"I want credibility in the marketplace," Weinbach said. "I want to take a reputation that had some tarnish and get rid of the tarnish."

That reputation nose-dived during a decade of layoffs that trimmed the company's work force by two-thirds, to 31,000, following its formation in the 1986 merger of Sperry Corp. and Burroughs Corp.

Unisys initially tried to challenge International Business Machines Corp. in sales of mainframe machines, which perform heavy-duty tasks such as processing huge numbers of transactions or tracking inventories.

But Unisys then-CEO W. Michael Blumenthal, a former Treasury secretary, failed to meld Sperry's and Burroughs' incompatible technologies, missed the boom in personal computers and ran up $2.3 billion in debt.

James A. Unruh, who replaced Blumenthal after Unisys lost $639 million in 1989, cut spending and staff and returned the company to profitability. But his understated management style didn't please large shareholders, who wanted growth.

Enter Weinbach, 57, who had just quit as chief executive of consulting giant Andersen Worldwide. Under his direction, that company's revenue more than quadrupled to $11 billion in 1997 alone.

But after 36 years at Andersen, Weinbach wasn't looking forward to retiring at the firm's mandatory age of 62 and wanted to launch a second career while he still could. With its highly trained work force and small-but-loyal customer base, Unisys seemed ripe for a turnaround.

Weinbach said one thing held it back: rock-bottom morale.

"People didn't look you in the eye. They didn't smile," he said. "During the downsizing, there was a belief that if you keep your head down you won't lose your job."

So Weinbach went on the road, visiting 12,000 workers and delivering a message: "You're going to have to believe in the company. You're going to have to believe in yourself."

Last Christmas, employees presented Weinbach with a red sweatshirt that said, "We Believe." He also got a half dozen three-legged stools.

"What it said was, the message is getting through," Weinbach said.

The move into services, initiated by Unruh, picked up speed.

"The service business is a people business," Weinbach said, and to keep workers happy, he reinstituted matching contributions for employees' 401(k) plan, gave them a discount on company stock and created new training programs.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MIAMISBURG

Mound receives $1 million grant

▶ Funds from the Commerce Department will go for road, sewer and other improvements.

By Angela Townsend
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Miamisburg's Mound site has received another boost in its redevelopment with a $1 million federal grant from the U.S. Commerce Department.

Rep. Tony Hall and Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church on Saturday announced the funding will pay for road, sewer, lighting and other improvements. The money is from a federal program created to help local communities hurt by defense cutbacks.

In 1991 the U.S. Department of Energy ended the Mound's nuclear weapons work at a time when 2,200 were employed there. Hall recalled the community impact.

"It looked like a disaster," he said. "When you close (installations), it's sometimes like a ghost town."

Today the federal Energy Department and its contractor employ 860 people in an environmental cleanup and other activities. The conversion, overseen by the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., has created 28 private companies employing about 270 people. That number could go up to more than 2,000 employed by the year 2010, Church said.

The Mound is one of three former nuclear installations nationwide on an accelerated cleanup, Church said. "We can't bring more businesses in until the cleanup is complete," he added.

Earlier this month the Mound removed the last of radioactive tritium, a key element in hydrogen bombs, from the site.

The federal grant is expected to be matched with other state, county and local funds.

▶**CONTACT** Angela Townsend at 225-2384 or e-mail her at angela_townsend@coxohio.com

U.S. Department of Energy
Public Scoping Meeting

The Department of Energy has announced its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Transfer of the Heat Source/Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator Assembly and Test Operations from the Mound Site to an alternate location.

DOE invites interested stakeholders to help identify the scope of issues and alternatives the environmental impact statement should address at a public meeting in Miamisburg on:

Monday, November 2, 1998
6:30 - 7:00 p.m. -- Open House
7:00 - 9:30 p.m. -- Public Meeting

Mound Site
Main Lobby, DOE Building
1 Mound Road, OS-East
Miamisburg, Ohio

For more information regarding this meeting call 1-800-931-9006.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

October 21, 1998

Mound wins $1 million for boundary project

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

A major piece of the puzzle of the commercialization of the Mound facility is now in place.

Last week, the U.S. Commerce Department approved a $1 million grant to help fund roadway and infrastructure improvements at the 300 acre Mound site in Miamisburg, literally paving the way to create thousands of jobs there. Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio) announced the grant approval at a special press conference Saturday morning at the Miamisburg Civic Center.

To win the competitive funds, Hall led a bipartisan effort in Congress that included Rep. Dave Hobson (R-Ohio) and Senators John Glenn (D-Ohio) and Mike DeWine (R-Ohio).

"Utility upgrades and improved road access to the businesses located at the site are necessary to develop it as a technology and industrial park," said Hall, who wrote the original Federal legislation in 1993 beginning the conversion process. "This grant is critical to continue the conversion of the former defense facility to commercial use."

"Once again, Tony Hall has been very helpful in helping our efforts at the Mound," said Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. "Over the last seven years, he has been instrumental in the successes we have had at the Mound.

"Congressman Hall and the Ohio Congressional delegation's support for this reuse effort has been most impressive," he said. "The community is fortunate to have these individuals as stewards of our interests."

The Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC), which is spearheading the redevelopment, estimates the site could support 2,023 jobs by the year 2010. The immediate effect of the grant will be to retain three businesses currently providing 145 jobs on the site and to expand that number to 330.

The money will be used for the construction of new roadways, roadway improvements,

(Continued on Page 15)

Mound ...

(Continued from Page 1)

storm sewers, sidewalks, a water main, sanitary sewer lines, parking lots and lighting.

The money will go to the MMCIC and the city of Miamisburg. The grant is from a federal program aimed at helping local communities hurt by defense cutbacks.

The federal grant is expected to be matched with $2.3 million from the state of Ohio, Montgomery County, the city of Miamisburg and the MMCIC.

"Two-thirds of the resources necessary to complete the Eastern Boundary Project are now committed with this announcement," said. Dr. Jim Van Tassel, vice chairman of the MMCIC.

In 1991, about 2,200 people were employed at the Mound Plant when the Department of Energy announced it would close the facility, which manufactured nuclear weapon parts. That represented a loss to the region of $91.6 million in annual earnings and a loss to the city of Miamisburg of $1.63 million in annual income tax revenues.

"The federal government has an obligation to help the community recover from the terrible blow created by the closing of the plant," said Hall. "We can't just walk away leaving an eyesore in the middle of the city."

Hall said that Miamisburg's effort to redevelop the site for commercial use is "one of the greatest success stories of all" primarily because of the efforts of city officials.

"It's been a pleasure to work with such forward-thinking, visionary people," said Hall. "These are some of the best people I've worked with in my career."

Church said that the Mound site now has about 270 people working at jobs in 28 businesses now located at the Mound.

"And as the Department of Energy, cleans up and releases more buildings to us, we'll be able to increase the jobs," he said. "We hope to have 3,000 employees there in the long term.

"We're pleased that the federal government is sticking by their commitment to help us accomplish it," he said.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

October 28, 1998

Msbg. will seek ED/GE grant for Mound site

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

Miamisburg will seek a $335,000 grant from the Montgomery County Economic Development/Government Equity (ED/GE) program for the Boundary Project at the Mound site.

The Miamisburg City Council authorized the grant application at its Oct. 20 meeting.

The $335,000 grant is another piece of the financial puzzle for the $6.7 million project. The city recently received a $1 million federal grant for the project. The Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation will seek $1 million from the state, will contribute $835,000 itself and the city will give $150,000. Those funds will be matched by the U.S.

(Continued on Page 12)

Burg council ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Department of Energy to bring the total up to $6.7 million.

In other business, the city presented an award to Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Brad Feik, recognizing his years of service. Feik is leaving his position with the city to take another position in upstate New York.

Parks Director Becky Benna said that Feik will be missed and listed his accomplishments including his work at handling the operations of the Sycamore Trails Aquatic Center and developing partnerships within the community such as his efforts in convincing the Miamisburg Assembly of God Church to let city programming go on at the church gym.

"I didn't realize how much I'm going to miss the city and the people," said Feik. "This is a great department that is doing great work for the people of the city.

"It has been a pleasure to work with you," he said.

Council also:

- Received the Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award given to the city by the Ohio Section of the American Water Works Association in recognition of the city's wellfield protection program.
- Met Babcock & Wilcox Manager Sandy Baker at the Mound facility.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MIAMISBURG



LISA POWELL/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Mayor Dick Church of Miamisburg is fighting to keep the manufacture of radioisotope thermoelectric generators in the city even after the Department of Energy pulls its operations out of the former Mound plant.

Mayor fights RTG move

Feds consider relocating another Mound project

By Julie Kemble Borths
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

In the midst of creating an industrial park of the future at the Mound Advance Technology Center in Miamisburg, the city is trying to hold onto an industry rooted in the past.

The development of radioisotope thermoelectric generators is the last of the U.S. Department of Energy's industries at the site, which once was the government's key facility for designing nuclear-weapon components and power systems. The powerful plutonium-238 devices are providing electrical power aboard a space probe to Saturn and have been used on other spacecraft.

On Oct. 2, the DOE announced it is considering relocating the RTG program from the 306-acre Mound by 2003. The DOE is considering sites in Idaho, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and Washington.

Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church wants his city to fight to keep RTG at the Mound, just as it has fought for the transfer of the site to the city in the last decade.

Today, he and U.S. Rep. Tony Hall, D-Dayton, will tour the RTG operation. Church said City Council is working through the U.S. Congress to "save the RTG program.

"Dayton is known as the home of flight," Church said. "I know the DOE will disappear from this community, but we feel the program could be privatized."

The federal government has been privatizing some of its operations and Church said this project would be a good candidate. He also suggested that employees of the program could take it over.

"It's an uphill fight, I know," Church said. "But the city would maintain that it's one option they (the DOE) should study. We owe it to the employees. We owe it to the city rather than throwing up our hands and saying, 'Oh, lost another one.' "

SEE MOUND/6

MOUND: Feds consider relocating another project

CONTINUED FROM 1

Church is part of the DOE Environmental Management Advisory Board and the former chairman of the Energy Communities Alliance, founded in 1992 by 18 cities affected by DOE sites.

The RTG program involves about 40 highly skilled employees, including scientists and engineers, who use plutonium-238, an extremely toxic radioactive material. After the substance arrives in capsules, the devices are created to convert plutonium's heat to electricity, powering things like the space probe. That heat also keeps equipment from freezing in space.

The project is contained to a few buildings at the Mound, "its own little island," according to Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp.

The nonprofit organization is marketing the 110 buildings at the site as they meet federal and state guidelines. The campus, now known as the Mound Advanced Technology Center, includes several businesses employing 270 people. The MMCIC is aiming for 2,000 employees in 80 businesses at the site by 2010.

The DOE and Babcock & Wilcox, its contractor since 1997, have about 700 employees to complete the environmental cleanup

The DOE and Babcock & Wilcox, its contractor since 1997, have about 700 employees to complete the environmental cleanup by 2003.

As an industrial park, the facility has assembled $3.35 million in grants to complete an infrastructure project on the boundary of the site. The most recent $350,000 from the Montgomery County Economic Development/Government Equity program was accepted Oct. 20 by the Miamisburg City Council.

The RTG program has a certain "prestige," Grauwelman said, with which to attract high-tech industries to the Mound.

"It could be a magnet to other businesses," Grauwelman said. "And since we are marketing from a technology perspective, people understand (the RTG process)."

That means Grauwelman's target audience knows the plutonium process causes little risk at the site.

"The confidence level is so high," Grauwelman said. "The chance of an industrial accident is almost nil."

When the Saturn probe was launched in 1997, protesters fought the use of nuclear material in space because of possible risks. The DOE also cites risk as a key reason for possibly moving the program, and in the Oct. 2 *Federal Register*, the department said a secure facility would be difficult to maintain in a public industrial park.

"Staying at Mound would require DOE to maintain a small facility handling nuclear materials in close proximity to the public," officials were quoted in the *Register*.

The DOE also expressed concern about a lack of a DOE resources at the site once the environmental cleanup is concluded.

Remaining at Mound "would require the DOE to maintain a presence at the site and the planned closure of the Mound Site in February 2003 would not take place."

While Church said, "Sure, plutonium scares a lot of people," he is confident about the safety of the program.

Miamisburg City Manager John Weithofer said because of perceptions about nuclear material, the city "is prepared to provide information" about how the process works,

Weithofer, chairman of both the Mound Reuse Committee and the board for the MMCIC, said the DOE "needs to do an honest evaluation" as it decides what to do with the program.

"They would have to spend money to move it, assuming that there would be ongoing missions," he said. "And a part of its costs would have to be the cost of decontamination."

Earl Wahlquist is the associate director for the space science power systems for the DOE. He said preparing the site for closure would be a factor in the department's decision but the cost would not be insurmountable.

"There has not been significant contamination there," and privatizing would be complicated by federal laws, which allows only the DOE to own nuclear materials, he said.

Wahlquist also said communities generally support programs such as RTG because it "does not involve loose material and carries the excitement of space (exploration) — a sense of involvement."

The RTG program is "safe and important to the nation," Grauwelman added. "There is a comfort level. . . that all comes down to education."

How to comment

▶ To comment on the RTG program through Nov. 30, call the U.S. Department of Energy at (800) 931-9006, or write to Timothy A. Frazier, U.S. DOE, P.O. Box 66, Miamisburg, 45343-0066, or at Internet address Tim.Frazier@EM.DOE.GOV.

A public meeting will be held at the Mound Advanced Technology Center Monday. The time is to be announced. The site is on Mound Road, south of downtown Miamisburg.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Wednesday, October 28, 1998

MOUND
Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The Action Memorandum for Building 43 is available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio. Public comment on this document will be accepted from October 28, 1998 through November 30, 1998.

Building 43: Devices Development

Questions can be referred to Paul Lucas at (937) 865-4578.

U.S. Department of Energy Public Scoping Meeting

The Department of Energy has announced its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Transfer of the Heat Source/Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator Assembly and Test Operations from the Mound site to an alternate location.

DOE invites interested stakeholders to help identify the scope of issues and alternatives the environmental impact statement should address at a public meeting in Miamisburg on:

Monday, November 2, 1998
6:30-7:00 p.m. -- Open House
7:00-9:30 p.m. -- Public Meeting

Mound Site
Main Lobby, DOE Building
1 Mound Road, OS-East
Miamisburg, Ohio

For more information regarding this meeting, call 1-800-931-9006.

Miamisburg News
Miamisburg, OH
(W = 7,000)

Wednesday, October 28, 1998

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

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Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MIAMISBURG

Keep work at Mound, employees tell feds

By Julie Kemble Borths
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Leave the job at the Mound.

That was the message about 40 participants delivered to federal officials Monday night at a meeting at the Miamisburg operation.

Department of Energy employees like Sid Wells, a senior development engineer, want to maintain the last of the federal government's projects at the plant.

"Because we can do the job," Wells said.

"The job" is making radioisotope thermoelectric generators that use plutonium-238 to provide electrical power aboard space probes. The program involves about 40 highly skilled employees, including scientists and engineers.

The Department of Energy announced on Oct. 2 that it is thinking of relocating the RTG program from the 306-acre Mound by 2003 — the year it intends to complete cleanup operations and leave the plant.

The DOE is considering Idaho, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and Washington sites. Monday's meeting was for the DOE to collect data for its environmental impact statement. DOE plans to decide by November 1999.

William D. Magwood IV, director of the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, said his office is committed to considering the Mound for the future of the project.

Mound employees: Don't move work

The Associated Press

MIAMISBURG — Employees at the former Mound nuclear weapons plant have urged the federal government not to move a space-related program away from the site.

The U.S. Department of Energy held a public meeting Monday night to gauge reaction to a proposal to transfer the production of radioistope thermoelectric generators to another DOE plant.

The generators use plutonium-238 to provide heat and electric power for probes on missions to deep space.

Sid Wells, a senior development engineer at Mound, said the work should stay where it is "because we can do the job."

The Energy Department announced Oct. 2 it is thinking of moving the program away from Mound by 2003, the year it intends to complete cleanup operations and leave the site. The agency is considering relocating the work to DOE sites in either Idaho, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and or Washington state.

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

MIAMISBURG

Mound workers tout safety record

▶ Employees met with federal officials last week regarding the future of the RTG program.

By Julie Kemble Borths
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

When Sid Wells watches the famous video clip of Neil Armstrong landing on the moon and sees him place the generator on the lunar surface, he is proud all over again.

"I built that," Wells said of the power source once used to send data to Earth.

Like his fellow workers at the Mound facility in Miamisburg, Wells takes a lot of pride in his work.

At a meeting with federal officials last week, several employees talked about the Mound's safety record, citing the lack of major environmental problems and the success of the power units — several generations past the 1969 version — they build.

With so much good news, about 40 Mound workers and Miamisburg residents wondered why the federal government would move the RTG program to another site.

The Department of Energy, which has spent the past decade reorganizing programs nationally as well as conducting its environmental cleanup at Mound, is reviewing the last of its operating projects at the 306-acre facility.

By next November, the DOE plans to recommend where the future RTG program will exist — at a site with other DOE operations or alongside the industrial park being developed as Mound is transformed from the military weapons installation it once was to a complex of private businesses.

The 15-year-old RTG program brings a sense of importance to the Mound, employees said.

The radioisotope thermoelectric generators, or RTGs, made there use a kind of plutonium to power space probes, which will eventually reach Pluto. NASA is counting on the devices for missions through 2009.

"This is the only place in the country where we do this," said Dan Kramer, an employee from Centerville. "The country would be at risk . . . of not going anyplace past Mars" if there was an interruption to the Mound program.

"Your greatest asset is the people," said Miamisburg resident Dennis McNeil. "If you leave here, you reduce your resources — the knowledge and expertise of employees who used to work here."

Before making its decision, the DOE will have similar discussions in Idaho, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. In addition, it will consider the cost of operating at each site, the socioeconomic and environmental impact of their decision, and other factors.

The voice of the Mound employees is why DOE Director William D. Magwood came to Miamisburg. He said he does not plan to attend the sessions at other sites being considered.

"We are interested in the long-term viability of the program, what's the best thing," Magwood said.

He said the DOE is committed to considering leaving the project at Mound, including an option to privatize the operation — a suggestion endorsed by the city.

By privatizing, Mayor Dick Church said the DOE will not need to maintain a presence at the site past its 2003 closure date. Instead, a firm would act as a contractor and continue the RTG program at Mound.

Magwood said privatization already works with isotope production for medical applications and for other nuclear projects.

"But it's not safety, it's security," that worries the DOE, he said. Although the plutonium is not weapon grade "we don't want someone walking off with it."

One participant suggested the estimated $36 million in moving costs could be invested at the Mound site if there are concerns about the future of the project.

Church said the DOE should "examine closely" why it is concerned now about security within an industrial park — the Mound Advanced Technology Center — when the park has existed for seven years. The park consists of several private businesses, which employ 270 people. Projections call for 2,000 employees and 80 businesses in the site's 110 buildings by 2010.

"We support the RTG operation at Mound. We support the outstanding employees that have made this program such a success," Church said. "We strongly encourage the department to leave the RTG program intact, right here at Mound where it belongs."

Church said the city wanted to support the RTG employees.

Timothy A. Frazier, DOE nuclear energy program manager for the Ohio Field Office, said "some number" of employees would be offered a transfer and the Mound program would continue until the new program is operating.

"No one thinks this will be an easy process," Frazier said, noting that the program "won't necessarily move."

The Nov. 2 meeting was part of the process the federal government is required to use when considering relocating a project. The DOE will complete an environmental impact statement considering input from each community under consideration.

At the meeting, Frazier said the DOE is considering the move now because of possible problems in operating a secure facility within the industrial park being developed at Mound; the lack of DOE resources once the federal government has closed the rest of the site; and possible difficulties in maintaining "a small facility handling nuclear materials in close proximity to the public."

Above all, Frazier said, the process will end several years of second-guessing the future of the RTG program. Questions have centered on the economic feasibility of leaving a DOE operation at Mound when there is no longer any other reason for DOE to be at the facility.

Frazier said the proposal to keep the project at the Mound was competitive.

"This will be an end, once and for all, to (the question) does it stay or does it go," he said.

A Newspaper Invents a Nuclear Health Scare

By Michael Fumento

The scare began with a front-page article in the Nashville Tennessean early last year about "mysterious illnesses" near the weapons-grade uranium processing facility at the Oak Ridge Reservation in western Tennessee. It has since become international news, will soon be a TV movie directed by Cher, and now includes every major Department of Energy nuclear site. At the least the scare will probably cost millions of dollars in wasted scientific studies. It could set off witch hunts as devastating as those that clobbered the nuclear power and silicone breast implant industries, with billions of dollars in lawsuits and millions of traumatized people. It could even threaten America's nuclear deterrent.

The first article, "Toxic Burn: Fear and Fire in Oak Ridge," ran in February 1997. It claimed the facility's incinerator had caused area residents to fall ill. A panel appointed by the governor refuted the assertion. But the Tennessean has since published more than 100 articles on the subject, blaming anything and everything. Its suspect list includes at least seven radioactive materials, three different solvents, four different metals, and even common liquids like gasoline, propane and kerosene.

'Unexplained Disorders'

The newspaper also expanded its investigation to *all* the nation's Energy Department weapons plants. This Sept. 29, it published an astounding 20-article blitz in which it claimed not only that "preliminary scientific research" shows "the rate of illness" around Oak Ridge to be "disturbingly high," but that "Tennessean reporters interviewed people at 12 other [defense-related] nuclear sites in this country and have found similar patterns of unexplained illnesses." It boasted, "Reporters Susan Thomas and Laura Frank interviewed . . . 410 individuals in 11 states, documenting the same pattern of unexplained respiratory, neurological and immune system disorders."

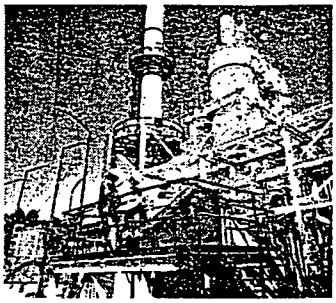
The story was picked up by numerous other newspapers and wire services, with titles like "Mysterious Illnesses Plague Those Near Nation's Nuclear Plants" and "Ills Haunt Nuke Neighbors." Several Tennessee congressmen have called for investigations, including Republican Sen. Bill Frist, a physician.

Yet a close reading of the Sept. 29 stories shows how thin the claim was. The "similar pattern" of illness the Tennessean repeatedly refers to actually includes more than 70 different ailments, ranging from dizziness to diabetes, muscle pain to memory loss, hives to heart disease, slurred speech to seizures, blackouts to blisters, labored breathing to liver ailments. The afflictions include both weight loss and weight gain, both low and high blood pressure. The only pattern was an absolute lack of consistency in symptoms.

Nor was there any pattern in the levels of exposure to whatever was supposedly causing these ailments. Some of the 410 worked at the plants, while others lived many miles away.

Instead of science, readers get heart-wrenching quotes: "We are the walking dead. Everything hurts. It's like a bomb has gone off in my body," said one alleged victim. Said another, "I see my girls suffering, but the doctors can't tell me why. I can't explain how horrible it is not to be able to help them. And when I think the cause might be environmental, just because we live here next to the plant, that's really, really scary."

The claim of 'disturbingly high' illnesses around Oak Ridge appeared in an article not by the reporters but by the Tennessean's editor, Frank Sutherland.



Oak Ridge incinerator: Is it bad for your health?

In fact, the answer to this "mystery" is simple. Any group of people will have a certain amount of sickness. By the Tennessean's own reckoning, six of the 13 sites whose nearby populations it investigated have among them more than four million people living within 50 miles—apparently the paper's definition of living "near" a facility. No figures are given for the other seven sites. But just considering the four million, that's only one illness per 10,000 people.

The lack of satisfactory diagnoses is typical as well. Several studies have shown that doctors can make no firm diagnosis in about half of their patients, while a recent Swiss study found that "a clearcut diagnosis is possible in only about 10 percent of all cases." With a bit of effort, it should be possible to find 410 unsatisfactorily diagnosed people in a tall Manhattan apartment building.

What's more, some of these "mysteriously ill" people *have* been given specific diagnoses. And how can diseases that afflict tens of millions of Americans, such as heart disease and hypertension, be labeled "mysterious"?

What about that evidence of "disturbingly high" rates of illness near the Oak Ridge Reservation? State Health Department statistics actually show that the city of Oak Ridge and the two counties in which it lies, Roane and Anderson, are the picture of health. Compared to the state's other 93 counties and adjusting for age, they are above average in terms of infant deaths, cancer deaths, deaths from lung disease and deaths overall. For this last category, Anderson County ranks right near the top. They are also better than average compared with the nation as a whole.

The only alleged "abnormality" the Tennessean has quantified is that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "found that asthma is afflicting almost twice as many Scarboro children as the national average." Scarboro is an enclave of Oak Ridge. The paper doesn't mention a 1996 CDC report documenting that black children 5 to 14 are "four times more likely than whites to die from asthma." Scarboro is almost exclusively black, so a rate twice the national average may be abnormally *low*.

I interviewed both Susan Thomas and Laura Frank of the Tennessean. Both struck me as intelligent, sincere and just plain nice. Both admitted a complete lack of medical reporting background. "Laura and I are simply journalists," Ms. Thomas said. "We don't pretend to have any special qualifications other than reporting what people tell us. We don't draw conclusions."

And in fact the claim of "disturbingly high" illnesses around Oak Ridge appeared in an article not by them but by the newspaper's editor, Frank Sutherland. Indeed, Ms. Frank took issue with some of the strong conclusions others are drawing from their work. Ms. Frank said their reporting "is being treated as if it's some kind of survey, but it's not. We just talked to a lot of people."

Ms. Frank said it was disturbing that Sen. Frist, in a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, referred to the Tennessean's 410 cases as "data." "It's definitely not data. It's not enough to base policy decisions on," Ms. Frank said.

It is, however, enough to terrify people. Dimitrios Trichopoulos, an epidemiologist at the Harvard School of Public Health, delicately labels the newspaper's fabricated epidemic and the ensuing pack journalism as "disturbing." More poignantly, he says it reminds him of how he and other researchers documented that 7,000 of his fellow Greeks aborted their babies shortly after the Chernobyl accident because yellow journalism had terrified them into thinking radiation all the way from Russia would cause severe birth defects.

Trial Lawyers Smell Blood

But there's more potential fallout than fear. For one, the costs could be tremendous. The government estimates its potential legal liability at $2.1 billion in the most significant cases at four of its sites. That doesn't count the lesser cases, the other nine sites, and mostly it doesn't count the flood of lawsuits that are going to erupt from all the new media attention spurred by Cher's forthcoming movie. Those 410 cases will quickly become 4,100, then perhaps 41,000, as trial lawyers smell blood.

Worse yet is the threat to national defense. Some of the plants in question are no longer open, but others, including Oak Ridge, still produce vital nuclear materials for America's strategic defense. Padlocking these, too, is the agenda of antinuclear activist groups, even as they hide behind health—groups with names like the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance.

On the basis of the Tennessean's findings, we shouldn't slash our nuclear deterrent, launch costly investigations around 13 different areas, frighten millions of people, and further line the pockets of trial lawyers. Applying a bit of science and a bit of sanity seems a much better solution.

Mr. Fumento, a science journalist, is author of "The Fat of the Land: Our Health Crisis and How Overweight Americans Can Help Themselves" (Penguin, 1998).

News Release

Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, Inc. P.O. Box 3030 Miamisburg, Ohio 45343-3030
Office of Public Affairs (937) 865-4450 FAX (937) 865-3952

November 18, 1998

Contact: Mark Becker (937) 865-4450

BWO STATEMENT ON THE PRICE ANDERSON ENFORCEMENT ACTION

BWO takes its responsibility for complying with nuclear safety rules very seriously and does not dispute the facts identified in DOE's Preliminary Notice of Violation. In fact, it was our own self assessment process that originally identified the problems with the bioassay program and the WD ventilation change. Although our work control process was unsuccessful in preventing these events from occurring originally, we have taken aggressive corrective actions to ensure similar problems do not occur in the future.

BWO is committed to complying with DOE's nuclear safety rules and adequately protecting our employees, the public and the environment from the hazards associated with work at the Mound site.

BWO also appreciates the fact that DOE has recognized our commitment and strong actions we have taken to correct the problems and prevent reoccurrence.

United States Department of Energy News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 18, 1998

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Jeff Sherwood, DOE/HQ, 202/586-5806
Jane Greenwalt, DOE/Mound, 937/865-3116
Walter Perry, DOE/Oak Ridge, 423/576-0885

Energy Dept. to Levy Penalties for Nuclear Safety Violations

Contractors at Mound and Oak Ridge National Laboratory Taking Corrective Actions

The Department of Energy will cite the operating contractors for two of its sites - Babcock & Wilcox at the Mound site in Ohio and Lockheed Martin Energy Research Corporation at the department's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee - for violations of nuclear safety rules. The proposed notices of violations will be accompanied by civil penalties of $165,000 and $123,750, respectively. Both penalties were partially mitigated to reflect corrective actions already taken by the contractors.

The proposed penalty at Mound covers two sets of violations -- continuing problems in the bioassay program that monitors workers' potential internal radiation exposures, and a February 1998 event when workers were unknowingly exposed to radiological conditions that exceeded their level of protection. Oak Ridge National Laboratory was cited for ongoing and repetitive failures to operate the High Flux Isotope Reactor within established safety margins.

"Workers have a fundamental right to an accurate and timely assessment of potential radiation exposures, and it is troubling that we continue to see problems in bioassay programs across the DOE complex," said Peter N. Brush, the department's Acting Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health. "We will be examining more aggressively these programs and will assess severe penalties where problems remain. Management at all DOE nuclear sites should take advantage of the next few months to take a careful look at the effectiveness of their bioassay programs for workers and make corrections as necessary."

Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio Inc., Mound Site

In January 1998, the Mound site identified that some 1400 bioassay results had been miscalculated. Recalculations indicated that in 205 of the samples, results originally reported as negative actually indicated a positive dose. These incorrect calculations resulted from use of new counting equipment and associated software and the failure to verify the new system with software previously being used. Last October, DOE assessed a civil penalty of $112,500 on the previous contractor at Mound for other calculation problems with the bioassay program.

In addition to the calculation errors, Mound personnel also identified a backlog of more than 400 bioassay samples for americium-241, some of which dated back to July 1997, that had not been analyzed. Mound also identified delays in the return of 112 samples tested by offsite vendors and other problems resulting in delays in assessing worker dose.

Babcock & Wilcox was also cited for violations associated with a February 1998 event when workers were changing filters in an exhaust ventilation system. The contractor failed to include in its work planning process a review (termed an "As Low As Reasonably Achievable or ALARA") to determine if potential worker exposure to radiation was minimized and also failed to warn workers when increased radioactivity levels required work to stop and workers to leave the area. The contractor did not assess airborne radioactivity levels until after the work was done, and failed to notify one worker that his radiological work needed to be restricted until six days after the restriction period began.

The total civil penalty was partially mitigated in recognition of strong actions taken at the Mound site to

correct problems in their bioassay program and prevent their recurrence. A newly-appointed Dosimetry Supervisor identified and voluntarily reported many of the problems. A management restructuring now has all dosimetry personnel reporting to a single manager who is directly accountable to top management. The department recognized that these changes have led to measurable and substantial improvement in the program.

Lockheed Martin Energy Research Corporation, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

The penalty at Oak Ridge National Laboratory High Flux Isotope Reactor stems from the contractor's ongoing and repetitive failures to adhere to its established procedures that ensure that the reactor operates within appropriate safety margins. These ongoing violations were evidenced by a number of events between May 1997 and January 1998 -- leading to an unnecessary shutdown of the reactor for an extended period of time -- including:

- Operator inattention led to the overflow of a cadmium nitrate tank that serves as an emergency reactor shutdown system.
- The temperature of the primary cooling system was not maintained correctly during tests while the reactor was shutdown, triggering the emergency depressurization system to protect the reactor from thermal shock.
- Four unacceptably degraded reactor emergency cooling pump motors were relied upon for a length of time that extended over many reactor operating cycles.

"While each incident in itself did not pose an immediate safety concern, the repeated nature of these events and the fact that they span multiple locations and several organizational units indicate that the reactor was being operated in a manner that was clearly not up to our expectations," said James C. Hall, DOE Oak Ridge Operations Manager. "Oak Ridge Operations has been actively involved in the detail of each incident and has been aggressively pursuing corrective actions, including changes in reactor management. This penalty underscores the importance we attach to safe reactor operations."

The proposed civil penalty includes a 25 percent mitigation for corrective actions already taken, including recognition of the contractor's broad investigation to fully assess the problem at the reactor and its site-wide implications. Other corrective actions include senior management changes and technical staff enhancements, substantial improvement in work planning processes and a strengthened lessons-learned process.

The enforcement actions announced today are Preliminary Notices of Violation. Each contractor is required to respond to the notice and document, in addition to the corrective actions already noted, any additional actions taken or planned to prevent recurrence. The notices will become final in 30 days unless the contractors provide sufficient justification and information to rebut the findings of the enforcement action.

The Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988 directed the Department of Energy to develop and enforce nuclear safety rules with its contractors. Since the program began in January 1996, the department has issued 31 Notices of Violation and civil penalties totaling more than $1.5 million, including civil penalties waived due to statutory exemption. Copies of the Preliminary Notices of Violation and additional information are available via the Internet at: **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/enforce/** .

- DOE -

PR-98-174

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS
November 18, 1998

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The **"Work Plan for Environmental Restoration of the DOE Mound Site, The Mound 2000 Approach"** is available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio. Public comment on this document will be accepted from November 18, 1998 through December 18, 1998. This Work Plan documents the process that the Core Team has been following with stakeholder support for making decisions about the environmental restoration of the Mound site. It includes, or incorporates by reference, the tools and criteria for these decisions.

Work Plan for Environmental Restoration of the DOE Mound Site, The Mound 2000 Approach

Questions can be referred to Paul Lucas at (937) 865-4578.

Couple glad to be back in U.S.

After 5 years abroad, Sandy Baker was transferred to this area to manage the closure of Miamisburg's Mound facility.

By Julie Kemble Borths
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

After about five years living in the shadow of the Great Pyramids, Sandy Baker walks through a grocery store as if she's entered one of the wonders of the world.

"I can wander the grocery store just for entertainment purposes," she said. "I just can't get over it."

It's not just that she can now find good coffee, edible lettuce and plenty of cat food for Brutie. It's the sheer abundance of it all.

"As Americans, we are all very spoiled," she said. "When you live someplace like Egypt, you see how simply people can live and be very happy."

Mrs. Baker and her husband, also named Sandy, moved to Egypt with his employer Babcock & Wilcox.

The firm, which is managing the Miamisburg Mound facility closure, moved the couple recently to the Miami Valley so Mr. Baker could manage the project here.

For Mrs. Baker, the Egyptian adventure was her first time overseas. Her husband had traveled to other countries, but had never lived in the northern African nation.

Going to Egypt and leaving their college-aged daughter behind was a learning experience, they both agreed.

"It sounded really intriguing," Mrs. Baker said, when they were packing up to leave a five-year stint in Indianapolis. "I had fought that move (from the Bakers' hometown of Lynchburg, Va.) and ended up loving it. So it was less dramatic this time."

In Egypt they settled into a life where the local lettuce had bugs in it, there were no traffic rules and security was a concern.

But then there was the excitement of discovering how to live in a foreign culture, the warmth of new-found friends and the adventure of travelling throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

There was also the challenge of working in an emerging market nation, Mr. Baker said.

"I found it to be very difficult," he said. "Everything was government controlled and you had to, well, pay your way through everything. They want to entice foreign investors, but they don't know how to do that yet."

After their own attempt at trying to figure out how things were done, Baker said he now has a better understanding of how immigrants feel when coming to the United States.



One of the things Sandy Baker, left, and her husband, also named Sandy, did during their 5-year stay in Egypt was to take a camel ride.

"When I see them now, I have a great deal of respect for them," he said.

The Bakers said they learned that settling into another culture did not mean making Egypt into America.

"If you want it to be like home, you stay at home," Mrs. Baker said.

For her, being a part of Egypt meant volunteering at a Catholic clinic that cared for new mothers and their babies. It also meant adopting about 15 street cats at a time.

Unlike her beloved Brutie — for whom she imported cat food — most cats in Egypt are on the street. Revered because of their ties to the ancient religion, they are not housed as pets. Outside their building, the cats learned to count on the Americans for a daily meal.

"I just got out and did things," she said. "You just have to be interested in getting out and doing things for yourself."

In Cairo, Mrs. Baker did not need to wear a veil or live by other Islamic customs, although she said it was important to dress conservatively.

"You don't want to be offensive," she said. "After all, you are a guest in their country."

For the Bakers, traveling had never been a passion until they lived in Egypt.

Now back in their Springboro home, there are Indian carpets in the hall, Chinese figurines in the family room and miniature pyramids in the bathroom. But it wasn't the tangible things they collected from their travels that were the most prized, Mrs. Baker said.

"I can't even express how it changed me," she said. "At every little turn, there was an opportunity to learn something, to meet someone. The important things we brought back with us were not things at all, but every single piece of what we absorbed."

DAYTON DAILY NEWS
FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 20, 1998

MIAMISBURG

Mound cleaner fined

▶ Babcock & Wilcox acknowledges flaws in monitoring of workers' radiation exposure.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The Department of Energy has levied a $165,000 fine against Babcock & Wilcox, the company contracted to clean up the Mound facilities in Miamisburg, for violations of nuclear safety rules.

The penalty covers two sets of violations at the Mound — continuing problems with a bioassay program that monitors workers' potential internal radiation exposures and a February 1998 incident when workers were unknowingly exposed to radiological conditions that exceeded their level of protection.

"Workers have a fundamental right to an accurate and timely assessment of potential radiation exposure," said Peter N. Brush about the Department of Energy.

In January 1998, the Mound site identified that some 1,400 bioassay results had been miscalculated, the DOE report states. Urine samples are collected to gauge the amount of radiation workers receive.

In addition to the calculation errors, Mound personnel also found a backlog of more than 400 bioassay samples.

The DOE said the Mound penalty was partially mitigated in recognition of strong actions taken to correct the problems in the bioassay program and prevent a recurrence.

A Babcock & Wilcox spokesman said the company does not dispute the facts of the DOE report and is committed to correcting any flaws in safety procedures.

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS
November 25, 1998

DOE cites BWO for Mound site safety violations

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

The U.S. Department of Energy has cited Babcock & Wilcox for violations that could lead to the Mound contractor having to pay $165,000 in civil penalties.

The proposed penalty at Mound covers two sets of violations – continuing problems in the bioassay program that monitors workers' potential internal radiation exposures and a February, 1998 event when workers were unknowingly exposed to radiological conditions that exceeded their level of protection.

"Workers have a fundamental right to an accurate and timely assessment of potential radiation exposures, and it is troubling that we continue to see problems in bioassay programs across the DOE complex," said Peter N. Brush, the department's Acting Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health. "We will be examining more aggressively these programs and will assess severe penalties where problems remain. Management at all DOE nuclear sites should take advantage of the next few months to take a careful look at the effectiveness of their bioassay programs for workers and make corrections as necessary."

In January of 1998, the Mound site identified that some 1,400 bioassay results had been miscalculated. Recalculations indicated that in 205 of the samples, results originally reported as negative actually indicated a positive dose. These incorrect calculations resulted from use of new counting equipment and associated software and the failure to verify the new system with software previously being used.

Last October, DOE assessed a civil penalty of $112,500 on the previous contractor at Mound, EG&G, for other calculation problems with the bioassay program.

In addition to the calculation errors, Mound personnel also identified a backlog of more than 400 bioassay samples for Americium-241, some of which dated back to July, 1997, that had not been analyzed. Mound also identified delays in the return of 112 samples tested by offsite vendors and other problems resulting in delays in assessing worker dose.

Babcock & Wilcox was also cited for violations associated

(Continued on Page 11)

Mound

(Continued from Page 1)

with a February, 1998 event when workers were changing filters in an exhaust ventilation system. The contractor failed to include in its work planning process a review (termed as an "As Low As Reasonably Achievable or ALARA) to determine if potential worker exposure to radiation was minimized and also failed to warn workers when increased radioactivity levels required work to stop and workers to leave the area. The contractor did not assess airborne radioactivity levels until after the work was done and failed to notify one worker that his radiological work needed to be restricted until six days after the restriction period began.

The DOE said that the total civil penalty for Babcock and Wilcox was partially mitigated in recognition of strong actions taken at the site to correct problems in their bioassay program and prevent their recurrence. A newly appointed Dosimetry Supervisor identified and voluntarily reported many of the problems. A management restructuring now has all dosimetery personnel reporting to a single manager who is directly accountable to top management. The DOE recognized that these changes have led to measurable and substantial improvement in the program.

The enforcement actions announced last week by the DOE are Preliminary Notices of Violation and Babcock & Wilcox is required to respond and document any additional actions taken or planned to prevent recurrence. The notices will become final in 30 days unless the contractors provide sufficient justification and information to rebut the findings.

Babcock and Wilcox agrees that there was a problem and notes that actions have been taken to correct the problems.

In a prepared statement, the company stated: "BWO takes its responsibility for complying with nuclear safety rules very seriously and does not dispute the fact identified in the DOE's Preliminary Notice of Violation. In fact, it was our own self assessment process that originally identified the problems with the bioassay program and the WD ventilation change. Although our work control process was unsuccessful in preventing these events from occurring originally, we have taken aggressive corrective actions to ensure similar problems do not occur in the future.

"BWO is committed to complying with DOE's nuclear safety rules and adequately protecting our employees, the public and the environment from the hazards associated with work at the Mound site.

"BWO also appreciates the fact that DOE has recognized our commitment and strong actions we have taken to correct the problems and prevent reoccurrence."

U.S. DOE cancels planned meeting on release Block D

The Department of Energy has announced the postponement of the planned Public Meeting on release Block D, a 12-acre portion of the Mound Site, which was scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 15. The meeting was to be held concurrent with the issuance of a proposed plan recommending institutional controls to be put into place when Release Block D is transferred by DOE to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation.

An advertisement concerning the public meeting was published in last week's Miamisburg News as well as today's edition announcing the planned meeting.

Interested individuals should disregard the advertisement at this time.

At this time, no date has been scheduled for the public, but will be advertised locally when rescheduled.

Interested stakeholders will be notified by mail of the new date for the meeting. Individuals interested in the planned public meeting can contact Jane Greenwalt, DOE Public Information Officer, at 865-3116 or Mark Becker, Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio Public Affairs, at 865-4450, for additional information.

Emergency drill set for Mound on Monday

On Monday morning, a joint Emergency Management drill will be conducted at the Mound site involving the U.S. Department of Energy, Babcock & Wilcox and the Miamisburg Police Department. The drill will include the movement of some emergency vehicles to the Mound site that may be visible to the general public.

The drill is a cooperative effort between all three agencies and involves a scenario that could be faced by many businesses in the community.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
announces a
PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT PERIOD FOR RELEASE BLOCK D MOUND SITE MIAMISBURG, OHIO

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a proposed plan (hereinafter plan) describing its recommendations for addressing a 12 acre portion of the Mound Site, located in Miamisburg, Ohio, known as Release Block D.

The plan outlines the institutional controls to be put in place when the release block is transferred to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC). After public comments are received, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued which finalizes the institutional controls. After the Record of Decision is finalized it is the intent of DOE to transfer title of the parcel to the MMCIC.

Copies of the plan and supportive documents are expected to be in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Avenue, Miamisburg, Ohio, 45342, on December 9, 1998. Please contact Jane Greenwalt, DOE Public Information Officer, at 937-865-3116, or Mark Becker, Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio Public Affairs, at 937-865-4450 for availability of the plan. The Public Reading Room is open:

Monday -12 noon to 8 p.m.
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday -12 noon to 8 p.m.
Thursday - 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Friday - 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

A Public Meeting has been scheduled to discuss the plan. The meeting will provide the community an opportunity to ask questions and submit oral and written comments.

Tuesday, December 15, 1998
7 p.m.
Old Mound Cafeteria
OSE Building, Mound Site
1 Mound Road
Miamisburg, Ohio

For further information, please contact:

Jane Greenwalt
Public Information Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 66
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0066
(937) 865-3116

Oral and written comments will be accepted at this meeting. Written comments may be submitted during the 30-Day Public Comment Period that begins December 9, 1998, and ends January 7, 1999. Comments must be postmarked by the end of the comment period on December 22, 1998. Comments should be mailed to the above named DOE contact.



CUTTING THE ribbon to open the new ATS facility at Mound on Nov. 9 were (left to right), Sandy Baker, President and Site Manager for Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio; Leah Dever, Manager of the Department of Energy's Ohio Field Office; Jim Lentz, ATS Project Engineer; Rick Provencher, Director of the DOE's Miamisburg Environmental Management Project (MEMP); Joe Miller, Supervisor for Resource Technologies Group Inc., which constructed the facility and Mike Merker, DOE/MEMP Project Manager.

Mound opens wastewater plant

The United States Department of Energy Miamisburg Environmental Management Project and its contractor, Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, recently officially began operation of a new Radioactive Wastewater Treatment Facility at the Mound site in Miamisburg.

The new facility, referred to as the Alpha Treatment System (ATS), replaces the Waste Disposal (WD) Building, an aging radioactive wastewater treatment facility. The ATS will maintain Mound's capability to treat wastewater contaminated with small amounts of radioactive material. The ATS utilizes a proven technique in a much smaller operation that is better controlled, cleaner, more environmentally friendly, and more efficient than the 1940s vintage operation it replaces.

After about one year of design, construction and testing, the facility successfully initiated radioactive liquid waste for treatment on Nov. 9. Operation of the ATS will save the taxpayers over $1.3 million and maintenance costs to operated the WD Building. It is estimated that ATS will pay for itself in about one year. In addition, the production of sludge requiring off-site transport for disposal as radioactive waste will be reduced by more than 99 percent.

The ATS is housed in a new pre-engineered building. Radioactive wastewater from various sources on plant site will be processed in the facility. The ATS will also be used to treat the remaining wastewater and sludge from the old facility prior to and during its cleanup activities.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
announces a
PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT PERIOD FOR RELEASE BLOCK D
MOUND SITE
MIAMISBURG, OHIO

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a proposed plan (hereinafter plan) describing its recommendations for addressing a 12 acre portion of the Mound Site, located in Miamisburg, Ohio, known as Release Block D.

The plan outlines the institutional controls to be put in place when the release block is transferred to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC). After public comments are received, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued which finalizes the institutional controls. After the Record of Decision is finalized it is the intent of DOE to transfer title of the parcel to the MMCIC.

Copies of the plan and supportive documents are available in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Avenue, Miamisburg, Ohio, 45342. The Public Reading Room is open:

Monday -12 noon to 8 p.m.
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday -12 noon to 8 p.m.
Thursday - 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Friday - 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

A Public Meeting has been scheduled to discuss the plan. The meeting will provide the community an opportunity to ask questions and submit oral and written comments.

Thursday, January 14, 1999
7 p.m.
Old Mound Cafeteria
OSE Building, Mound Site
1 Mound Road
Miamisburg, Ohio

For further information, please contact:

Jane Greenwalt
Public Information Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 66
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0066
(937) 865-3116

Oral and written comments will be accepted at this meeting. Written comments may be submitted during the 30-Day Public Comment Period that began December 22, 1998, and ends January 21, 1999. Comments must be postmarked by the end of the comment period on January 21, 1999. Comments should be mailed to the above named DOE contact.

1998 was full of significant accomplishments for Miamisburg

Mound Facility

The federal government's Mound facility continues to get significant attention and I'm pleased to report that the transition of the 306 acre complex from public to commercial use continues to move forward. Since 1993, our community has been heavily involved in the conversion process in preparation for the Department of Energy's (DOE) anticipated exit from the site in the year 2004. Three major milestones were reached in 1998:

• It was announced last January that is a sales agreement was reached between the DOE and the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) on the ownership of Mound property. The MMCIC is the economic development agency formed by the city of Miamisburg several years ago to oversee reuse efforts at Mound. This sales agreement called for the MMCIC to pay a nominal $10 fee for the entire facility, which is being transferred in parcels as they become available for private use. The official documents transferring ownership were signed during a special ceremony attended by several of our local political leaders and DOE officials from Washington. By accepting ownership, the MMCIC can more effectively market Mound assets and make physical improvements where necessary to make the complex more attractive to prospective businesses. Currently, there are approximately 30 commercial businesses operating at the Mound employing around 260 people. The Mound vision to become a private light industrial and technology park is alive and well and the goal of city officials is to ensure that the site continues providing jobs and generating important income tax revenue.

• Last May we commemorated the completion of the Miami-Erie Canal restoration project along Old Route 25. The canal work, which lasted two years, featured the removal of soil and was perhaps the most visible component of the comprehensive environmental cleanup work taking place in and around the Mound site. In conjunction with the restoration there, a new paved walkway/bikeway was constructed and will be opened to the public in 1999 when the city resumes ownership and care of the property.

• The DOE last fall announced that the final portion of bulk tritium had been shipped from the site. Tritium was a gas used extensively at Mound during its previous mission as a defense production facility. Removal of the inventoried supply of this substance was a 32-month project and further reduced potential environmental risks at Mound. Because safety continues to be of the utmost importance to city officials, this was a major development.

Total employment for the DOE and its contractor at Mound remains steady in the 700-800 range. As the year concluded, the contractor — Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio (B&W) – announced the appointment of Sandy Baker as the new Mound project manager. B&W has proven in a very short time to be a responsible and involved member of our corporate community and we look forward to working with Sandy in the months and years ahead as the company and its subcontractors continue their critical mission.

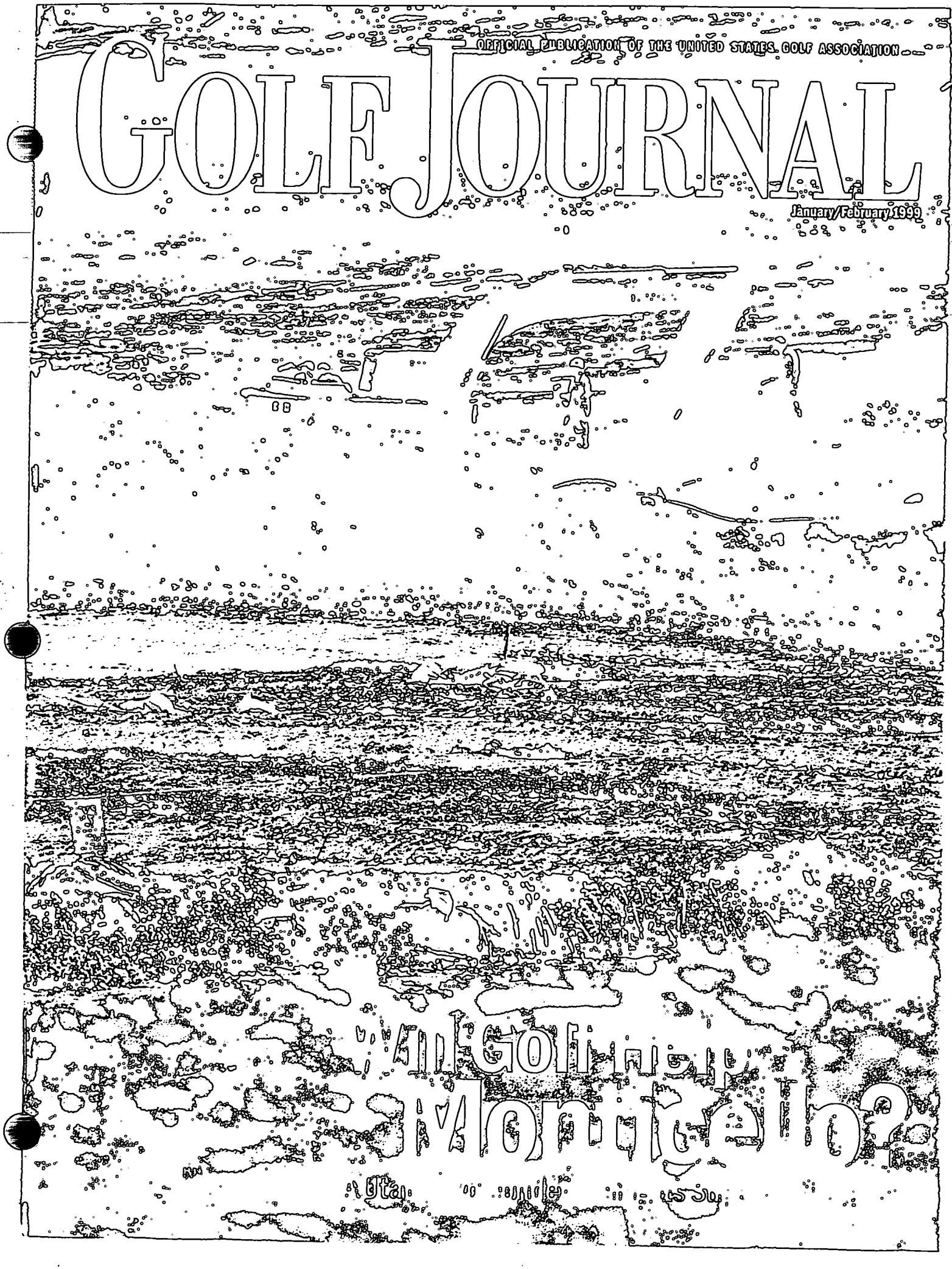
One thing to watch for in 1999 and beyond will be a number of capital improvement projects planned for the Mound site. Funding has recently been obtained from federal, state and county sources to help finance $3.3 million in improvements that will include construction of new roadways, storm sewers, sidewalks, parking lots and lighting. A renovated main entrance on Mound Avenue will be one of the featured components of this project and the most visible to the general public.

The transitioning of the Mound site has been, and will continue to be, a monumental effort by many people. A Dayton Daily News editorial in August praised the collaboration and the creative teamwork that have resulted in the positive results to date. I would be remiss if I did not express the city's sincere appreciation to several elected officials who have been particularly helpful. Our thanks goes out to Congressmen Tony Hall and Dave Hobson, U.S. Senators John Glenn and Mike DeWine, State Representative Don Mottley and County Commissioners Vicki Pegg, Chuck Curran and Don Lucas for their support. On a related note, I'd like to congratulate Senator Glenn on his recent historic return to space and wish him godspeed in his retirement. Miamisburg officials look forward to working in the future with his successor in the U.S. Senate, former Governor George Voinovich, as well as the Governor's successor in Columbus, Bob Taft.

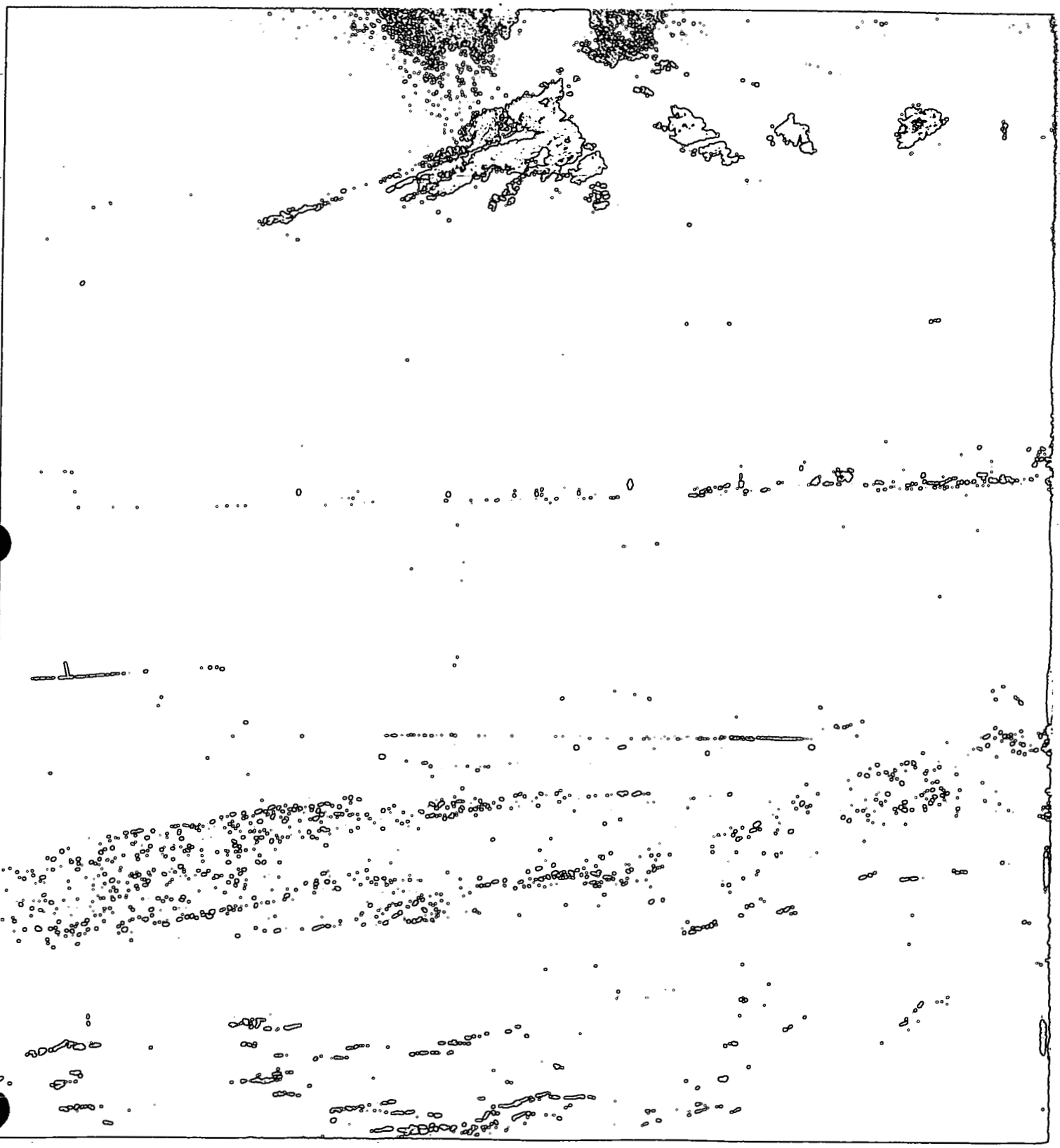
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION

GOLF JOURNAL

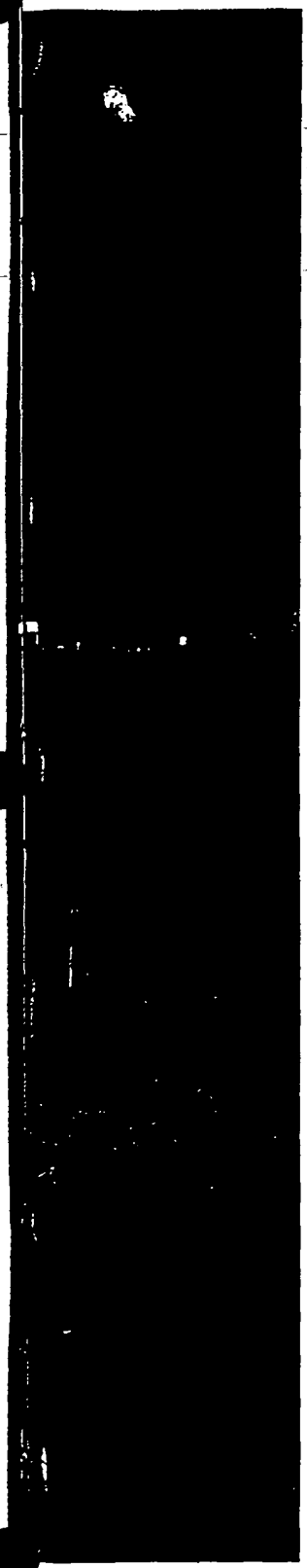
January/February 1999



An Golfing Stronghold



DESPITE THE PANORAMIC VISTA OF THE TOWERING BLUE MOUNTAINS TO THE WEST, THE SITE THAT ONCE HOUSED THE MONTICELLO MILL (OPPOSITE PAGE) HAS



T ALWAYS BEEN A PRETTY ONE.

This is the first installment of a continuing series on the renovation of a Superfund site in Monticello, Utah. Periodic reports by Hal Phillips, a former editor with *Golf Course News*, will examine what role golf may play in how a community of 2,200 residents utilizes land it will inherit from the federal government.

A HOT PROPERTY

By Hal Phillips

THIS MUD IS DIFFERENT. IT DOESN'T FOLLOW THE familiar pattern of simply filling the nooks and crannies of a boot sole, only to squish out in all directions when hard rubber meets terra not-so firma. No, the mire here is more perverse; it gloms onto the underside of one's foot, forming an oval-shaped patty substantially wider and longer than the shoe itself.

Perhaps this mud acts differently because a 25-year rainstorm has just blown through southeastern Utah, transforming the normally arid clay soil into a sea of brownish-red goo. While visitors move gingerly, their eyes cast down to survey the treacherous track, an experienced mudder like Paul Mushovic forges along with breezy confidence, looking straight ahead, his dirt-caked boots having taken on the quality of snow shoes.



"You can see it there — a wonderful hole running along the pond," an animated Mushovic points out. "If we put a green right there, then we can run a par 3 across the far corner of the retention pond, or maybe across the creek channel, which follows that line of vegetation there. And if we decide to put the new clubhouse on top of the hill across the way, you can see we'd have a great par 4 finishing hole. Can you see it?"

Anyone can see it. Bending gently uphill to the right. It's as plain to see as the 10,000-foot Blue Mountains, which, if one looks west, form an enormous snow-capped backdrop for every house, tree, streetlight and ball washer in Monticello, a community of 2,200 residents that has nine holes of golf.

But Mushovic is hell-bent on providing the city with at least nine more. And he intends to lay them out on this 110-acre quagmire hard by Montezuma Creek that, truth be told, is one of the last properties one might expect to be used for recreation.

Of course, the Department of Energy isn't in the course-building business. Neither is the Environmental Protection Agency, whose traditional role in golf development has been that of regulatory bogeyman. Many a project has been snuffed out by the Agency's protective, some say overprotective, administration of environmental policy. Yet both the DOE and the EPA are solidly behind this project. Call it bureaucratic guilt. Or further evidence of the game's broad popularity. Or another sign of golf's growing environmental reputation. Mushovic and his federal colleagues have recognized an opportunity to responsibly close the book on 50 years of government intrusion while expanding the city's golf offerings to 18 holes. This willing federal marriage of radioactive clean-up and golf development is what makes the Monticello project so extraordinary.

Though he may sound like one, Paul Mushovic is not a golf developer — not in the ordinary sense. He's a senior scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which, along with the State of Utah, is overseeing the Department of Energy's remediation of the Montezuma Creek watershed.

Starting in 1941, the government-funded Vanadium Corporation of America operated a mill along the creek. The facility processed vanadium, a radioactive element used to strengthen steel. Three years later, the Monticello mill started generating a

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD ALBARNO

uranium-vanadium sludge used in the production of "yellow cake" earmarked for the Manhattan Project. Purchased by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1948, the facility continued to churn out weapons-grade vanadium and uranium.

When the mill was dismantled in 1960, it left behind tons of radioactive soil — "tailings" that were subsequently utilized around Monticello to mix mortar, to form beds for utility lines, even to pave driveways. With authorization under the Atomic Energy Act, the Department of Energy assumed stewardship of the mill site in 1980. Under the EPA's watchful eye, the DOE has since rid more than 400 private properties of these "hot" tailings under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, better known as Superfund.

In 1995, the two agencies set about purging the 110-acre site. The city broached the idea of building, where the processing plant once stood, nine more holes for Blue Mountain Meadows Golf Course, a nine-hole facility. The location, a few hundred yards from the existing nine and just across Highway 191, couldn't be more ideal. Being a practical man, and a certifiable golf nut, Mushovic didn't need much convincing. "I've been pushing the golf angle here as long as I've been on this project, since the early 1990s," he says. "It just makes too much sense."

"Without the assistance and interest of DOE and EPA, building the new nine wouldn't be possible," said Mayor K. Dale Black. "But make no mistake: There's still some resentment. My father-in-law worked at the site. People feel the mill may be responsible for the abnormally high incidence of cancer we have. Even after the mill closed, our kids played in those tailing piles and swam in the leaching ponds. Folks were pretty unsuspecting, and I guess the government wasn't a particularly responsible steward. But I believe the government wants to see this [course] happen as much as we do."

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS scheduled to complete its clean-up effort during the summer of 1999, says Wayne Evelo, the DOE's chemical engineer in charge of the project. By then, more than 2 million cubic yards of contaminated soil will have been excavated, hauled away and buried in a repository a mile from the site. The DOE has set aside approximately 120,000 cubic yards of "clean" soil to reapportion about 110 acres; it has further agreed to use this fill to "shape" basic golf course features, provided the city can supply design plans. [*Golf Journal* and the USGA will not offer any guidance or preferential assistance to any aspect of the project. Our only role will be to chronicle the activities in Monticello.]

As part of the remediation effort, Evelo explains, the DOE must leave the site with erosion control features — flat surfaces with minimal slopes ideal for golf. "But we can't do any of the fine sculpting or creative backfill work associated with course construction," he says. "We can't build tees or greens; that wouldn't be a reasonable use of taxpayer dollars." Adds Mushovic: "We can't construct the course. But to the extent we can shape it, we'll shape it. We can get things down in the right place and make the course as reasonable as possible to build."

Superfund regulations also oblige the DOE to restore at least 12 acres of wetlands and revegetate the parcel. Evelo says the DOE can't plant bentgrass; that would be too close to golf development. However, the department has agreed to provide Monticello with those funds for revegetation, allowing the city to buy turfgrass seed. Once the basic shaping is finished, the DOE intends to hand the land over to Monticello, which will then set about building the course itself.

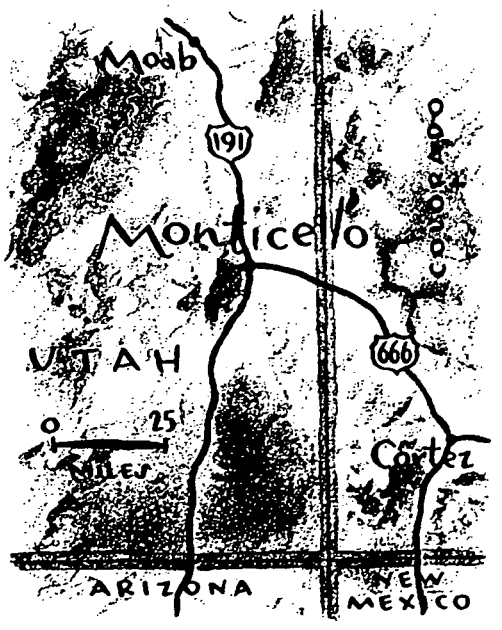
This is when reality will set in.

"This is not a wealthy community," explains Monticello city manager C. Trent Schafer. "Once DOE shapes the course, it seems like $500,000 to $600,000 will be necessary to build greens, install an irrigation system and connect the nines with a tunnel [under Highway 191]. We don't have that kind of money. We'll have to beat the bushes, look under every rock for grant money and corporate investment. And we'll certainly rely on volunteers to get the work done because the course won't be able to repay loans for a long time."

Monticellans aren't shy about rolling up their sleeves. The municipal swimming pool, the original nine holes and the recreation facility at nearby Loyd's Lake were built with volunteer labor following grass-root, fund-raising efforts. "That's how we've done just about everything here," notes the mayor.

Yet Black also recognizes this nine will be Monticello's most ambitious project. Although course architect



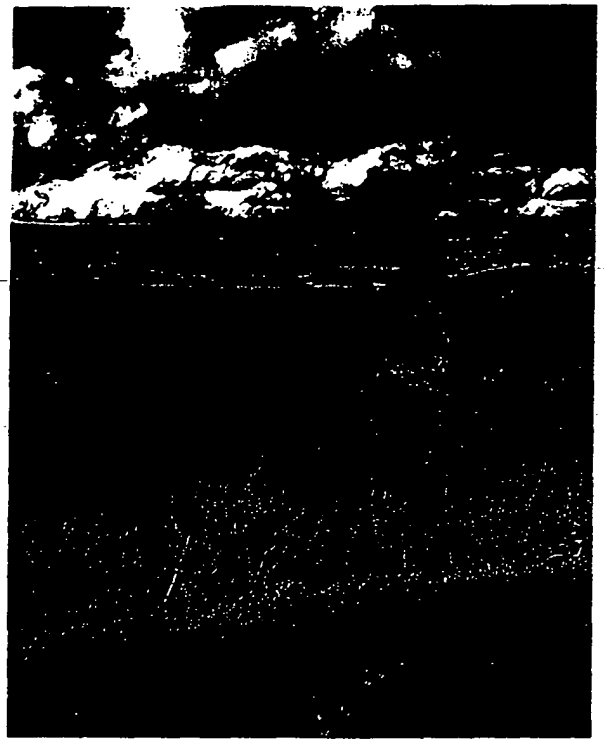


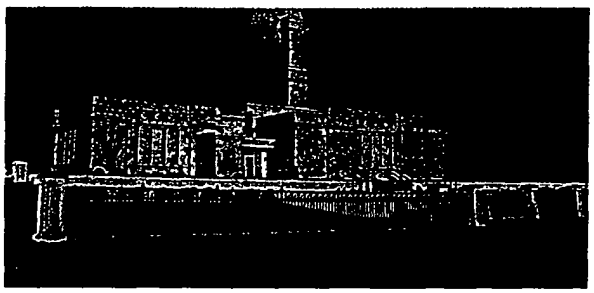
MUSHOVIC (TOP LEFT) OF THE EPA HAS SEEN GOLF AS AN ANSWER FOR MAYOR BLACK'S COMMUNITY.

MAP BY JAMES LAISH

Ron Cutlip toured the site and subsequently donated a set of preliminary sketches, the city has decided it cannot afford the luxury of a full-fledged designer. The city will rely on Cutlip's conceptual drawings, Mushovic's amateur ardor and the practical wherewithal of Chriss Leavitt, the course superintendent at Eagle Vail Golf Club in Avon, Colo. Leavitt is the brother of Monticello city councilman Craig Leavitt; he's also the son of Grant Leavitt, who served as pro at Blue Mountain Meadows for 35 years.

"I sort of grew up on that course, so I feel like I owe the town something," says Leavitt, who admits that he, like many superintendents, is eager to apply his agronomic skills in the design arena. "I probably know enough about architecture to get myself into trouble, but I also think I know what 'not' to do. I'll say this: It's exciting to be involved in a project where building a course and recovering the land are so important. We're going to have to do this on a shoestring, but that's part of what makes it so interesting."





BLUE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS (TOP) AND A NEW MORMON TEMPLE SHARE A COMMON THREAD: THEY'RE ALONE IN THE AREA.

BUILT IN THE 1950S, BLUE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS IS LONG ON charm and short on window dressing. There are but two sand bunkers (which saves on rakes) and golfers won't see any yardage notations on irrigation heads. Yet the course is picturesque, well kept and, in spots, inventive. The par-5 fifth sports a wonderful tee, perched on a hillside 60 feet above the fairway. From this rarefied vantage point it's not uncommon to see several herd of deer meandering across the course.

Blue Mountain Meadows may be modest, but it's popular nevertheless. The municipal layout handles 10,000 rounds a year, and a common sight are the retirees who drive up from Arizona and park their RVs across from the clubhouse. As Monticello is located on the road between Moab National Park and Lake Powell, the course accommodates a significant number of holiday-makers who drop in for a quick nine.

"We have several groups that come here just to play that course," says Charles O'Berry, proprietor of Monticello's Grist Mill Bed & Breakfast. "We have one group that comes in every year from Montrose [in Colorado, some 100 miles to the East]. So I'm confident that 18 holes would bring in quite a bit more business. These golfers come in for three, four nights and they spend money all over town; the groups that come in now are free spenders."

"We may quadruple our play with 18," adds Mayor Black. "The climate here is ideal during the summer. We're up about 7,000 feet. When it's 105 degrees in Moab, it's 85 degrees up here."

Monticellans are especially eager to bolster their tourist trade because they recognize the local economy will sag when the federal agencies finish their work. For 16 years the federal government has employed 150 to 200 workers on the mill site and surrounding properties. "DOE has pumped a lot of money into this economy," says Evelo. "But that's going to start drying up very quickly." Mayor Black expects the housing market to soften; Schafer is certain the city's sales tax revenues will suffer.

Like O'Berry, Mayor Black would love to see Monticello offset its losses by becoming a tourist stop. Says O'Berry: "You can't swing a dead cat around here without hitting a national monument or Indian ruin." The Morman Church recently built a temple here, the only one serving the Four Corners region, bringing a modest influx of newlywed visitors. In theory, a new nine would add to the equation; indeed, there isn't another 18-hole course within 50 miles. There's even been talk of renovating the existing nine.

But Black refuses to be carried away. "It would really be nice to build a big, beautiful, monument golf course here, but financially that's not possible. Throughout this process we've tried to keep our feet planted firmly on the ground and tackle the basics. We need to build nine new holes and we need to sort out a tunnel to connect the nines. And we can't do any of that until we find ourselves some money."

"Let's face it," says Mushovic, "there's no way this community can come up with what it costs to build a course. If they can come up with $300,000 to $400,000, they'd be lucky. However, with that sort of funding, and all of us working together, I still think we can make a go of this thing."

HAL PHILLIPS is a former editor of *Golf Course News*.

MOUND CLEANUP

High-tech equipment cutting water treatment down to size

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Standing outside the massive, 50-year-old building at the former Mound plant in Miamisburg, Mike Merker of the U.S. Department of Energy said that the equipment in Building WD was so old that a rusted mixer once broke off and fell in a giant vat.

It's a scene that could happen at any out-of-date factory, but there is a difference: Building WD was once used to treat low-level radioactive waste water at Mound. It is not only an eyesore but a hazard.

So Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, the company that is completing the cleanup of the former nuclear-weapons plant, spent $1.3 million to construct a new, state-of-the-art radioactive wastewater treatment facility.

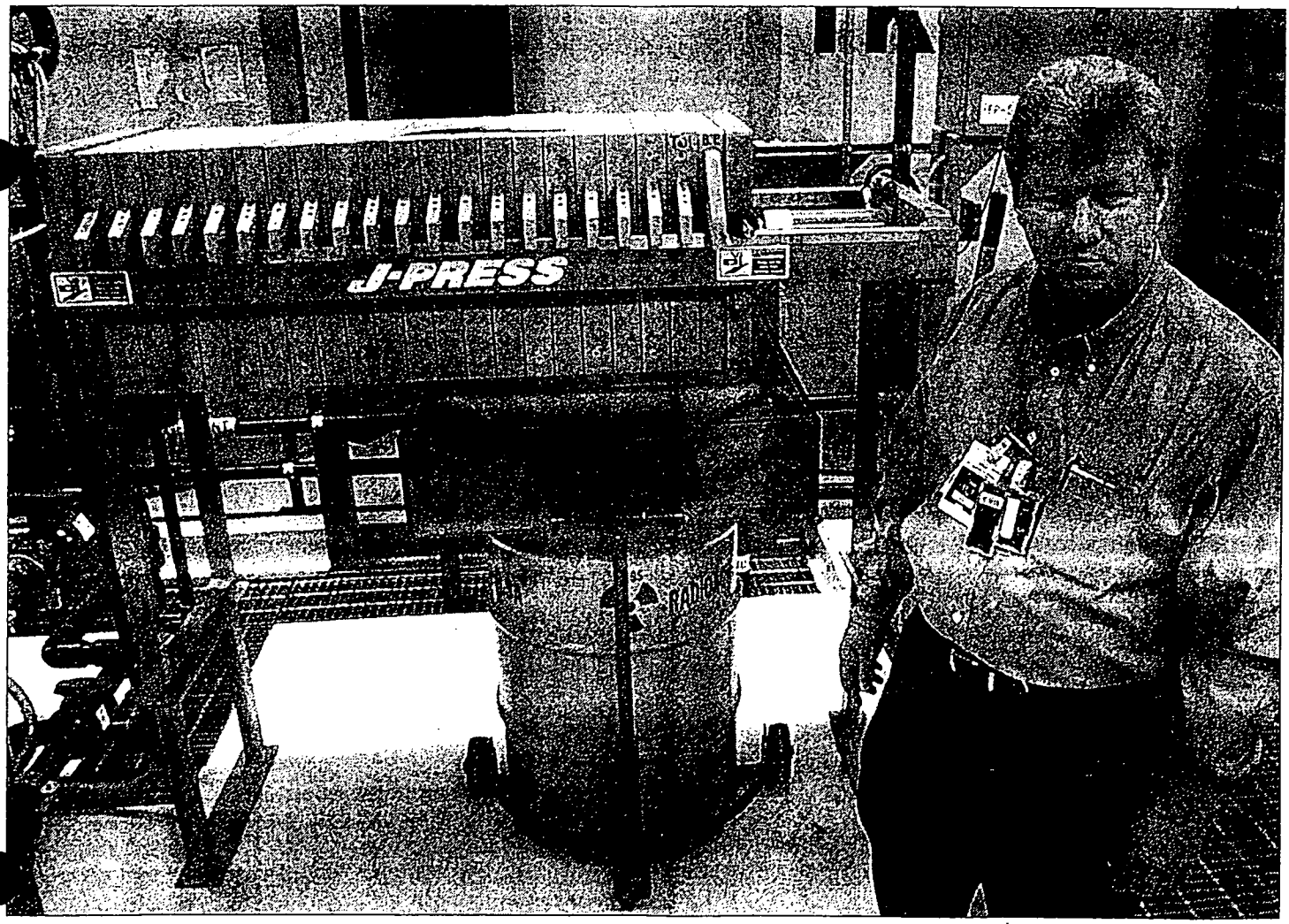
The work that was once done in the huge WD building now takes place in a metal building little bigger than a car wash.

The Alpha Treatment System is also cleaner, safer and more environmentally friendly. And it will pay for itself in a year, according to John Krueger, who directs waste management at Mound. The new treatment plant could also accelerate the final cleanup by a year or two.

"We're trying to get out of business as fast as we can," said Oba Vincent, deputy director of the DOE in Miamisburg.

Inside the new plant, large tanks of water contaminated with low levels of plutonium are piped through a sand filter and a bag filter to produce a radioactive sludge, which is removed from the water. At the end of the process is a 55-gallon drum, which will eventually contain three

SEE MOUND/4F



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Jim Lentz, project and building manager of the Alpha Treatment Project, shows the equipment used to treat radioactive wastewater. The work that was once done in the huge WD building now takes place in a metal building little bigger than a car wash. The new plant is also cleaner, safer and more environmentally friendly.

MOUND: Technology tackles water

CONTINUED FROM 1F

months worth of sludge, according to project manager Jim Lentz.

The drum will be shipped across the country for secure disposal in Utah. But the new system has reduced the amount of material needed to be shipped out by 99 percent. Babcock & Wilcox will ship three to six drums a year. Under the old system, it used to handle 300 to as many as 400 drums.

Before the treated water is released, it is given a final battery of tests for radioactivity and pH balance. The building is designed with a sunken floor that would contain any spills. A unit the size of a refrigerator controls and monitors the entire operation, with a glowing display screen and a computer the size of a laptop.

The Mound facility is being transformed into a research park headed by the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp.

"Everything is sampled and verified," Krueger said.

The plant handles about 6,000 gallons a week of contaminated water, which is still being produced during cleanup operations.

An important part of the operation is removing the contaminated water from the WD building, which needed $2 million in basic repairs.

Krueger said the "decontamination and demolition" of WD building will be a difficult operation, but they want to get it done in the next two years.

Other buildings at the Mound are starting to come down as well, as the facility is being transformed into a research park headed by the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp.

The final stages of the Mound cleanup were expected to cost $425 million and be completed by the year 2005, however Babcock & Wilcox has incentive clauses for finishing the work early.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at (937) 225-2270 by e-mail dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

DAYTON DAILY NEWS
MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 1999

ASHTABULA

RMI self-cleanup contested

▶ Environmentalists: The decontamination creates a conflict of interest.

ASHTABULA (AP) — The Department of Energy's decision to let a northeast Ohio titanium company handle its own radiation cleanup raises conflicts of interest, environmental watchdog groups say.

RMI Titanium Co., which for decades during the Cold War forged uranium metal into plutonium for nuclear weapons, is working under a $188 million contract with the DOE to decontaminate its own property.

It's a job that needs to be done, by someone else, said David Adelman, an attorney in the nuclear program at the Washington, D.C.-based Natural Resources Defense Council.

"The key issue is it's the fox guarding the henhouse," Adelman said in a story published Sunday in *The* (Cleveland) *Plain Dealer*. "It's a combination of a conflict of interest both with regard to the degree of contamination at the site, as well as in obtaining the contract itself — the circularity of all that."

James Henderson, manager of RMI Environmental Services, said the company has everyone's best interests in mind.

"The company never expected that they were going to extract a pound of flesh, if you will, from the government to the disadvantage of the taxpayers, the DOE or anyone else."

Kenneth Morgan, a spokesman for the DOE, said the agency has an on-site project manager who is monitoring costs and the progress of the cleanup.

Ohio's small-weapons component facilities

▶ **Feed Materials Production Center, Fernald:** Largest DOE weapons plant in Ohio. Processed uranium from Hanford and Savannah River nuclear reactors from 1951 to 1989. Annual cleanup budget exceeds $260 million.

▶ **Alba Craft Laboratory, Oxford:** Machine shop that produced uranium slugs for AEC reactors from 1952-57.

▶ **Associated Aircraft and Tool Manufacturing Inc., Fairfield:** Drilled and reamed uranium slugs for the Atomic Energy Commission in 1956.

▶ **B&T Metals, Columbus:** Extruded uranium metal rods for Hanford nuclear reactor during 1943.

▶ **Battelle Columbus Laboratories, Columbus:** Performed atomic energy research between 1943 and 1980.

▶ **Baker Brothers, Toledo:** Machined uranium rods into slugs to fuel the Oak Ridge graphite reactor in 1943-44. Also performed uranium machining for Hanford reactor.

▶ **Copperweld Steel Co., Warren:** Straightened and degassed uranium rods for Hanford and Oak Ridge reactors in 1943.

▶ **Herring-Hall Marvin Safe Co., Hamilton:** Machined uranium in slugs in 1943.

▶ **Harshaw Chemical Co., Cleveland:** Refined uranium for Oak Ridge in 1942-43.

▶ **Brush Beryllium Co., Cleveland:** Performed fuel and target fabrication for AEC in 1942-43.

▶ **Brush Beryllium Co., Luckey:** Processed beryllium and uranium in 1949-58.

▶ **Mound, Miamisburg:** Developed and built nuclear weapons components between 1947 and 1995. Also retrieved and recycled tritium from dismantled nuclear weapons. Annual cleanup budget exceeds $90 million.

▶ **Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Portsmouth:** Began producing enriched uranium for nuclear submarine reactors and power plants in 1954. Still performs uranium enrichment for nuclear power utilities.

▶ **RMI Titanium Co., Ashtabula:** Formerly known as Reactive Metals Inc. From 1962 to 1988, extruded uranium received from Fernald for use as fuel and target fabrication at Hanford and Savannah River reactors.

SOURCE: *The Plain Dealer*

"Essentially, what's expected is that whoever did the pollution is expected to clean it up," he said. "In the case of Ashtabula, where it was DOE-directed, the taxpayers pay for it."

"I have never heard of that before," said Diana D'Arrigo of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, a Washington-based public-interest research group. "It sounds like a big ripoff."

RMI, the largest subsidiary of a newly formed holding company, RTI International Metals Inc., is primarily a contractor to the military and commercial aerospace industries.

RMI said it would have been difficult to allow an outside contractor onto its property to handle the cleanup, although it is subcontracting about 60 percent of the project.

In 1993, RMI obtained a no-bid contract from the DOE to decontaminate its property. The current value of the contract, which is not fixed, is $188 million, *The Plain Dealer* reported.

The project calls for the demolition and removal of 21 buildings and the excavation and disposal of 40,000 tons of contaminated soil. It is expected to be completed sometime around 2005.

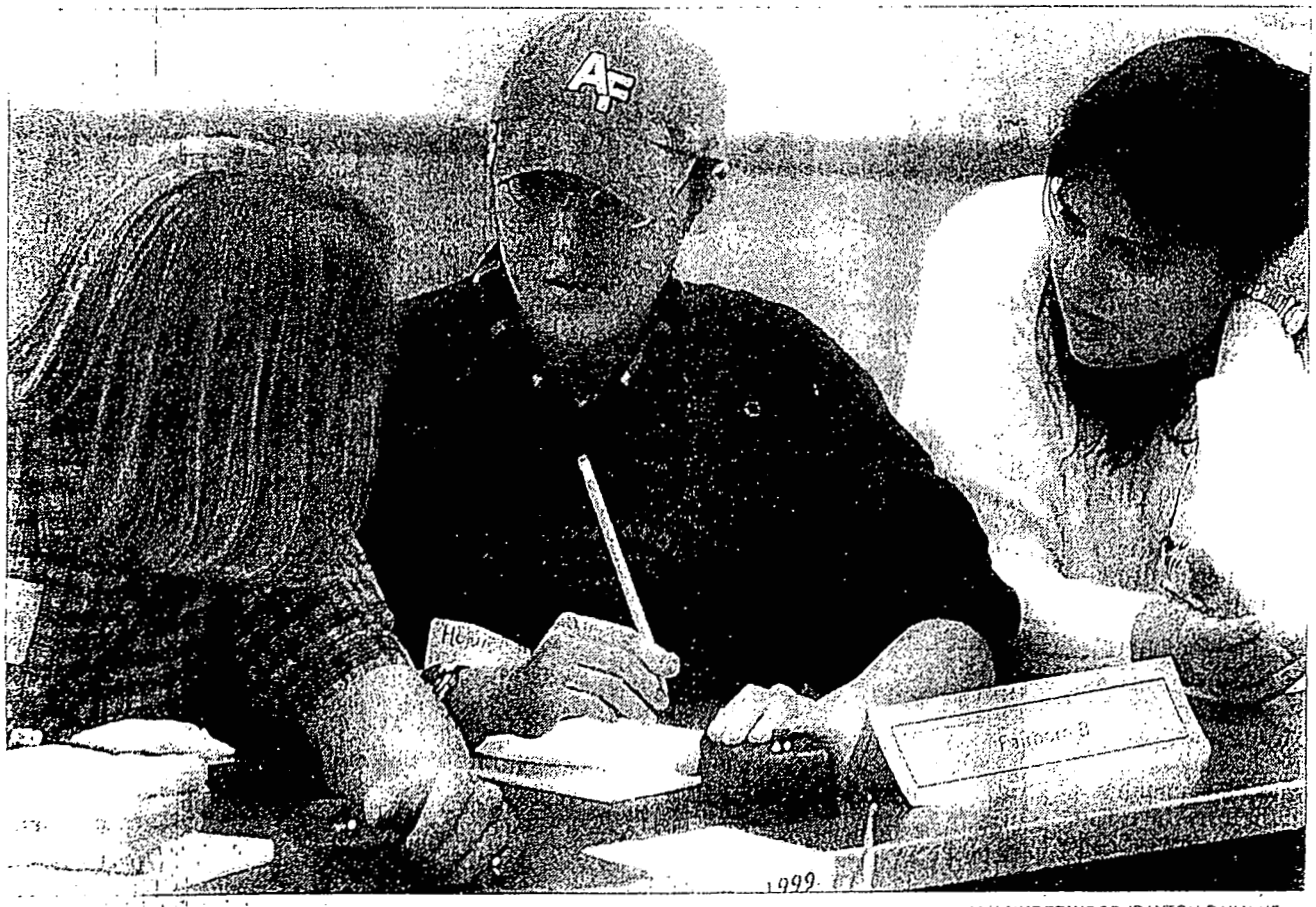
RMI has asked the DOE to pay about $1.5 million in uninsured liability for the cleanup of Fields Brook, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site, which runs behind RMI.



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

...Fairborn senior, immediately regrets answering a ... correctly Saturday at the ninth annual Miami Valley ... held at UD Arena. Story 3B

STUDENTS COMPETE IN SCIENCE BOWL



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

...members of the Fairborn B team, Barbara Ahlstrom (left), Hojun Lee (center) and Jessica McNeil, discuss the ... question in the ninth annual Miami Valley Science Bowl on Saturday at UD Arena.

Practice pays for winners

▶ A Centerville team beats the competition and earns a trip to the national Science Bowl.

By Joann Rouse
WARREN COUNTY BUREAU

When the buzzer sounded, Centerville High School senior John Zinck heaved a sigh of relief and gave a teammate a high five.

After coming "so close" for the past four years, Zinck and his teammates had finally placed first during the ninth annual Miami Valley Science Bowl. The event was Saturday at the University of Dayton.

"We didn't expect to win," Zinck said. "We were just expecting to do well, like we did in other years."

The competition was conducted in a quiz format, with four-member teams answering science-related questions in mathematics, chemistry, physics, earth science and computer science.

The event attracted 28 teams from 17 high schools in Ohio and Michigan.

"The goal is to enhance the emphasis on science education," competition spokesman Mark Becker said. "People are always saying there's not enough math or physics components in education."

The top three teams won plaques for their schools and individual awards for each member.

The Centerville team also won an all-expense-paid trip to the national Science Bowl, which will be April 30 to May 3 in Washington.

The Centerville science team spent many after-school sessions conducting buzzer practice, coach Penny Valentini said.

"They're all pretty much straight-A students, some A-plus," Valentini said. "And some are just good students with a particular affinity for science."

The key, she said, was lots of practice.

The Department of Energy Ohio field office, Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio and the Roy F. Weston Co. sponsored the competition. Company officials serve as moderators, timekeepers and scorekeepers.

Fairborn placed second, and the defending champion, Beavercreek High School, came in third.

Beavercreek has won every year except 1992 and 1997 when Harrison High School from Farmington Hills, Mich., and Fairborn High School, respectively, won the bowl.

Winning teams at the national competition earn science-related trips around the world and the nation.

The teams placed as follows: Centerville A, Fairborn A, Beavercreek A, Centerville B, Fairborn B, Wayne, Wilmington B, Carroll A, Harrison, Fenwick A, Chaminade-Julienne, Carroll B, Bethel B, Wilmington A, Miamisburg, Franklin B, Fenwick B, Bellbrook B, Arcanum A, Blanchester, Franklin A, Bellbrook A, Badin, Arcanum B, Beavercreek B and Bethel A.

▶CONTACT Joann Rouse at (513) 748-5642 or e-mail her at joann_rouse@coxohio.com

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MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

OhioEPA

MOUND PLANT BUILDING DATA PACKAGE

Information Notice

The Paint Shop will soon be dismantled. A Building Data Package describing the Paint Shop and its dismantlement is available in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio.

Questions can be referred to Paul Lucas at (937) 865-4578.

MIAMISBURG

Miamisburg gets triple dip of good news

U.S. energy czar Bill Richardson brought nothing but good news Monday during a visit to the former nuclear weapons production plant in Miamisburg. Marking the transfer of the first 14 acres of the 306-acre Mound plant to a local business-development group, Richardson also presented a $5 million check for improvements at the site and said production of nuclear engines designed for use in space would continue at the facility.

▶ Please see full story, 2B.

MIAMISBURG

Mound land transferred

▶ $5 million from the feds will help provide road and other improvements.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Department of Energy Secretary Bill Richardson traveled to Miamisburg on Monday to mark the transfer of the first parcel of former federal land to the community, and brought a bonus bit of good news as well.

Richardson said he decided Friday to keep the Radioisotopic Thermal Generation or RTG production plant at the Mound, something officials had been working hard to achieve for the last three or four years.

"It took a lot of work and a lot of letters to keep it," said Rep. Tony Hall, D-Dayton. "But in the end he (Richardson) kept his word to me."

The RTG plant, which makes small nuclear engines used to power vehicles in space, employs about 40 people.

"And all of those are high-paying jobs," Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church said.

The transfer of 14 acres to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. is the first of three sections of the former nuclear weapons production plant the community expects to receive this year. Eventually, all 306 acres of the Mound will be turned over.

Richardson also presented officials with a check for $5 million, the first of three payments to help Miamisburg with road and other improvements at the Mound. The two remaining $5 million payments from the federal government must still be approved by Congress.

The Energy Department will still be a presence at Mound until at least 2005, and Richardson said Monday that security changes in the wake of the discovery of espionage at Los Alamos in New Mexico might someday affect the Mound.

"We want to make sure all our facilities are secure, but right now the main effort will be at the five weapons facilities," said Richardson, whose agency has been criticized for not halting the espionage at Los Alamos sooner.

Mound facility to hold tornado exercise

As part of its Emergency Management Program, the Department of Energy's Miamisburg Environmental Management Project at the Mound Facility will be conducting a "Tornado Take Shelter Exercise" this Thursday, March 25.

The exercise will require the plant's tornado warning siren to be activated. In some cases, the siren can be heard in and around the plant site.

Employees at the site will move to shelter areas as part of the exercise when the siren is activated. The exercise is not expected to last longer than 20 minutes.

Space Power program to stay at Mound

Richardson signs land transfer, gives $5 million grant check

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Bill Richardson had a surprise announcement at Monday's press conference at the Mound facility in Miamisburg – an announcement that made the crowd attending the conference cheer and applaud wildly with approval.

Richardson said that he had decided to keep the Radioisotopic Thermal Generation (RTG) program at the Mound site, rather than transferring it to another DOE site. The RTG program builds power sources for deep space missions.

"For 38 years, the Mound site has served a key role in the development, production and deployment of radioisotopic generators and heat sources used for NASA's deep space missions," said Richardson. "This is an enduring mission for the department that we believe can safely and cost-effectively continue as a stand-alone operation at Mound as the rest of the site is decommissioned and turned over to the city of Miamisburg.

"Now, maybe Tony Hall will get off my back," he quipped. U.S. Rep. Hall has been a staunch supporter of Miamisburg's efforts to redevelop the Mound for private business.

DOE had considered transferring the Space Power System program to another site since the program would eventually be the only departmental activity left at the site. The preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate potential alternate sites was initiated last fall and public scoping meetings were held at six potential sites the DOE was considering. Also, the DOE undertook several detailed reviews to evaluate safeguards, security and safety related to maintaining the operations at Mound as a stand-alone facility, and an economic comparison of operations at Mound and other sites. These studies confirmed that the operations can continue to be safely conducted at Mound and that it is not economically advantageous

(Continued on Page 3)

Mound ...

(Continued from Page 1)

to move the operation.

"I decided Friday night to leave the program at the Mound and I wanted to share that decision with you here today," said Richardson.

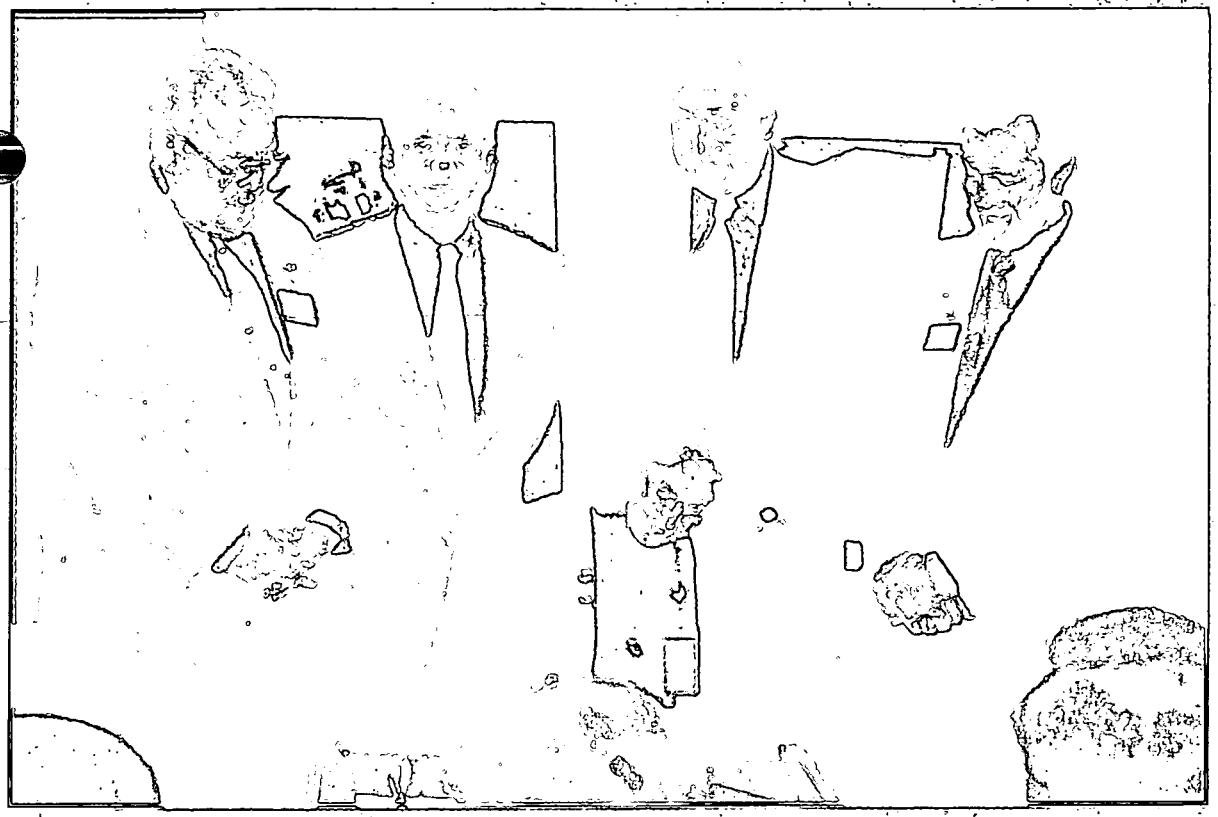
Mound has been involved in the assembly and testing of space nuclear power systems for nearly 40 years. Systems assembled and tested at the Mound have flown on space missions to the moon, to Mars and to explore the outer plants. The most recent mission that uses the systems is the Cassini spacecraft that was launched in 1997 to study Saturn. Missions in the future will continue to use these systems.

"We're very happy to keep the RTG program here," said Hall. "It keeps the brainpower of the Mound here to be used to attract businesses."

Richardson was on hand Monday for a ceremony marking the transfer of the first parcel of Mound property to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation, the organization responsible for Mound's redevelopment and reuse.

The parcel, about 14 acres of the 306 acre site, includes two buildings representing nearly 33,000 square feet of space under lease to private businesses.

Richardson also presented a $5 million check to be used by the MMCIC for site improvements necessary to make the site



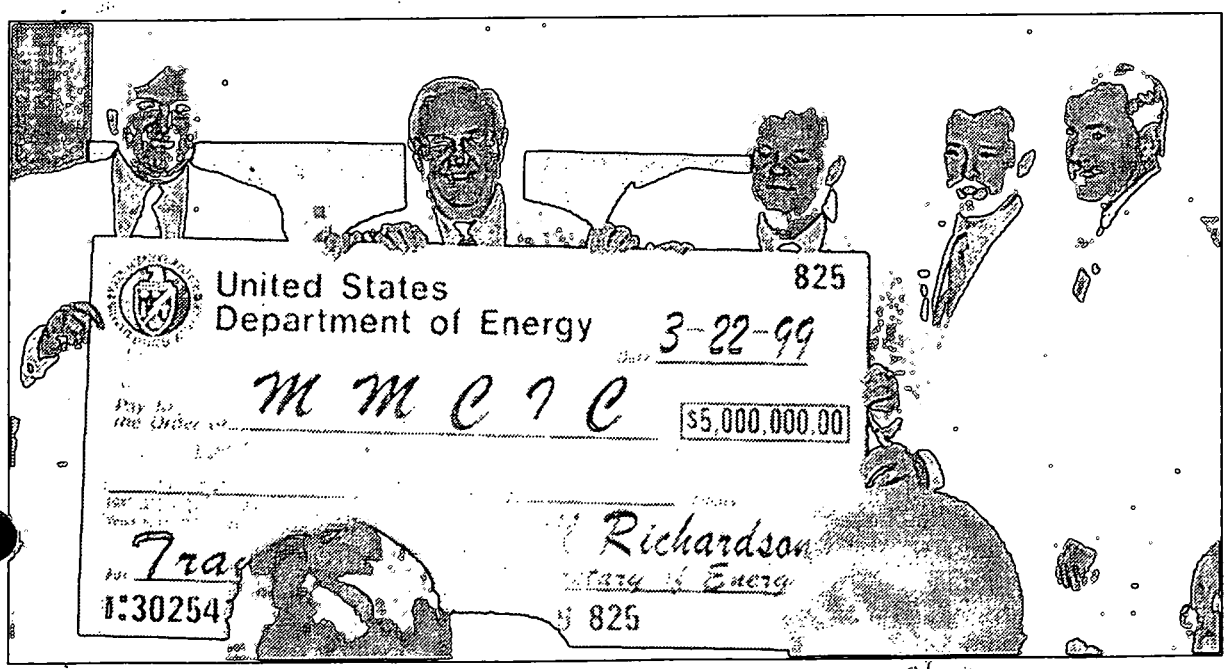
LEAH DEVER of the DOE field office signs the deed transfer to 13 acres of Mound land as Mayor Dick Church, U.S. Rep. Tony Hall, Secretary Bill Richardson and MMCIC President Mike Grauwelman look on. PHOTO BY STEVE SANDLIN

commercially viable. A $3.05 million improvement project, called the Eastern Boundary Improvement Project, will begin in July on two Mound parcels and areas adjacent to the site.

The $5 million check represents the first of three equal installments to be paid to the MMCIC. The remaining $10 million is contingent upon Congressional approval and upon the MMCIC securing matching funds from the state and local governments, as well as private industry.

"The Miamisburg community has demonstrated a commitment to working with the Department of Energy to make the conversion process successful," said Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. "There is no greater priority in our city."

"We are grateful to everyone who has played a role in the transition process because you have done the right and proper thing," said Mike Grauwelman,



THE MMCIC receives a $5 million check from the U.S. Department of Energy.



MIAMISBURG MAYOR Dick Church Jr. presents Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson with a Mounds candy bar in honor of his visit to the Mound. PHOTOS BY STEVE SANDLIN

MMCIC president. "You have made a difference to this community and its residents, to the employees of the businesses who are using the assets of this site and the future."

DOE announced the closing of the Mound plant in Dec. 1991. Since that time, the contractor workforce at the site has been reduced by 59 percent. At the same time, the MMCIC's economic development initiatives have resulted in 30 businesses with 270 private-sector employees operating on the site.



THE NEFF School Energy Club presents Richardson with a t-shirt.

THREE MILE ISLAND: 20 YEARS LATER

'I think more attention needs to be paid to it'

Researcher Steve Wing, an epidemiologist at the University of North Carolina, who thinks he sees statistical indications that cancer deaths have increased in the areas downwind from Three Mile Island

Questions linger at Three Mile Island

▶ Twenty years later, the effects of the nuclear plant accident are largely unknown.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

In a matter of eight seconds in the predawn hours of Wednesday, March 29, 1979, the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania went from normal operation to the brink of a catastrophe.

Twenty years later there is still intense debate over the health and environmental impact of the United States' worst nuclear accident. The accident, in which the plant's radioactive fuel rods were exposed and more than one third melted, effectively halted the growth of nuclear power in this country.

While 104 existing plants continue to operate, there have been no new plants built since 1979. And many plants under construction at the time, including the Zimmer plant partially owned by Dayton Power & Light, were converted to coal.

However, things could be changing.

With coal-fired plants under fire for not meeting strict federal clean air standards, the nuclear power industry is showing signs of being reborn. Some industry and government representatives believe the nation cannot meet air standards to curb global warming without nuclear power in the mix. In fact, TMI 1 — not the unit involved in the accident — was recently sold to a Pennsylvania power company. TMI 1 has operated without incident since shortly after the accident.

Nuclear power plants emit none of the so-called "greenhouse gases" that spew from coal plants, but nuclear plants still haven't successfully solved the problem of nuclear power, most importantly disposing of the used, spent nuclear waste.

The shadow of Three Mile Island, and the even longer shadow of the accident at Russia's Chernobyl plant, still hover over the industry. While industry and government regulatory agencies like the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission downplay the damage done at Three Mile Island, outside Harrisburg, Pa., there are some researchers who think the health effects of the accident were much worse.

Twenty years is time enough for some hard-to-detect cancers to start showing up. Researcher Steve Wing, an epidemiologist at the University of North Carolina, thinks he sees statistical indications that cancer deaths have increased in the areas downwind from Three Mile Island.

But to understand the issues, first it is necessary to revisit what happened on Wednesday, March 28, 1979, and the investigations that followed.

▶ At 4 a.m. on Day 1 of the accident, a pump supplying water to TMI-2's steam generator stopped operating. Water serves two purposes in a nuclear plant like the one designed by Babcock & Wilcox at Three Mile Island: It supplies steam to the plant's electric generator and cools off some of the intense heat produced by the reactor.

▶ The plant's safety system shut down the steam generator. As the reactor's coolant water temperature increased, a valve on top of a containment tank opened as it was supposed to, releasing some of the pressure. The valve was supposed to close 13 seconds later, but in the first of a series of instrument failures and poor communication between plant operators, it remained open for nearly three hours.

▶ Operators in the control room believed the valve was shut and did not pump needed coolant water into the reactor. A "loss of coolant accident" was in progress. Eventually, nearly one-third of the plant's coolant water escaped through the valve.

▶ At about 6 a.m. some of the casings around the reactor's fuel rods ruptured, partially uncovering the rods and sending radioactive gas into the coolant water. Eventually, one-third of the rods would melt down. The reaction also produced a bubble of hydrogen in the containment building, which produced great concern of an explosion for several days after the accident.

▶ As radiation detection alarms went off all over the plant, the incident was declared a general emergency at 7:20 a.m. Radiation was released to the containment building and to the environment. Estimates of how much radiation escaped into the air outside the plant vary. Industry and government sources

RADIATION: Incident was nation's worst nuclear accident

found that radiation levels outside remained low throughout the accident. Critics believe the releases could have been much higher downwind of the plant.

▶ WKBO, a radio station in Harrisburg, reported the story of TMI-2 at 8:25 a.m. Miscommunication added to the crisis. While officials were aware of low-level releases to the environment, public relations people from Metropolitan Edison, the plant owner, were telling reporters there had been no release. The report added to an atmosphere of mistrust. Pennsylvania Gov. Richard Thornburgh, who in the next three days would weigh whether to evacuate 600,000 people, was also not quickly informed of the release.

▶ On Day 2 of the accident, some children under 2 and pregnant women were told to leave the area downwind of the plant.

▶ On the afternoon of Day 2, radiation levels measuring 3,000 millirems per hour were recorded above the plant. (An average X-ray, by comparison, measures 10 millirems.) Also, Met Ed released water from showers, toilets and laundry facilities into the Susquehanna

SEE RADIATION/22A

CONTINUED FROM 21A

River, some of it contaminated. Company officials did not inform the reporters — who by now numbered in the thousands — of the release, adding to the level of mistrust.

▶ By early evening, Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials received the results of an analysis that showed damage to the reactor core was more substantial than anticipated. There was a possibility of greater radiation releases.

▶ Gov. Thornburgh eventually decided that no evacuation was needed, but continued to advise pregnant women and preschool children to stay more than five miles from the plant.

▶ On Saturday, March 31, Day 4 of the accident, concern about a possible explosion of the hydrogen bubble reached its peak, but officials later determined that not enough oxygen was being generated to cause an explosion.

▶ After numerous operator mistakes and miscommunications, coolant water was restored to the reactor core, bringing it under control. Today, TMI-2 remains in cold, monitored storage while its sister reactor continues to produce electricity.

Not surprisingly, the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history has been the subject of hundreds of studies, but some question their validity.

Industry officials concede that the accident was a result of poor operator training and inadequate instruments — faults they say have since been addressed at the nation's nuclear plants.

A class-action lawsuit by 2,000 people living downwind of Three Mile Island was dismissed in 1996 in U.S. District Court, and is currently being appealed. Judge Sylvia Rambo ruled that there was a "paucity" of evidence that the accident caused ill health effects.

University of North Carolina researcher Wing, at the request of the litigants, re-examined data from a 1990 Columbia University study that found no increased cancer rates after Three Mile Island.

Writing in the January 1997 journal, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, Wing found lung cancer incidence elevated 300-400 percent and leukemia rates up by 600-700 percent among those in the direct path of the radiation plume released at Three Mile Island.

The report touched off a lively debate on methodology and statistics between the authors of the two major studies.

Both Wing and the Columbia researchers, however, say further health studies need to be done. The data used for both was collected between 1981-85, too soon for some cancers to make an appearance.

Wing said the Columbia report errs in assuming too low an exposure rate from the accident and not including enough cancers. Industry officials say that more than a dozen health studies since 1979, including a Pennsylvania Health Department registry of 35,000 people living near the plant, show no ill effects.

"I think more attention needs to be paid to it," Wing said. "I don't feel the book should be closed at all. There is something to look for."

A 1991 book, *Deadly Deceit* by Dr. Jay M. Gould and Benjamin Goldman, also claims that cancer and mortality rates in the areas closest to Three Mile Island are higher than reported and suggest a link to the accident.

One of the strengths of Wing's study, he said, is that it looked at rates both upwind and downwind of the accident, and the rates downwind are higher.

"That's what makes our reanalysis so interesting," he said.

Wing said that in addition to collecting more health data, the whole process of the nuclear regulatory agencies should be opened up to encourage more community participation.

"I would be the first to say that our study doesn't prove by itself that there were high-level radiation exposures, but it is part of a body of evidence that is consistent with high exposures," Wing said. "The cancer findings, along with studies of animals, plants and chromosomal damage in Three Mile Island area residents, all point to much higher radiation levels that previously reported."

UTILITIES

Nuclear power plants are making a comeback

▶ Atomic plants are safer than decades ago, and more efficient than those powered by fossil fuels.

By Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

This year the Pennsylvania power company AmerGen purchased the nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island, which prompted, well, some strange reactions.

"People say, 'You bought what?' " said Ralph DeSantis of AmerGen. "We get that a lot."

AmerGen's investment in Three Mile Island, which only a few years ago would have seemed as likely as buying up steam threshers, is one of several signs that the nuclear power industry seeks to make a comeback.

Three Mile Island, which 20 years ago was the scene of the nation's worst nuclear reactor accident, stopped the nuclear industry cold in the United States. The disaster in Chernobyl in the Ukraine underscored the trend.

Since the partial meltdown of reactor No. 2 at Three Mile Island on March 28, 1979, there have been no new nuclear plants planned or built in the U.S. Many plants under construction at the time, including the Zimmer power plant near Cincinnati in 1982, were converted to coal.

AmerGen is buying reactor No. 1 at TMI, which DeSantis points out has continued to operate without incident for two decades.

One of the reasons that nuclear power, long one of the favorite targets of environmental groups, could see a resurgence is, ironically, the environment.

Industry officials point out that the United States cannot meet the stringent clean air goals outlined in the Kyoto Agreement without nuclear power, which does not emit the so-called "greenhouse gases" of traditional coal-powered plants.

John Kane, vice president of the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry lobbying group, said nuclear energy will be the "nation's workhorse in helping to achieve air-quality goals."

The Clinton administration has included about $17 billion in the most recent budget.

Department of Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, in Miamisburg on Monday, said that nuclear energy "has a place" in the country's power picture.

The federal government is moving toward an answer to one of the major problems associated with nuclear plants, disposal of high radiation spent fuel. Congress is considering a bill to have the government take possession of all the old nuclear waste, now stored in various spots around the country, and disposing of it at its deep mountain burial site in Nevada.

The United States has the 104 nuclear power plants, more than any other country, but they supply less than 20 percent of the country's electricity. France, with just 59 reactors, gets 78 percent of its power from nuclear plants.

Industry officials say that safety in U.S. nuclear plants has improved since Three Mile Island, which dramatically displayed deficiencies in operator training and warning instruments.

The Institute for Nuclear Power Operations, established by the industry after TMI, reports that the number of "significant events" or potential shutdowns at nuclear plants fell from a high of 2.38 per unit in 1985 to just 0.10 per unit in 1997.

"The data prove it — nuclear plants are safer and more reliable than ever," said Joe Colvin, president of the Nuclear Energy Institute.

Others are not so sure the industry's safety record has improved.

A study of the industry by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that five plants were shut down for more than a year to fix safety problems.

"Apparently the industry and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have forgotten about Three Mile Island," said David Lochbaum of the scientist group.

The Union of Concerned Scientists recommend that the industry:

▶ Develop risk studies based on all information

▶ Respond more quickly to warning signs

▶ Communicate more openly with the public on safety matters

Another concern is the aging of current nuclear plants.

There have been 27 reactors closed after operating for an average lifetime of 15 years, according the Safe Energy Communication Council in Washington, D.C.

The council reported that a national opinion survey found six out of 10 voters opposed building new nuclear reactors.

Anti-nuke groups may not be the only obstacle facing the industry. Utility deregulation and low prices for oil and natural gas may end up making nuclear power too expensive to compete.

NEW MEXICO

Waste arrives at nuclear dump site

▶ The historic journey is greeted with the cheers of supporters and jeers of protesters.

By Chris Roberts
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARLSBAD, N.M. — After 25 years of lawsuits, studies and protests, the nation's first nuclear dump — a network of chambers carved out of the salt beds deep beneath the New Mexico desert — received its first truckload of radioactive waste Friday.

A crowd of about 100 people who live in Carlsbad, 25 miles from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, cheered the truck and held up cardboard signs reading, "Welcome finally" and "It's about time!" as the rig rolled through before daybreak.

Earlier in the 270-mile, 7½-hour trip, the truck faced a scattering of protesters yelling "Poison! Poison!" along with two young women who sat down in the road and a man who tried to block the highway with his car.

The first load of waste came from Los Alamos National Laboratory in the New Mexico city that was the birthplace of the atomic bomb.

Ultimately, up to 6.2 million cubic feet of waste generated since the dawn of the atomic age will be entombed over the next 30 years in the salt beds nearly a half-mile below ground. The waste consists of such items as clothing, tools and rags contaminated with plutonium.

Up to now, the United States has had no permanent resting place for weapons-related plutonium waste.

As a result, the waste has been piling up at 23 weapons installations around the country such as Rocky Flats near Denver and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, where it is kept mostly in 55-gallon drums on above-ground concrete pads, underneath bubble structures or in earthen mounds.

These corroding drums must be periodically repackaged, and some fear the waste is vulnerable to hazards such as tornadoes or earthquakes.

The arrival of the first shipment of waste at WIPP marked more than two decades of effort to open the $1.8 billion repository, first proposed in 1974. The first truckload will be placed underground by Monday.

"I'm ecstatic — this is just the culmination of everything I've worked for for 25 years," said Wendell Weart, a Sandia National Laboratories scientist who was instrumental in creating the repository.

WIPP is not designed for the thousands of tons of high-level waste stored at nuclear power plants across the country. Yucca Mountain in Nevada is being studied as a long-term burial place for that waste.

An appeals court in Washington and a federal judge in Santa Fe on Wednesday rejected last-ditch appeals from environmentalists who sought to stop the transfer of the waste to WIPP.

On Thursday night, a crowd of about 100 people cheered and the driver gave a thumbs-up as the load rolled out of Los Alamos National Laboratory, its departure delayed by heavy fog.

But down the road in Santa Fe, a hub of anti-WIPP sentiment, dozens of protesters lined the route, holding up placards that read "Stop Nuke Trucks" and "Science or Science Fiction?"

William Beems, 42, of Albuquerque, parked his car across the middle of the road with lighted flares around it. He was arrested on charges of obstructing the road and resisting arrest.

The two young women who sat down on the interstate south of Santa Fe moved when asked to do so by state police.

DAYTON DAILY NEWS
• MONDAY,
MARCH 29, 1999

WORK SAFETY

Weapons workers exposed to toxin

▶ Government officials knew of dust's dangers, newspaper report says.

TOLEDO (AP) — During the past five decades, the U.S. government risked the lives of thousands of workers by knowingly allowing them to be exposed to dangerous levels of beryllium — a metal critical to America's military, *The Blade* reported Sunday.

Despite numerous government, scientific, and industry reports that showed the material could not be made without putting workers in extreme danger, federal officials continued to push for its production.

Hundreds of workers exposed to the metal's dust have contracted beryllium disease, an incurable and sometimes fatal lung illness, *The Blade* reported.

Dozens have contracted the disease after exposure above federal safety limits, the newspaper said.

Some workers at privately operated weapons plants in Ohio and Pennsylvania were exposed to levels of beryllium dust 100 times safety limits, the newspaper said, citing government records.

At the nation's largest beryllium plant just outside Toledo, at least 39 workers have contracted the disease after being exposed to unsafe levels of toxic dust. Six workers died.

The plant near Elmore, owned by Cleveland-based Brush Wellman Inc., has never consistently complied with federal safety limits in all parts of the factory, the newspaper said.

Dr. Peter Infante, director of standards review for the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said the government has failed in protecting the workers.

"These are all deaths and disease that could have been prevented," Infante said. "That's the sad thing about it."

Brush Wellman says it has always posted air test results on plant bulletin boards and has discussed the high exposures with employees. But it acknowledged that by the time high dust counts are reported, the workers already have been exposed.

Hugh Hanes, the company's vice president for government affairs, said Sunday that the company and government were not attempting to hide any information from workers.

"The idea that there has been a conspiracy is wrong," he said.

The company has invested greatly in protecting its workers and constantly monitors beryllium levels, he said. The goal is to operate within federal safety limits.

"We are getting closer and closer to that goal," Hanes said.

The newspaper said the danger was not limited to weapons plant workers. Other companies use beryllium to make everyday items such as golf clubs, but no one knows how many workers are potentially exposed.

About two dozen people have contracted the disease from dust carried into their homes by beryllium workers. Some victims have been women who washed their husbands' work clothes.

Beryllium is a gray metal lighter than aluminum yet six times stiffer than steel. It is vital to the operation of missiles, jet fighters and nuclear weapons.

There have been attempts by safety regulators to protect workers from its dust, but those plans have been scuttled by defense and industry officials, *The Blade* said.

President Carter's Defense and Energy secretaries helped kill one safety plan in the 1970s.

They feared cutting off beryllium supplies for weapons would "significantly and adversely affect our national defense," U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger wrote to two Cabinet members at the time.

MIAMISBURG



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Bob Stringer (left) and Barry Pugh have been working at Mound since 1984 and 1982, respectively. The Department of Energy's decision to continue production of nuclear generators for spacecraft means they and other specialized workers will keep their jobs.

Power for the stars

Mound facility building space power systems

By Julie Kemble Borths
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Growing up in Miamisburg, Barry Pugh always had his eyes on the stars.

Fascinated by the Apollo missions of his boyhood, he went off to study electrical engineering never dreaming he would come home to find a job that would take him — or at least his work — throughout the galaxy.

Pugh is one of about 40 U.S. Department of Energy employees who design and build space power systems at the Miamisburg Mound facility. Their work has made it possible for probes to go to Saturn. Now, after an announcement last month, their work in Miamisburg will go on to power probes to Pluto and other destinations.

The Department of Energy decided to keep the space power systems program at Mound instead of moving it elsewhere. The decision prompted a sigh of relief for Pugh and the other employees there.

Rumors had always been a part of life at Mound, Pugh said. Historically, the 306-acre facility had once been a key federal facility for nuclear weapon components and power systems. But, in October, the DOE announced it would consider sites in other states for the program, known as RTG for the radioisotope thermoelectric generators produced there that use nuclear material to power long-lasting devices for space exploration.

Workers are planning a party to celebrate the government's announcement but in the meantime they are celebrating the same way they always have: by working every day with a great deal of pride.

"Mound's a good place to work," Pugh said. "A lot of it is the satisfaction. I feel like I had something to do with the Apollo program (which also used the power sources) and that was before my time. The history here is just fantastic."

"To actually be a part of the space program, I didn't think it would ever happen to me," Stringer said.

But the excitement of the work had been clouded while employees awaited the DOE decision. Would the program move away? Would the highly specialized workers be asked to move as well? Would the federal agency decide a "secure facility" using nuclear material was too difficult to maintain in the commercial industrial park Mound was becoming in the post-Cold War age?

It wasn't just the employees who wanted to keep the program at Mound. City officials and members of Congress were lobbying for the prestigious program to stay at the facility, too.

"This has always been home but this reinforced my faith in it," Pugh said. "The community was just great."

"You could tell the whole area was pleased," Stringer said. "When they made the announcement, every face in the place was smiling."

The relief was palpable at home, too, said Barry's wife, Pam.

"There was a little less stress," she said. "He'd been doing the strong, silent man kind of thing. I'd hear more from other people at Mound. He didn't want me to worry."

But after building their dream house two years ago, the family was concerned about possibly moving from the community. For Stringer, who married in January and was looking toward retirement, the anxiety of waiting for a decision was also difficult.

SEE MOUND/8

MOUND: It's back to work

CONTINUED FROM 1

But after the good news, it was back to work.

"Now we can do our work even better," Pugh said.

"We know we'll be part of other missions."

And that sense of belonging is what makes work at Mound meaningful, Pugh and Stringer said.

"Whether you're an electrical engineer, a truck driver or an electrician, everyone always feels they did everything but push the button to launch the spacecraft" powered by units built at Mound, Pugh said.

"We were proud of what we did before and we did a good job at it. Now, we're at the top."

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE PACKAGE

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The Action Memorandum for PRS 411 is available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio. Public comment on this document will be accepted April 21, 1999 through May 21, 1999.

Potential Release Site 411:
Soil Contamination
Asphalt Roadway

Questions can be referred to Paul Lucas at (937) 865-4578.

Msbg. Council supports levy

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

The Miamisburg City Council announced its support of the Miamisburg School District's levy at its April 20 meeting by passing a resolution of support for that levy.

The school district is seeking a 2.9 mill, $2 million per year operating expenses levy for five years that voters will decide at the polls on Tuesday.

Tom Croskey and Janet Joseph, co-chairs of a citizens committee seeking passage of the levy, addressed the council, seeking their support at the meeting.

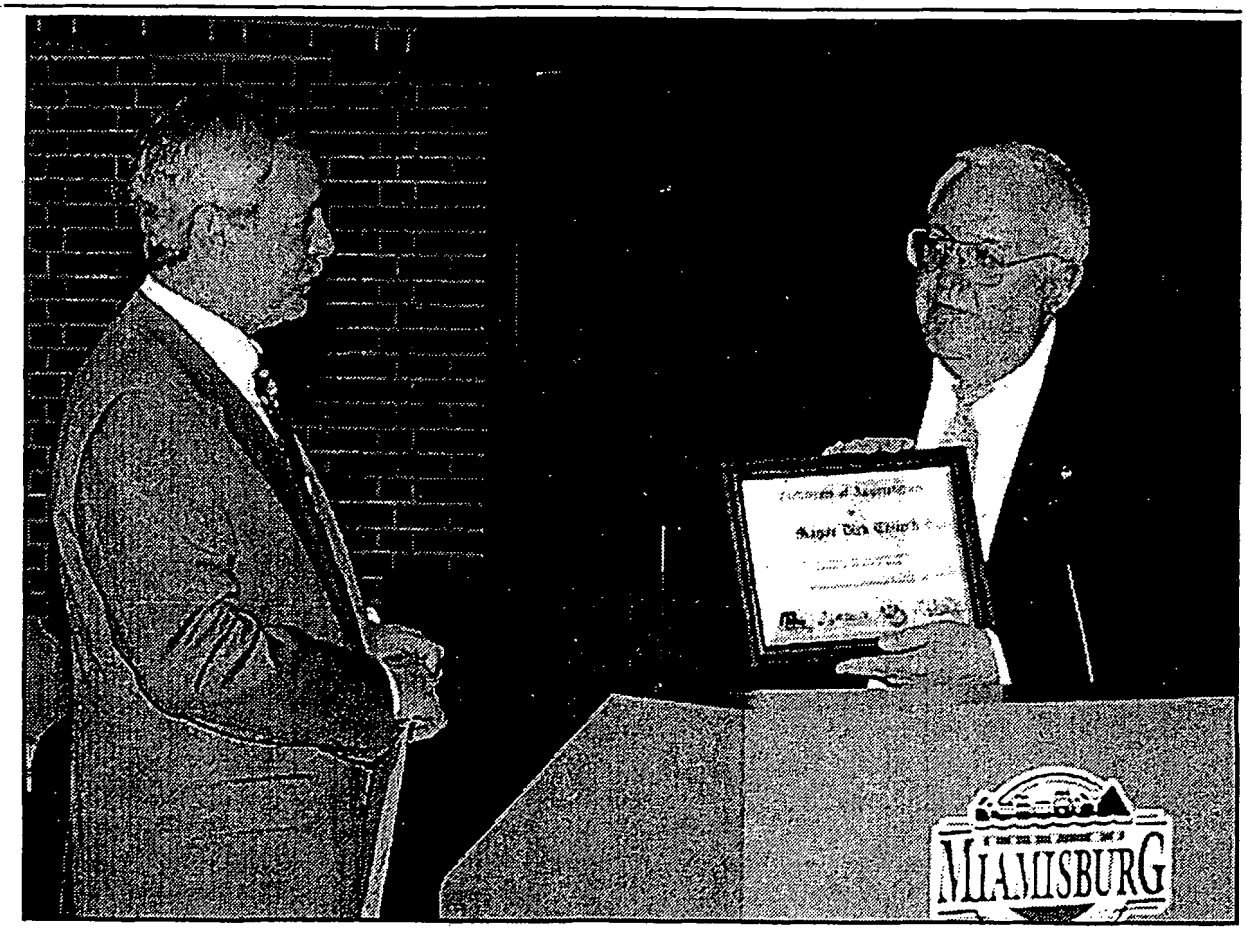
Mayor Dick Church Jr. also voiced his support of the passage of the levy.

"Our school system is the cornerstone of this community," said Church. "I believe it is vital that we support this levy."

In other business, Gary Morris, a member of a group of several Mound workers who attended the meeting, presented the city with a plaque for its successful efforts in retaining the U.S. Department of Energy's RTG program at the Mound. The RTG program builds nuclear batteries that are used in deep space missions.

"A lot of people helped us keep the program at the Mound," said Morris. "And we wanted to express our appreciation for the efforts of the city."

City council also honored the participants of the Citizens Police Academy with certificates of appreciation.



GARY MORRIS gives Mayor Church a plaque of appreciation.



BILL SCHAEFER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The drivers of a truck loaded with plutonium-contaminated waste check their tires on Route 26, north of Blackfoot, Idaho, Tuesday, as they begin their 32-hour journey to New Mexico. They were leaving the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, headed for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, N.M. Behind the truck are cars with reporters and cameras covering the trip.

NUCLEAR WASTE

Nation's new dump opens

▶ The first shipment of radioactive waste left Idaho at dawn Tuesday bound for New Mexico.

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — A truckload of nuclear waste left at dawn Tuesday for the nation's first permanent dump, 11 years after Idaho stared down the Energy Department and closed its borders to radioactive waste.

Cheers from about 100 elected officials pierced the semidarkness as the truck's horn sounded and began its 32-hour trip to the $2 billion Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southeastern New Mexico.

"As you can see, there's a new day dawning in Idaho," Gov. Dirk Kempthorne declared.

In 1988, then-Gov. Cecil Andrus unilaterally closed Idaho's borders to any additional waste shipments after the Energy Department failed to make good on promises to begin removing waste.

The border was reopened a few months later. In 1995, ex-Gov. Phil Batt negotiated a settlement requiring the first shipment to leave the state by the end of April 1999.

Energy Department spokesman Brad Bugger said so far there is no schedule for additional shipments. But the settlement requires the agency to have all nuclear waste out by 2036.

Up until the New Mexico dump was finished, the United States had no permanent resting place for weapons-related plutonium waste. After 25 years of lawsuits, studies and protests, the dump carved out of the salt beds a half-mile deep beneath the desert finally began receiving shipments in March.

During the years of delay, the waste piled up at 23 weapons installations throughout the country such as Rocky Flats near Denver and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, where it is kept mostly in 55-gallon drums on aboveground concrete pads, underneath bubble structures or in earthen mounds.

The New Mexico dump will eventually house up to 6.2 million cubic feet of waste.

Contamination Found In 'Clean' Rooms At DOE's Mound Plant

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

Dismayed by the discovery of plutonium-238 in a room that had been deemed free of significant radioactivity, officials at the Energy Department's Mound plant recently conducted new surveys that have detected contamination in four other buildings not posted as radiological areas.

Among other unexpected findings at the former Ohio nuclear weapons facility, radiation control technicians discovered elevated contamination levels on top of a bookcase, in the top drawer of a safe, inside a cabinet drawer—and on the floor underneath steel cabinets that were shipped offsite to a commercial garbage landfill without being checked for radiation.

DOE safety officials said the unpleasant surprises represent a sobering lesson for department sites undergoing cleanup, namely, that buildings or areas deemed clean in the past may not necessarily be clean by today's tougher standards.

Another contributing factor in some cases appears to be poor radiation control practices following past leaks or spills. In others, removal of furniture or cabinets uncovered previously inaccessible floors and other areas that were never checked for radiation.

And in the case of one vial of black liquid containing uranium-235 found April 14 in a fumehood, some items simply were forgotten and escaped notice in subsequent safety sweeps.

The bottom line, said DOE's Office of Nuclear and Facility Safety in a summary released last week, is that site managers must remain vigilant in checking radiation levels in buildings undergoing cleanup operations or other major changes—even if the buildings were reclassified as clean in the past.

(Continued on page 2)

Contamination In 'Clean' Rooms...

(Continued from page one)

"Facility management at the Mound plant downgraded the classification of former radiologically controlled areas over a number of years," the safety office said. "Those reclassifications were governed by changing regulatory standards and DOE requirements.

"Procedures developed for the reclassification of radiological areas after the implementation of new [decontamination] standards should have considered the difference between the radiological control levels required by previous standards and those required by newer standards. Work that intrudes into previously unexposed areas should consider that additional surveys might be needed given the more limited scope of earlier surveys."

Mound officials launched the new radiation surveys after technicians Feb. 24 detected plutonium-238 on part of a floor that was uncovered after the removal of floor-mounted steel cabinets that had been in place for 20 years. The contamination was not discovered for six days after the cabinets were thrown away and hauled off to a commercial landfill for disposal.

The contamination levels on the cabinets were not known, but investigators believe they were clean because no radioactivity was found on the worker who disassembled the cabinets, on the tools used for disassembly or the dumpster where the cabinets were placed prior to removal to the landfill. Investigators said the contamination on the floor under the cabinets appeared to be the result of a 1994 flooding incident in the building.

The other incidents—all in different rooms—involved:

- plutonium-238 and americium-241 discovered March 25 in a cabinet drawer. Investigators believe the drawer contained a contaminated weapons component stored in the room when it was posted as a radiological area; the contamination was not detected when the posting for the room was downgraded nearly 20 years ago.
- plutonium-238 found on top of a bookcase. The contamination is believed to have come from a major ceiling leak three years ago. The top of the bookcase was not surveyed after the leak and the room was not posted as a radiological area before the contamination was detected March 12.
- tritium detected March 2 in a safe that was used to store contaminated weapons parts for 30 years. The room had been posted as a contamination area, but the contamination in the safe was not detected when that posting was downgraded in 1995.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
announces a
PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT PERIOD FOR RELEASE BLOCK H MOUND SITE MIAMISBURG, OHIO

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a proposed plan (hereinafter plan) describing its recommendations for addressing a 14 acre portion of the Mound Site, located in Miamisburg, Ohio, known as Release Block H.

The plan outlines the institutional controls to be put in place when the release block is transferred to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC). After public comments are received, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued which finalizes the institutional controls. After the Record of Decision is finalized it is the intent of DOE to transfer title of the parcel to the MMCIC.

Copies of the plan and supportive documents are available in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Avenue, Miamisburg, Ohio, 45342. The Public Reading Room is open:

Monday -12 noon to 8 p.m.
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday -12 noon to 8 p.m.
Thursday - 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Friday - 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

A Public Meeting has been scheduled to discuss the plan. The meeting will provide the community an opportunity to ask questions and submit oral and written comments.

Tuesday, May 18, 1999
7 p.m.
Old Mound Cafeteria
OSE Building, Mound Site
1 Mound Road
Miamisburg, Ohio

For further information, please contact:

Jane Greenwalt
Public Information Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 66
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0066
(937) 865-3116

Oral and written comments will be accepted at this meeting. Written comments may be submitted during the 30-Day Public Comment Period that began May 5, 1999, and ends June 4, 1999. In order for comments to be incorporated into the ROD, they should be received by the end of the comment period, June 4, 1999. Comments should be mailed to the above named DOE contact.

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS

May 12, 1999

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
announces a
PUBLIC MEETING FOR PRS 66 AND A PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT PERIOD FOR RELEASE BLOCK H
MOUND SITE
MIAMISBURG, OHIO

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing the second in a series of working group meetings to discuss alternatives for the end state of an area of the central valley parking lot vicinity, known as PRS 66, at the Mound site. All interested members of the public are invited to attend this meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 1999, at 5:30p.m. to 7:00p.m. at the former Mound Cafeteria.

Additionally, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a proposed plan (hereinafter plan) describing its recommendations for addressing a 14 acre portion of the Mound Site, located in Miamisburg, Ohio, known as Release Block H. A meeting previously announced to be held on May 18, 1999 has been rescheduled for May 19, 1999 at 7:00p.m. in the former Mound Cafeteria.

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Public Meetings have been scheduled to discuss the plans. These meetings will provide the community an opportunity to ask questions and submit oral and written comments.

PRS 66	*Parcel H*
MEETING DATE	*NEW MEETING DATE*
Wednesday, May 19, 1999	Wednesday, May 19, 1999
5:30p.m. to 7:00p.m.	7:00pm to 8:00p.m.

Both Meetings will be held at the *Former Mound Cafeteria*
OSE Building, Mound Site
One Mound Road
Miamisburg, Ohio

For further information, please contact:

Jane Greenwalt
Public Information Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 66
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0066
(937)865-3116

Oral and written comments will be accepted at this meeting. Written comments may be submitted during the 30-Day Public Comment period that began May 5, 1999, and ends June 3, 1999. In order for comments to be incorporated into the ROD, they should be received by the end of the comment period on June 3, 1999. Comments should be mailed to the above named DOE contact.

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS
May 19, 1999

Ohio Director Johnson impressed with Mound

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

Ohio's director of the Department of Development, Lee Johnson, is impressed with the progress and efforts of those trying to reclaim the Mound site for private development.

Johnson visited the site Thursday and met with the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation and some business owners at the site. MMCIC President Mike Grauwelman gave a presentation on the progress at the Mound site to this point and told Johnson that the effort will need the state's assistance in the future.

Grauwelman pointed out that there are now 30 businesses located at the Mound with nearly 300 employees and that, if the Mound effort is to be successful and continue growing, state financial aid would be needed.

"Things are paying off now and we need your support," he said.

Johnson promised to help all he could.

"I'm really impressed with what you have done here and what you are trying to do here," he said. "You're trying to do here, what we want to do in the state — develop industry and business to raise the standard of living for the people of Ohio."

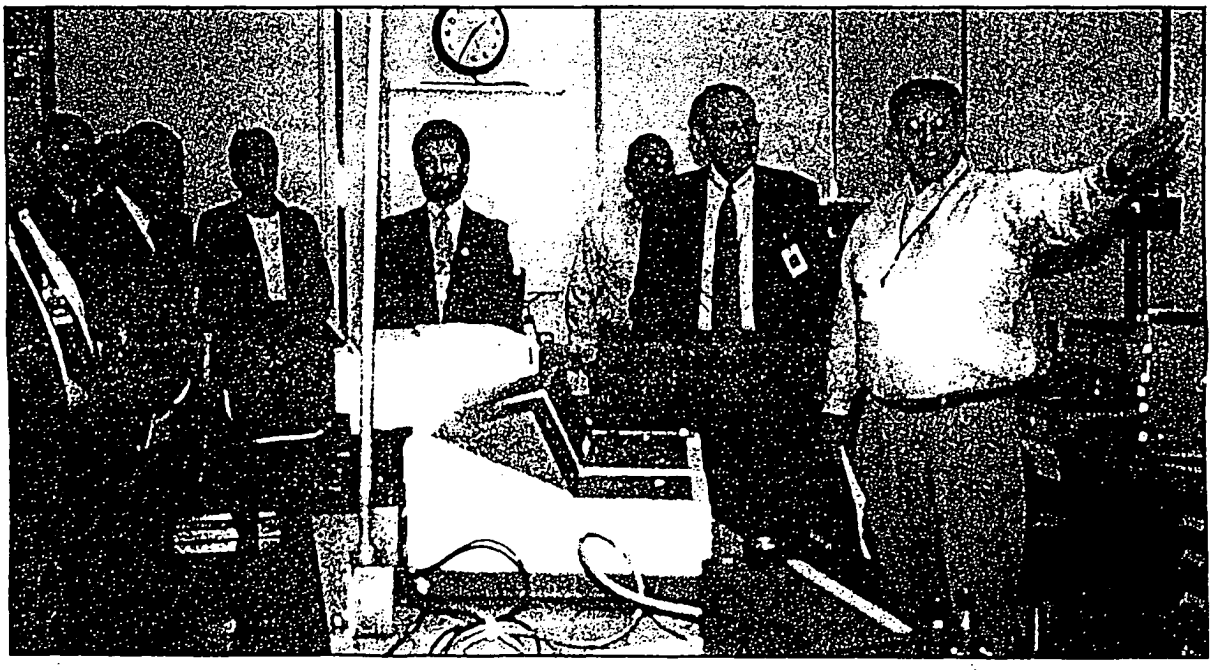
Johnson said he was impressed with the Mound's efforts to partner with local universities in developing research and train technical workers.

He also said that the key to economic development in Ohio is having enough venture capital for businesses and that he hopes to set up a state fund to help provide such capital to Ohio businesses.

"We need to think investment in development," he said. "We need to help these start up companies to bridge that gap and become solid businesses.

"If we aren't ready, we're going to get left behind," he said. "We need those incentive programs to attract and keep businesses."

Johnson also visited Mound Metrology and Inorganic Specialists – two businesses now operating at the Mound.



OHIO DIRECTOR of Development Lee Johnson visits a business at the Mound with officials from the city and the MMCIC.

Taft: Mound cleanup a model

Governor tours GM plants, promises state attention

By Dale Dempsey and Laura A. Bischoff
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft toured the Mound Advanced Technology Center in Miamisburg and several area automotive plants Wednesday, calling the Mound restoration a "model cleanup for the state and across the country."

Taft also conceded the state could be doing more to help other abandoned and polluted industrial sites, called brownfields, be restored to productive use.

Taft walked through General Motors and Delphi Automotive Systems plants in Dayton and Moraine for the first time. He said the state can help the plants by providing worker education and training grants, tax credits for job creation, an efficient workers' compensation system and lower electricity costs through utility deregulation.

Taft promised that the state will pay extra attention to the troubled Delphi plants and said he's impressed with the strides management and labor have made together. "This is really a turnaround story here at Delphi," he said.

The Mound, a nuclear weapons research and production plant from 1949 to 1993, is being transformed into a high-tech industrial park. The Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. hopes the park will employ 2,000 by the year 2005. It now has 30 businesses and more than 300 jobs.

The Department of Energy is overseeing the final environmental cleanup, which should be complete by 2004.

"This has been a great partnership of federal, local and state," Taft said. "It touches on so many of our priorities. It is a Defense Department conversion and a brownfields conversion and we've got a big job there."

Brownfield restoration is an expensive proposition. The DOE has committed $625 million to the cleanup, and Miamisburg is seeking another $48 million for capital improvements.

SEE TAFT/9B

TAFT: Mound cleanup a model

CONTINUED FROM 6B

Taft said brownfields are not high on the state's list of needs.

"Right now our top priority is education, it has to be," he said. "There are brownfield sites all across the state, but there are limited dollars to spend. We have to do more to help companies reuse these sites."

Taft said that he might at some time seek voter approval to generate more money for environmental improvements. He said protecting companies from liability under state and federal environmental laws is also important.

Ohio has a voluntary action program that protects companies from being sued if they agree to pay for cleaning up old properties to state and federal standards.

Taft said VAP has made some improvements but is not as successful as it could be.

He also met with members of the Miami Valley Economic Development Coalition, who reviewed projects such as the downtown Dayton riverfront redevelopment and minor league baseball stadium and the National Composite Center. "We have been supporting most of these projects that are their priorities," Taft said.

Taft said he was "very excited" with the innovation he's seen in the Miami Valley.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at 225-2270 or e-mail him at dale_dempsey@coxohio.com

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS
June 9, 1999

Mound efforts impress Ohio Governor Bob Taft

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

Ohio Governor Bob Taft is very impressed with what's going on at the Mound.

Taft visited the site Wednesday as part of a day-long tour of Miami Valley businesses.

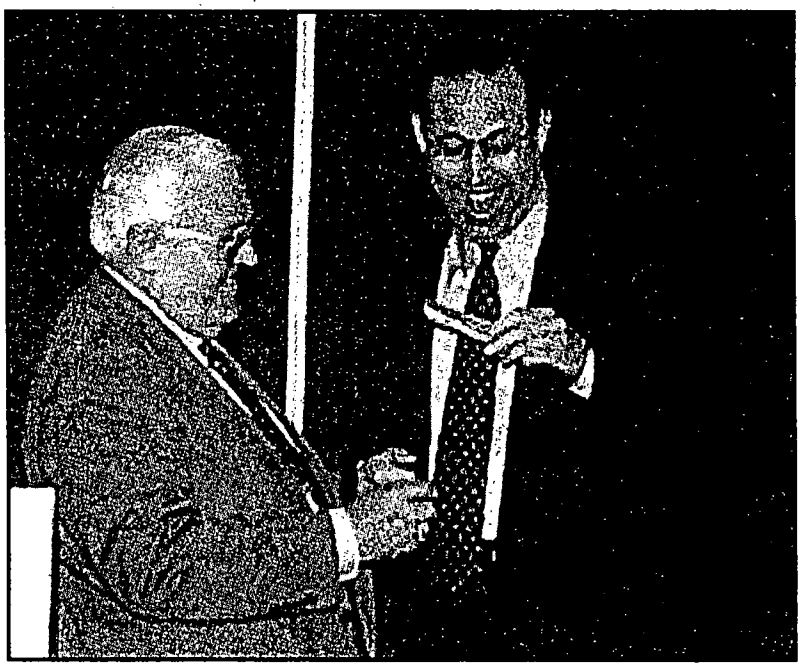
"I'm excited about what's going on here," said Taft. "This is a very exciting venture and it really is a model project.

"It touches on so many of our priorities in Ohio," he said. "My goal is to bring new jobs and new technology to Ohio and that's what you are doing here."

Taft said the state and local communities must provide the support to encourage the development of high tech businesses.

"The Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) is an excellent example of how new high technology businesses and jobs can be created when a community sets up an incubator to help start-up businesses with financial, technical, marketing and networking assistance," said Taft.

The MMCIC is an economic development organization created by the city of Miamisburg to spearhead development of a 1.5 million square foot high technology industrial park at the site of the former defense facility.



MIAMISBURG MAYOR Dick Church Jr. presents Ohio Gov. Bob Taft with a Mounds candy bar during his visit to the Miamisburg Mound facility. PHOTO BY STEVE SANDLIN

"If we are going to keep good jobs in Ohio, this is what we have to do," said Taft. "We have to take these small companies and help them grow.

"This is an extraordinary partnership where all are coming together to get the job done," he said.

Taft pledged the state's continued support for the development efforts at the Mound. MMCIC is receiving local, federal and state funding for the project. Last year's state Capital Improvements Budget included $500,000 for the Miamisburg Mound project.

"Please let us know what we can do to help," he said. "Let us know where the state can play a part."

DAYTON DAILY NEWS
•• FRIDAY,
JUNE 11, 1999

MIAMISBURG MOUND

Workers get health agreement

▶ The Department of Energy guarantees health care for life to those involved in the cleanup.

By Scott Montgomery and Dale Dempsey
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Workers at the Miamisburg Mound involved in the cleanup of the former nuclear weapons facility reached a class-action settlement Friday with the Department of Energy that, among other things, guarantees them health care for life for illness caused by exposure to radiation.

The lawsuit, filed in 1995 in U.S. Federal Court, covers all current and former workers.

"No worker should have doubts about the safety of their workplace," said DOE Secretary Bill Richardson. "This settlement helps resolve an unfortunate chapter at Mound."

The complaint against former Mound contractors EG&G and Monsanto Research Corp. said the companies failed to monitor or accurately calculate the regular medical test that radiation workers take to determine their level of exposure.

The DOE fined EG&G Mound $112,000 in 1997 for the operation of its bioassay program, which samples the urine of workers. In some cases, the samples were tested for years; others were miscalculated. Babcock & Wilcox, the current contractor, also had problems with the program and was fined $165,000 in 1998.

Mound worker Katherine Levell, the lead plaintiff in the class-action suit, said in the complaint that one of her urine samples sat for three years before she was told the results.

Richard Miller, policy analyst for the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers Union, which covers the Mound workers, said there have been only two class-action suits ever settled with the DOE. The other is at Fernald in Cincinnati.

The settlement contains these provisions:

▶ Life-time radiological occupational disease insurance, covering acute and non-lymphatic leukemia; lymphatic leukemia, female breast cancer, thyroid cancer, bladder cancer, bone cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, digestive cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, oral cancer and brain-nervous stem cancer.

▶ Other insurance benefits, including diseases associated with exposure to asbestos and beryllium.

▶ Enhanced radiation protection at the Mound.

▶ Employment protection through Dec. 31, 2005, for current workers. The cleanup at the Mound is expected to be complete in 2005.

▶ A worker radiation dose study

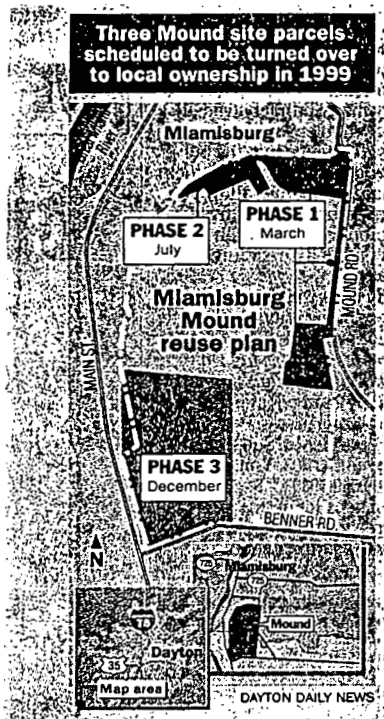
Miller said the health coverage was a key element of the settlement.

"This means any future employer will know he will not have to pay for dreaded disease coverage," he said.

Former Sen. John Glenn and Congressman Tony Hall both encouraged the DOE to settle the case.

"Worker safety and health must always be top priorities.

▶ **CONTACT** Dale Dempsey at (937) 225-2270 or by e-mail dale_dempsey@coxohio.com





MOUND MOVERS

By Timothy R. Gaffney
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Developing a high-technology business park is a tough project.

But compare that with redeveloping an industrial brownfield or converting a former nuclear weapons plant to civilian use.

How about doing all three at once?

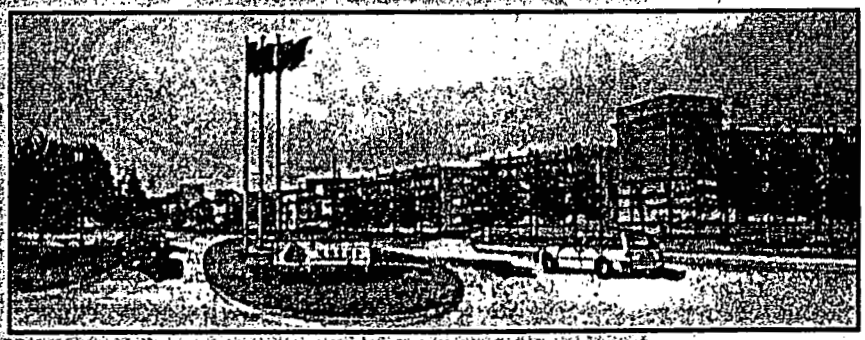
"We're doing all those things. Sometimes I wish we weren't," said Mike Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp.

Since 1993, when the Department of Energy decided to close the Mound nuclear weapons plant, MMCIC has been struggling to convert the 305-acre, government-owned site into a thriving, privately owned technology and industry park. Its goal is to have 36 businesses with 436 "high value jobs" in place by next year and 80 businesses with more than 2,000 employees by the year 2010, according to a marketing brochure.

That means developing the park and wooing business at the same time the Energy Department is digging up contaminated soil and cleaning or tearing down buildings that still contain traces of radiation.

What's more, it means convincing the Energy Department and its site contractor, Babcock and Wilcox, to

SEE MOUND / A4



Top: Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. officials (left to right) Jeffrey Kamphake, marketing manager; Mike Grauwelman, president; and Carl Simmons, vice president; stand on Mound property that will be transferred to private ownership.
Above: An artist's rendering of the high-tech business park MMCIC is striving to create.

MOUND: Reuse plan has 'beaten the odds'

CONTINUED FROM 1F.

embrace MMCIC's vision of the future park when their goals are simply to clean the place up and get out as quickly and cheaply as possible.

But Grauwelman said MMCIC has made substantial progress. And the Energy Department and Babcock and Wilcox have been working closely with MMCIC to help it achieve its goals.

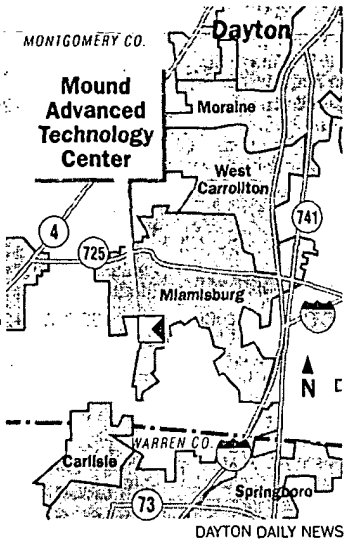
"Generally, I would say we've beaten the odds. We've about crested the hill. Everyone shares the same vision at this point," Grauwelman said.

That's critical to MMCIC because nearly a third of its ambitious, $48 million reuse plan hinges on Department of Energy Funds, and an equal amount relies on a bit of accounting magic called "plan efficiencies." In other words, MMCIC is counting on getting $15 million worth of work done without spending the money.

An early victory for MMCIC was convincing the agency to blaze a new trail in Defense conversion efforts by transferring government-owned land to private ownership. The property is being turned over a piece at a time as cleanup work is completed.

That done, MMCIC pressed further: It got the agency to promise $15 million to help furnish the conversion from a used-up weapons plant to viable industrial real estate.

"What we said to DOE was, 'Look, you've got a distressed property that the market won't accept.' They saved considerable money in the (cost of) cleanup because they're cleaning up to an industrial standard, not a residential standard," Grauwelman said. He said MMCIC convinced the agency to let it have $15 million from its savings to help make it marketable.



DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The catch: The Energy Department will dole it out $5 million at a time during three years. And MMCIC has to match each dollar with money from other sources.

The first step in the complex process took place in March, when the Energy Department turned over 12 acres to MMCIC ownership. MMCIC has rounded up $3 million in federal, state and local funds, separate from the Energy Department.

The money will fund improvements to Mound Road, a two-lane road that winds up a hill along the eastern side of the site, and other projects, including a new public access road into the still partially guarded site.

The property transfer is just getting started.

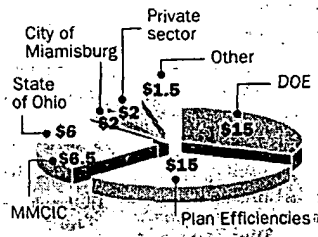
MMCIC is scheduled to get an 18-acre parcel this summer that contains a large parking lot where MMCIC plans to put up a new building. In December, MMCIC should get a 100-acre tract of mostly undeveloped, tree-covered land that Grauwelman calls Mound's "South Forty." The organization plans to develop the site for high-tech industry and sell it off.

MMCIC's landlord status is just transitory, Grauwelman hopes. He said the organization is working on a divestiture strategy, with the ultimate goal of selling it all.

But its grand plan relies heavily on those so-called "plan efficiencies." A key part of that is getting the Energy Department and Babcock and Wilcox to plan their cleanup projects in ways that will cut down MMCIC's development costs.

MATC reuse plan refunding profile

1998-2005



$48 million

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

In one project, for example, workers filled in an excavation with stone, creating a foundation for a parking lot MMCIC plans to put there. In another, a building scheduled for decontamination was demolished instead because MMCIC planned to remove it anyway.

"That saved us a million bucks," Grauwelman said.

MMCIC will save every penny. The organization has been running on a $10 million grant from the Energy Department, and $6.5 million of that will go into its $48 million reuse plan.

The plan also projects $6 million from the state, $2 million from Miamisburg, $2 million from the private sector and $1.5 million from "other" sources.

Those other sources aren't yet identified, Grauwelman said.

Meanwhile, the organization is trying to nurture tenants in the limited space that has been opened for use, and marketing manager Jeff Kamphake said about 85 percent of the 200,000 square feet available is occupied. Some of the empty space includes highly specialized technical facilities, he said.

There have been setbacks. For instance, the site's biggest commercial employer, Mound Flexible Circuits, folded its 50-employee operation there last year. But other businesses are sprouting, and MMCIC's strategic plan is showing measurable progress.

"Each year for the next three years we've got tangible work, tangible evidence that this site is being developed," Grauwelman said. "And that's gratifying."

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for the
DISPOSITION OF MOUND PLANT'S "SOUTH PROPERTY"
and associated
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
and
FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Available in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, Miamisburg Senior Adult Center, 305 Central Avenue, Miamisburg, Ohio, is an informational copy of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the disposition of Mound Plant's "South Property." The EA is part of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) decision- making process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The draft EA was made available to the public and other Mound Plant stakeholders for review in January 1999, and all comments were incorporated in the Final EA. Based on the analyses reported in the Final EA, the DOE has determined that the sale of Mound's South Property does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of the NEPA. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on June 18, 1999. Because a small portion of the South Property lies within the 100- year floodplain of the Great Miami River, the FONSI includes a Floodplain Statement of Findings (SOF), which must be made available for public review at least 15 days before the DOE can implement the proposed action (i.e., sale of the South Property). Reviewers of the FONSI and Floodplain SOF are encouraged to provide written comments to Ms. Sue Smiley, NEPA Compliance Officer, at the address below no later than July 08, 1999.

Background Information: The South Property is an undeveloped parcel of land on the Mound site that has been determined to be excess to the DOE's needs. Disposition of the property, approximately 123 acres, should reduce some of the costs borne by the DOE at the site. The DOE's proposed action is to sell the property to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC), a not-for-profit corporation established by the City of Miamisburg to redevelop and reuse the Mound site, as well as transfer Mound assets for reuse. Any future development of the South Property by the MMCIC or subsequent land owners would be limited to industrial use, as endorsed previously by the local community and regulatory agencies.

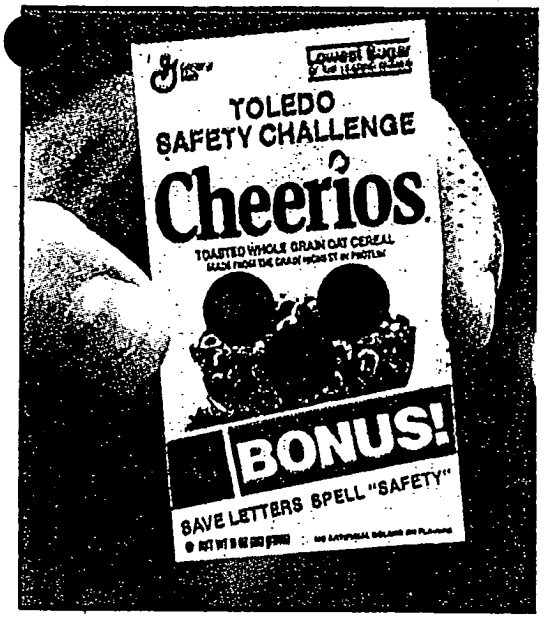
Direct comments to:

Ms. Sue Smiley
NEPA Compliance Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
Ohio Field Office
P.O. Box 3020
Miamisburg, OH 45343- 3020
Phone: (937) 865- 3984
Facsimile: (937) 865- 4402

DAYTON DAILY NEWS
SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1999

PRINTING

Image Industries fine tunes



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Image Industries' subsidiary, Secret Image Scratch & Win Promotions, makes scratch-off advertising specialties.

Image Industries scratches way up

SMALL GEMS

Image Industries, a Miamisburg commercial printer with clients across the United States, hopes its newest subsidiary, Secret Image Scratch & Win Promotions, will explode with new growth. The 30-year-old producer of advertising specialties says retailers can boost sales by handing shoppers scratch-off cards that hold the promise of more bargains.

▶ Full story, Page 3F

▶ The specialty advertiser now has a unit devoted exclusively to scratch-off cards.

By Jim Bohman
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

From the craggy Cold War fortress that now is the Mound Advanced Technology Center, Image Industries of Miamisburg is scratching its way to success in the specialty advertising business.

Image Industries, a commercial printer, has joined other private companies in setting up shop in facilities that once made triggers for atomic bombs and power packs for space probes.

But Image Industries, a small, 30-year-old producer of advertising specialties, hopes its newest subsidiary, Secret Image Scratch & Win Promotions, will explode in new growth.

The unit produces scratch-off advertising cards for various retailers, but especially small and medium-sized department stores. Clients range from Belk, a Southeastern chain of 220 department stores, to Freedlanders, a single, family-owned store in downtown Wooster.

SMALL GEMS

The scratch-off cards are similar to specialty promotions used for years by soft drink bottlers, oil companies and state lotteries for instant winner games.

Secret Image Scratch & Win Promotions produces game cards, preferred-customer cards, scratch-and-win stickers and newspaper inserts.

"We cater to people who have promotional advertising budgets of anywhere from $5,000 to $500,000," said Patrick J. Cunningham, sales director.

Cunningham's father, Michael J. Cunningham, is president and owner of the company. He purchased the business for $250,000 in January from the other stockholder and co-founder, William J. Leyes, who retired.

Secret Image will be the printing company's principal sales vehicle in the years ahead and the Cunninghams have high hopes. Their goal is to push annual sales to $3 million in three years from the current $300,000.

"Our focus is turn-key service," said Patrick Cunningham. "We can do everything from generating advertising concepts to cutting-edge design, preparing mailing lists and doing the actual mailing. Our competitive advantage lies in providing those complete services." He said many competitors do only some of the jobs.

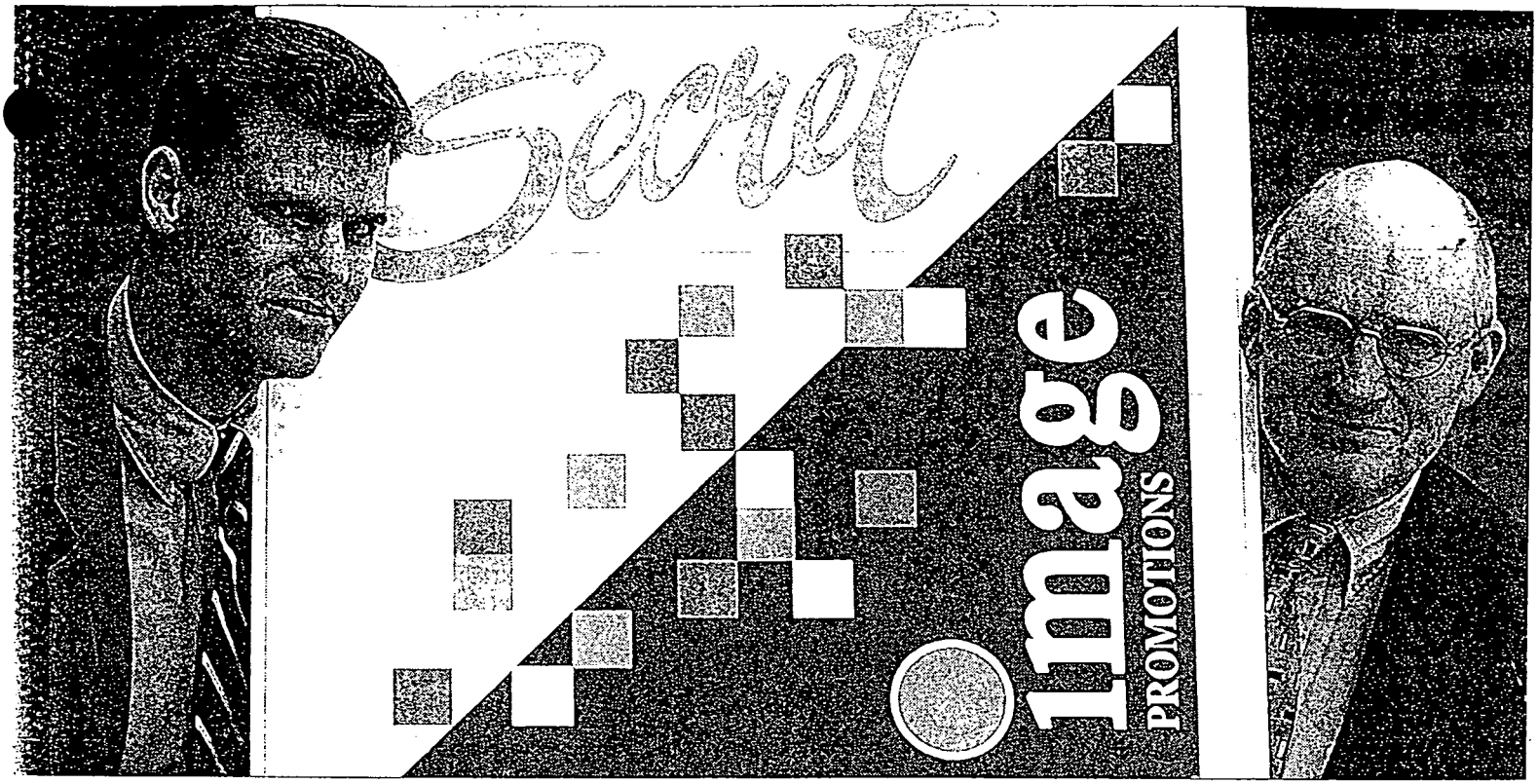
The job printing portion of Image Industries will continue to do general commercial printing, including envelopes, letterheads, business forms, fliers and newsletters.

Joan Throckmorton, a direct marketing consultant in New York, said scratch-off promotions have been around since the 1960s. They are perennial favorites, but she hasn't seen a recent surge in popularity.

Throckmorton said scratch-off coupons can be effective. "For direct marketing, it's what we consider an involvement device."

She said direct mail advertisers like devices that invite a positive action by the target audience. "Involvement devices that ask the recipient to do something toward a purchase, such as scratch-off and see if you won, arouse curiosity."

She said scratch-off devices can work well, but can be expensive.



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

itrick (left) and Mike Cunningham are pushing the scratch off promotions division of their printing business, Image Industries.

At a glance

▶ **COMPANY:** Image Industries Inc.

▶**ADDRESS:** 1 Mound Ave., Building 104, Miamisburg

▶**BUSINESS:** Commercial printing, scratch-and-win promotions for advertisers

▶**OWNER:** Mike Cunningham

▶**SALES DIRECTOR:** Patrick J. Cunningham

▶**EMPLOYEES:** 7

▶**TELEPHONE:** 866-3337, (888) 872-5746 (FAX) 866-9502

As a result, smart marketers first conduct tests to measure the response.

Mary Alice Streeter, president of Freedlanders department store, said they have used scratch-off coupons from the Miamisburg company for years with considerable success.

"It brings people in," Streeter said. "When we do a promotion with the cards, certainly we get a measurable gain in sales. It works just fine."

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS

July 21, 1999

MOUND

Environmental Restoration Program

MOUND PLANT

Notice of Public Review Period

OhioEPA

The Action Memorandum for the Plutonium Processing Building (Building 38) is available for public review in the CERCLA Public Reading Room, 305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, Ohio. Public comment on this document will be accepted from July 22, 1999 through August 20, 1999.

Building 38: Plutonium Processing

Questions can be referred to Paul Lucas at (937) 865-4578.

THE MIAMISBURG/WEST CARROLLTON NEWS
August 4, 1999

Miamisburg to hold ceremony for new project at Mound site

The city of Miamisburg and the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) will host local dignitaries and media members at 10:30 a.m. Thursday to celebrate two significant events:

• The kickoff of a $3.2 million capital improvement project that includes a major renovation of the main entrance to the site, construction of interior roadways and parking lots and significant upgrades along Mound Road.

• The transfer of the second parcel of Mound property, 14.3 acres, from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to the MMCIC.

Festivities will take place just outside the main entrance on Mound Road, where city, county and state officials will provide comments and participate in a groundbreaking ceremony.

Mound achieves 2 goals

Construction, deal for land celebrated

By Timothy R. Gaffney
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

The Mound Advanced Technology Center in Miamisburg is set to pass two more milestones today in its conversion from a nuclear weapons plant: breaking ground on a $3.2 million capital improvements project and transfer of 14.3 acres from federal to local ownership.

Both events are set for 10:30 a.m. today at the site's main entrance on Mound Road. The road and the entrance are also to be renovated as part of the project.

Michael Grauwelman, president of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., said workers will also improve a second entrance, construct a new roadway across the site to buildings that lack public access and upgrade another road on the site to meet state and local standards.

The project is part of a $48 million plan MMCIC has been pursuing to convert the 305-acre site that overlooks Miamisburg into a privately owned industrial park.

The capital improvements project is a key part of the plan because it will help make the fortress-like site more accessible to business owners and customers.

The project also will prepare a 14.3-acre parcel of Mound property for development. The parcel is

SEE MOUND/9B

MOUND: 2 more milestones today

CONTINUED FROM 6B

covered by a parking lot that was built for hundreds of government contractors who no longer work there.

Grauwelman said the Energy Department had planned to transfer the parcel in May, and transfer of another hundred acres has slipped from this December to next spring. But he said the process of transferring land from federal to local ownership is "quite complex," and he said the agency has firmed up a more realistic transfer schedule.

The Energy Department decided to close the Mound plant in 1993. Since then, MMCIC has spearheaded efforts to convert the site into a privately owned Mound Advanced Technology Center. Some businesses there now have sprouted from the high-tech talent and facilities that supported the Energy Department's weapons programs.

The agency has agreed to transfer land to MMCIC as it finishes cleaning up chemical and radioactive contamination. MMCIC is pursuing a $48 million plan to develop the site, with a goal of establishing 80 businesses with more than 2,000 employees by the year 2010. MMCIC's long range goal is to sell the property to private owners.

Construction project begins at Mound

by STEVE SANDLIN
Managing Editor

Ground was broken Thursday on the $3.5 million capital project that will launch the physical transformation of the Mound site from a nuclear weapons facility into a modern industry and technology park.

The project, dubbed the Eastern Boundary Project, is focused on major improvements at the eastern boundary of the 300 acre Mound site, including Mound Road and the main entrance as well as interior roadways and parking lots.

Those assembled at the groundbreaking ceremony also celebrated the second transfer of Mound property from the U.S. Department of Energy to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC). A 14.3 acre parcel was transferred to MMCIC; the first parcel was transferred in March, 1999.

"These are certainly two major events at the Mound," said Mike Grauwelman, president of the MMCIC. "And it took a great deal of teamwork and coordination to continue this project which is so important to the community."



OFFICIALS FROM the city, county, state and federal government participate in groundbreaking ceremonies at the Mound site. PHOTOS BY STEVE SANDLIN

"Good things are happening at the Mound," said Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr. "And the work that is being done here is considered a model for defense conversion efforts throughout the country."

Dr. Carolyn Huntoom, assistant secretary for DOE Environmental Management, praised the efforts at the Mound site.

"Your efforts should be an example for the entire DOE complex," she said. "What you are doing here is truly phenomenal and you all should be proud."

Huntoom said that throughout the process, the DOE main concern will continue to be worker safety.

"The safety of workers is paramount as we move forward," she said.

Also speaking at the ceremony were Susan Brechbill, manager of the DOE Ohio Field Office; State Representative Don Motley; Rick Carne, representing Congressman Tony Hall; Montgomery County Commissioner Don Lucas Anthony Whitmore, Gov. Bob Taft's regional representative and Robert Hickey of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

"The turning of this dirt marks the beginning of the first major physical improvement that will make this site viable in the marketplace," said Dr. Jim Van Tassel, board vice chair

(Continued on Page 8)



DR. CAROLYN Huntoom of the DOE transfers a portion of the Mound site to Mike Grauwelman, president of the MMCIC.



DR. CAROLYN Huntoom signs over 14.3 acres of the Mound site to the MMCIC.

Mound ...

(Continued from Page 1)

of the MMCIC. "Our goal, over the next several years, is to create a new image for the Mound Advanced Technology Center as a thriving location for business and industry."

Local officials have been pleased with the broad base of support for the Mound redevelopment effort, as demonstrated by the range of funding sources for the current project – $1,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, $1,131,038 from the MMCIC, $500,000 from the State Capital Fund, $350,000 from the Ohio Public Works program, $168,400 from Montgomery County's ED/GE program and $337,282 from the city of Miamisburg.

The project includes the realignment, widening and resurfacing of Mound Road, as well as the addition of a turn lane, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, storm and sanitary sewers, street lighting and water lines.

Also included are improvements to the main hill access road to this site and various parking lots, as well as the construction of a new cul-de-sac road to provide access to two buildings already in use by private businesses, CareNOW of Greater Dayton and Thaler Machine Company. In addition, the project will include the extension of a sanitary sewer line on the western edge of the site, allowing the eventual connection of Mound to city systems. Henry Jergens Contractor Inc. will provide construction services for the 12 month project.

"The impact will be dramatic," said Church. "Mound will continue to be an asset to this community, a place where businesses can prosper and grow."

In a separate, but related project, the MMCIC is moving forward with the decentralization of utilities and infrastructure that service buildings in the project area. During Mound's time as a defense installation, its facilities were served by utilities from a central plant. Studies and actual experience have shown that this configuration creates higher operating costs and deters businesses from locating on the site. A $670,000 decentralization project, funded by a DOE matching grant, will begin to allow Mound businesses to be served by conventional utilities.

"All these projects provide tremendous momentum toward our vision of redeveloping Mound as an industry and technology park," said Grauwelman. "The current improvements, and others we have planned, will boost our economic development efforts."



LISA POWELL/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

William Larson, 4, tries out his new therapeutic tricycle. At left is his mother, Sunny Larson, who is joined by Alan Eakle, chairman of Ambility.

GREENE COUNTY

Agency delivers bicycle therapy

AmTrykes offer fun for disabled kids

By Margo Rutledge Kissell
GREENE COUNTY BUREAU

Children with disabilities often face the problem of feeling left out because they are unable to jump, run and ride bicycles with their pals or siblings.

But the local chapter of a nonprofit organization, AMBUCs (American Business Clubs), is helping change that. The organization's mission is to help people with disabilities become more independent.

At a GreeneBUCs luncheon last week, seven therapeutic tricycles were donated toParkwood Elementary in Beavercreek, the Greeneview Local School District's preschool program and five children ranging in age from 4 to 13, who live in Beavercreek, Fairborn, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Kettering.

The red AmTryke, a variation on a traditional tricycle, gives a child freedom of movement, helps build self-esteem and improves coordination while making exercise fun. They come in two sizes, large and small. Rotating handle bars are attached to the same chain drive as the foot pedals so a child can use his or her hands or feet, whichever are stronger, to propel it. Velcro straps secure feet to the pedals, while torso and hip safety belts keep the rider in the seat. A wide wheel base and narrow turning radius provide stability.

> 'It gives a child the ability to get out on the sidewalk with other children. What else can you ask for?'
>
> **ALAN EAKLE, Ambility advisory board member**

Robert Huffman of West Milton said the AmTryke has benefited his 13-year-old grandson, Pete, of Kettering, who has cerebral palsy. Pete had been using the larger AmTryke for about four weeks to strengthen his right arm and leg.

"This bicycle is ideal for that. It is a good strength-building device that in the hands of therapists do a lot of kids a lot of good," Huffman

SEE AMTRYKES/3

AMTRYKES: Disabled kids get mobile

CONTINUED FROM 1

said.

The $500 therapeutic tricycles were donated by sponsors that include the Miamisburg-based Babcock and Wilcox of Ohio, Alektronics Inc. of Vandalia and the Beavercreek Popcorn Festival.

Marilyn Court, director of the Beavercreek Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and city liaison to the festival, said organizers used part of the festival's 1998 proceeds to donate an AmTryke to Parkwood Elementary as a way of giving something back to the community. Festival organizers purchased one for Shaw Elementary in 1997.

"This was a real need," she said.

William Larson, 4, of Fairborn, who also has cerebral palsy, was selected to receive one after his preschool teacher at Palmer-South Elementary in Fairborn, told his mother, Sunny, how much her son enjoyed using one at school. Sunny Larson is grateful he can now use one at home, too, to help him strengthen his right arm and leg.

Beavercreek resident Barb Hanna received one for her 10-year-old daughter, Alicia, who has rubinstein-taybi syndrome, a rare genetic syndrome that impairs her gross motor skills.

"She has never been able to ride a bicycle. Now that she's 10 she wants to be more like the neighborhood kids. I hope my daughter will benefit from it," she said.

Alan Eakle hopes the local chapter can give away 10 locally this year, but they are in need of more corporate sponsors.

Eakle is president and owner of Alek Industries of Beavercreek and Alektronics of Vandalia, and member of the national board of Ambility, an advisory board within AMBUCs, that tries to improve adaptive equipment such as the tricycles. He has seen children with no mobility come out of their wheelchairs to use the AmTrykes. The new-found independence opens up a new world to them, he said.

"They light up. They understand what this means. It gives a child the ability to get out on the sidewalk with other children. What else can you ask for?" he said, believing the child reaps both therapeutic and social benefits.

Gussie Jones, public education specialist for Greene County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, said she would like to see the AmTrykes put in every school that could make use of it.

For more information about becoming a sponsor call (877) AmTryke or (800) 838-1845.



SEVERAL LOCAL agencies received donations from Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio.

BWO donates funds to local agencies

Highlighted by a contribution for economic development to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC), Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio (BWO) distributed over $107,000 in funds Thursday. A total of 22 organizations were also the recipients of community contributions from BWO, the contractor responsible for the final cleanup and exit of the Department of Energy's Mound Plant in Miamisburg. With these contributions, BWO has donated over $148,000 to community organizations in donations and sponsorships since Oct. 1, 1997.

"Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio and McDermott International are

(Continued on Page 7)

BWO ...

(Continued from Page 1)

pleased to make these financial contributions to local organizations and to assist in the economic development that the MMCIC has undertaken," said Peyton S. (Sandy) Baker, president and site manager for BWO. "The contributions in all cases benefit the community and have a positive impact on thousands of adults and children who live and work here. We also feel that supporting economic development at the site through MMCIC is highly important to the Miamisburg community."

BWO established a Charitable Contributions Review Board that makes recommendations for contributions from BWO to non-profit groups and schools. The recommendations are made to the company for further approvals. The board is made up of three representatives from the community and includes Miamisburg Mayor Dick Church Jr., Mike McCabe and Bobbye Sweny.

The largest single contribution, directed towards economic development, is being made to the MMCIC. An amount of $45,000 was provided to support their initiative for commercializing the Mound facility as cleanup of the site continues.

Organizations also receiving contributions include AMBUCS, Baum Opera House Association, Bishop Leibold School, Building Bridges Inc., City of Miamisburg, Dayton Falcons Basketball Club, Dayton Mohawks Association, Miamisburg Experi-Center, Historic Miamisburg Community Partnership, Jefferson High School, Miamisburg Basketball Association, Miamisburg City School District, Miamisburg Education Foundation, Miamisburg Helping Hands, Miamisburg High School Athletic Department, Miamisburg High School Band and Guard Boosters, Miamisburg Historical Society, Miamisburg Ministerial Association, Miamisburg Youth Center, Mission of Mercy and the West Carrollton Basketball Association.

In addition to the cash contributions, BWO coordinated the donation of over 300 excess Department of Energy items valued at $1.3 million to local schools, governments and non-profit organizations.

Following are the donations amounts for each organization and what it will help fund:

- AMBUCS – $1,000. This contribution will go towards the purchase of two specially developed tricycles that are used by handicapped children. The tricycles are operated by arm power that allows paralyzed legs to be exercised as much as possible.

• Baum Opera House Association – $3,000. The Baum Opera House donation is earmarked to help lower the debt on the purchase of this historic building.

• Bishop Leibold School – $1,000. This donation goes toward the purchase of classroom educational equipment for students from kindergarten through the eighth grade.

• Building Bridges Inc. – $1,000. Building Bridges is a program that provides care and treatment to a whole group of youth that were formerly thought to be unsalvageable. Using work therapy, recreation, tutoring, volunteer assistance and the George Foster Home programs, over 270 children are safely spared state incarceration each year. This donation will go towards the organization's operating programs.

• City of Miamisburg – $6,500. This amount will be used to provide support for five specific areas within the community. First, $2,000 will go in support of the annual Miamisburg Children's Christmas Party, a week-long community celebration in December. The city's Senior Center will be receiving $1,000 to go towards the Video Club that has been organized. The Parks and Recreation Department will receive $500 for the updating and reprinting of the brochure on Miamisburg's Indian Mound State Historical Park. Another $2,000 will go to the Miamisburg City Beautiful Commission for support of the annual awards program within the community. And $1,000 will go to the Miamisburg Police Department's DARE program that works with local students on drug and violence interdiction.

• Dayton Falcons Basketball Club – $1,000. This is another minority youth basketball program. Funds will go towards the operation of the program.

• Dayton Mohawks Association – $1,000. This is a minority youth basketball program for children between the ages of 5 and 14 and the donation goes towards operations of the program. The organization exists to help develop discipline among young men and women in order to make better lives for themselves and others.

• Historic Miamisburg Community Partnership – $1,000. This donation is to help support HMCP in its attempt to revitalize historic facilities within Miamisburg's Market Square District.

• Jefferson High School – $8,420. This donation will go towards supporting school orientation programs, perfect attendance awards, tutoring programs, motivational workshops, scholarships, mentoring programs with field trips and support materials for teacher workshops.

• Miamisburg Basketball Association – $1,000. This donation will help defray the cost of renting gymnasium space for games and practices in the future. Over 500 boys and girls are involved in the program.

• Miamisburg City School District – $1,500. This contributions goes to the curriculum department of the school district that is developing a Science and Math Materials Center that would serve the entire district. This donation is the second one that is providing seed money to start the program. The center would provide materials for teachers to use hands on.

• Miamisburg Education Foundation - $10,000. This is a fund that is used by the district to supply teachers with grants for innovative classroom projects for students. With the school district expanding rapidly, this will allow for a larger amount of creative projects to be funded across the entire district.

• Miamisburg Experi-Center – $5,000. This Miamisburg Experi-Center contribution will assist the center in continuing to provide a variety of science and environmental related programs for children from all over the Miami Valley.

• Miamisburg Helping Hands – $3,000. This contribution will assist Helping Hands in the purchase of food and clothing for needy families throughout the year and also in providing special Thanksgiving and Christmas donations.

• Miamisburg High School Athletic Department – $5,200. This donation would go towards the purchase of two special weight training machines. Members of the high school athletic teams, physical education classes and community fitness programs use the weight training equipment.

• Miamisburg High School Band and Guard Boosters – $1,000. A donation of $1,000 will go to this organization to support the band and color guard at Miamisburg High School for travel, uniform and equipment purchases.

• Miamisburg Historical Society – $4,000. This donation is in support or the renovation of the Market Square Building for a community museum and the development and publication of materials for a historic walking tour of the Miamisburg community.

• Miamisburg Ministerial Association Transient Fund – $1,000. This donation goes towards the Miamisburg Ministerial Association's Transient Fund. Money from the funds go towards helping individuals passing through the community that have met unfortunate circumstances and need small financial assistance.

• Miamisburg Youth Center – $4,000. The Miamisburg Youth Center contribution will go towards the continuing operation of the center's activities for children in Miamisburg's downtown area.

• Mission of Mercy – $1,000. This downtown Miamisburg mission helps support individuals and families who have fallen on unfortunate times, providing them with clothing and food and supporting those less fortunate throughout the year.

• West Carrollton Basketball Association – $1,000. The WCBA is a community based youth basketball program involving 500 children of various ages. This donation will help defray the cost of renting gymnasium space for games and practices.

ASHTABULA

Chemical fire forces evacuation of homes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASHTABULA — A chemical fire broke out Monday at an RMI Sodium Co. plant, forcing the evacuation of dozens of nearby homes for several hours, fire officials said.

There were no injuries, said Jodie Foderetti, a fire dispatcher for the Ashtabula Twp. Fire Department. The cause was undetermined.

The fire started after noon at the plant in this town about 50 miles northeast of Cleveland.

Officials evacuated dozens of residences for about two hours and set up temporary shelters. Sodium can be fatal if it is inhaled and can burn the skin or eyes.

Township fire Capt. Sherman Werstler said letting the fire burn was the safest option because the building is scheduled for demolition. When the fire subsided, contractors who had been working in the building used rock salt to extinguish it, he said.

A company spokesman did not immediately return a phone call.

COURTS

Ex-worker objects to Mound settlement

▶ The man with 35 years at the plant says the deal closes the door on health problems that may arise.

By Wes Hills
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Thanks, but no thanks is Gerald R. Wirth's response to a proposed $926,000 to settle a federal class-action lawsuit that claims current and former employees at the Mound in Miamisburg were intentionally exposed to plutonium and uranium.

Wirth, who retired in 1990 from the plant that built detonators and triggers for nuclear weapons, called being reassigned from an area that used plutonium 238 to make nuclear batteries for the nation's space program. He was sent to a non-radiation explosives area after being told his body had been exposed to excessive radiation.

He also recalled working with plutonium in a powder form that, when spilled, would spread throughout his work areas.

After such exposures, Wirth, who rose from chemist to engineering manager during 35 years, said he and his co-workers would be told they were "burned out for the month" and "anybody they could lay their hands on" was brought in to do their work.

Wirth, 66, said he is healthy today and he does not need a settlement.

But he said that he doesn't want to be forever barred from filing a claim if the bone-seeking plutonium affects his health.

"If I get leukemia, the whole settlement would not compensate me alone," he said. "This is a smoke-and-mirrors settlement."

In fact, Wirth said he wasn't even aware he was a party to the lawsuit, filed in 1995 in U.S. Court in Dayton, until he received a copy of the proposed settlement mailed July 29.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of more than 1,000 current and retired Mound employees and their union, the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers International Union.

Wirth, now a Miamisburg attorney, sent a letter Aug. 18 to Chief U.S. District Judge Walter H. Rice asking to be removed as a plaintiff.

He wrote that "all former radioactive workers . . . will be forever barred from presenting another claim, lawsuit or other legal proceeding in the future. Their excessive radiation exposure and potential future health problems are summarily ignored by this action."

Wirth and other opponents may have a champion in Stanley Chesley, a Cincinnati attorney associated with some of the nation's biggest class-action lawsuits.

Chesley said he has met with some workers and is concerned about some settlement terms.

"We're inclined to probably represent them," said Chesley, who has been associated with the $20 million settlement on behalf of former Fernald Plant workers, the only other class-action suit ever settled with the Department of Energy.

Named as defendants in the pending lawsuit are the Monsanto Research Corp., which ran the Mound plant from 1948 to 1988, and EG&G Mound Applied Technologies Inc., which left in 1996. The contractor is now Babcock & Wilcox.

Columbus attorney Richard D. Schuster, who represents the defendants, said his clients had defenses that, if filed, "would basically mean the plaintiffs would get nothing."

He said the settlement is fair and preserves the workers' right to file work-related claims under the state's worker compensation system.

Terms of the proposed settlement include the DOE and defendants paying up to $926,000 into a settlement fund. The fund will be distributed to class members employed at the Mound, after payment of up to $16,500 to each class representative as an incentive fee.

Other provisions include:

▶ Life-time radiological occupational disease insurance covering several types of cancer.

▶ Other insurance benefits, including diseases associated with exposure to asbestos and beryllium.

▶ Enhanced radiation protection at the Mound.

▶ Employment protection through Dec. 31, 2005, for current workers. The cleanup at the Mound is expected to be complete in 2005.

▶ A worker radiation dose study.

Rice has scheduled a Sept. 24 hearing to consider the settlement.

▶ **CONTACT** Wes Hills at 225-2261 or e-mail him at wes_hills@coxohio.com

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, OH
(S=230,000, D=180,000)

Mound settlement contested

Radiation exposure court objection filed

The Associated Press

DAYTON — Numerous releases of highly radioactive plutonium inside a building at the Mound nuclear weapons plant in Miamisburg make the federal government's proposed settlement of a radiation-exposure lawsuit filed by workers seem inadequate, a former employee says.

"The number of radioactive releases from the glove boxes were so frequent that all employees wore respirators around their neck for emergency protection," said Gerald Wirth, who worked at Mound as a chemist and engineer between 1956 and 1990.

Wirth filed an objection Friday in U.S. District Court to the proposed settlement, announced June 10 by the U.S. Department of Energy. The settlement admits no wrongdoing.

Twelve workers and the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers union, which represented Mound workers, sued in August 1995. They alleged that employees were exposed to dangerous radiation but not told about it for years.

The department agreed to pay lifetime health insurance coverage for as many as 1,800 current and former workers at the plant, about 10 miles south of Dayton.

But Wirth, who is now an attorney, called it a "smoke-and-mirrors" settlement. He said it would only amount to $926,000.

"The entire settlement of $926,000 would not begin to pay for the medical expenses of a single worker experiencing a work-related cancer or illness in the future," Wirth said.

He said the settlement would bar workers from filing another claim or lawsuit, and he asked to be removed as a plaintiff in the case.

Attorney Richard Schuster, who represents the Energy Department in the case, said the $926,000 represents lump-sum payments to active workers and is only a part of the settlement. He said the settlement is filled with health and safety provisions that amount to millions of dollars.

"I would characterize this as a fair settlement of this litigation," Schuster said.

Judge Walter Rice, who must approve the settlement, has set a hearing for next month.

The plant, which began operations in 1948, made triggers and detonators for nuclear weapons until production was halted several years ago. The plant still produces plutonium batteries for space probes, but the primary activity at the 306-acre site is the cleanup of radioactive and hazardous wastes.

City of Miamisburg

CIVIC FOCUS

Fall 1999

www.mvcc.net/Miamisburg

Paving the way for Mound's future

The previously announced $3.2 million capital improvement project that will launch the physical transformation of the Mound facility from a federal government installation into a modern industrial and technology park is underway. A groundbreaking ceremony on Aug. 5 served as the official kickoff of construction activities.

This construction project is focused on major improvements at the eastern boundary of the 306-acre Mound site, including Mound Road and the main entrance, as well as interior roadways and parking lots. It features broad-based funding support provided by local, County, State and federal sources.

"The turning of this dirt marks the beginning of the first major physical improvements that will make this site viable in the marketplace," said Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) Board Vice Chairman Dr. Jim VanTassel. "Our goal over the next several years is to create a new image for the Mound Advanced Technology Center as a thriving location for business and industry."

Sections of Mound Road between Sixth Street and the entrance to Mound Park will be closed to through traffic during the 12-month construction phase. The roadway will be realigned, widened and resurfaced as part of the project, but local traffic, including visitors to the Mound Golf Course and Mound Park, will be maintained throughout.

Mound Notes

- Also announced at the Aug. 5 groundbreaking ceremony was the transfer of a second parcel of Mound property from the federal government to the MMCIC. The 14.3-acre parcel is comprised of the large lower parking lot, where a commercial building is planned for the future.
- Susan Brechbill this summer was appointed as director of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Ohio Field Office, which operates from the Mound site. She succeeds Leah Dever, who was transferred to the DOE facility in Oak Ridge, Tenn.
- Ohio Gov. Bob Taft called Mound a "model cleanup for the State and across the country," on his first tour of the site in June. The Governor's visit is chronicled in a cable program airing on channel 10 of the Time Warner system. Check program listings for dates and times.



Gov. Bob Taft learned first-hand about some of the high-tech capabilities of businesses operating at the Mound Advanced Technology Center.

DAYTON DAILY NEWS
•WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 1, 1999

COURTS

Mound settlement opposed

▶ Hundreds of current or former workers call the lawsuit agreement unfair and lacking in coverage.

By Wes Hills
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Approximately 600 current and former employees of the Mound plant in Miamisburg have asked Chief U.S. District Judge Walter H. Rice not to approve a proposed $926,000 settlement of a class-action lawsuit.

They describe the settlement as "unfair, inadequate and unreasonable."

Rice has scheduled a Sept. 24 hearing to consider the settlement of the 1995 lawsuit against the Monsanto Research Corp., which ran the Mound plant from 1948 to 1988, and EG&G Mound applied Technologies Inc., which operated it until 1997.

The Mound plant was once part of the country's nuclear weapons manufacturing system, building detonators and triggers for the weapons. It was owned by the Department of Energy, but operated by private contractors.

Under the proposed settlement, the DOE and the defendants would pay up to $926,000 into a settlement fund that would be distributed to class members employed at the Mound, after payment of up to $16,500 to each class representative.

Among other provisions, the settlement also offers life-time radiological occupational disease insurance covering several types of cancer and other insurance benefits to diseases associated with exposure to asbestos and beryllium.

But an attorney for the workers who object to the proposal argues the settlement would benefit only a few class members while relinquishing the rights of many other workers and their families to recover damages against the Department of Energy and the plant operators.

"Only 12 of those workers have participated in this lawsuit," yet it will apply to several thousand people who worked there, said attorney Louise M. Roselle with the Cincinnati law firm of Waite, Schneider, Bayles & Chesley.

She said other inadequacies of the settlement include:

▶ Health insurance coverage for "specified radiogenic cancers" is available only to workers who lack other insurance or Medicare and is only guaranteed for three years.

▶ Cash payments are available only to workers at the Mound as of March 1997 (excluding managers and supervisors) and members of two unions.

▶ Families of deceased workers receive "nothing substantive from the proposed settlement despite relinquishing all rights."

Roselle claims the settlement was reached before a required motion for class certification was filed and prior to substantive research into the workers' potential claims.

She said Mound workers were exposed to nine radioactive materials while performing nuclear weapons research, development and production.

"The plant operators also exposed workers to a myriadof toxic and hazardous chemicals, including but not limited to beryllium and asbestos," she states.

Roselle claims the Mound's records indicate many exposures were not measured and it may never be known "the true radiation doses that workers received."

Over 600 opposing Mound settlement

The Associated Press

DAYTON — More than 600 current and former workers at the Mound nuclear weapons plant oppose the federal government's proposed settlement of a radiation-exposure lawsuit, an attorney said Wednesday.

"The settlement just isn't acceptable as it is now written," said attorney Louise Roselle, criticizing it as both unfair and too "meager." She filed an objection to the settlement on behalf of the workers with U.S. District Court Judge Walter Rice.

The plant, located in Miamisburg about 10 miles south of Dayton, built triggers for nuclear weapons until the early 1990s. Cleanup of radioactive and hazardous waste is now the primary activity at the 306-acre site.

In 1995, 12 workers sued Monsanto Research Corp. and EG&G Mound Applied Technologies Inc., the companies that operated Mound for the U.S. Department of Energy from 1948 to 1997. The workers alleged they were exposed to dangerous radiation but not told about it for years.

In June, the Energy Department announced a proposed settlement, but admitted no wrongdoing. The department agreed to provide health insurance coverage for current and former workers and to also pay $926,000.

Roselle said workers were entitled to more compensation because plant operators knowingly exposed them to radiation above legal limits.

"That's not true," said Richard Schuster, attorney for the plant operators. "That is not borne out by the history of the plant and the documentation."

Schuster said many of those objecting simply signed petitions and may not be aware of the specifics of the settlement.

"The terms of this settlement, I think, are very fair," he said.

Jane Greenwalt, spokeswoman for the Energy Department's Ohio field office, said she could not comment on pending litigation.

Roselle said that as many as 6,000 people worked at Mound over the years and that many of them and their families wouldn't be eligible for any benefits under the settlement.

Workers opposed to settlement

Nuclear plant deal doesn't offer enough, many at Mound say

BY BEN L. KAUFMAN
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Four years after they sued operators of the Mound nuclear weapons plant in Miamisburg, Ohio, many workers are opposing the proposed settlement.

More than 600 — about 10 percent of those covered by the accord — complain the deal would enrich too few and do too little for too many.

They want a more generous settlement or the freedom to sue on their own.

Lawyers representing the objectors plan to press their case on Sept. 24, when U.S. District Judge Walter H. Rice in Dayton examines the fairness of the settlement.

The 1995 class action says company officials intentionally overexposed possibly 6,000 workers to deadly plutonium and other radioactive materials and hid the risks for decades.

Babcock & Wilcox of Ohio, which manages Mound now, is not a defendant.

The suit names Monsanto Research Corp., which ran the facility from 1948 to 1988, and its immediate successor, EG&G Mound Applied Technologies Inc.

The facility is a U.S. Department of Energy plant, and DOE is the primary player in most of the changes promised in the settlement:

▶ Up to $200,000 for three years of primary health insurance for uninsured workers suffering specific job-related health conditions and a promise to seek more funding from Congress.

▶ A promise to support workers' compensation claims for the lung diseases berylliosis and asbestosis.

▶ Enhanced radiation monitoring and better estimates of employees' past exposures.

▶ An independent expert's assessment of Mound safety practices.

▶ $926,000 to be divided among current Mound employees after 12 original plaintiffs in the class action receive incentive fees up to $16,500.

▶ $180,000 for attorney fees.

Last week, Reuben Guttman, lead attorney for the class action, was proudest of the "fundamentally important" first two pledges.

Objections were filed recently by attorneys Louise M. Roselle and Paul M. DeMarco of Stanley M. Chesley's Cincinnati law firm.

Rather than mandatory participation in what they say is an inadequate settlement, objectors want an opportunity to opt out and sue on their own. They also complain that the accord would bar them from suing firms involved at Mound who are not defendants in the class action.

Defendants want a mandatory class — everyone who might ever sue over the same issues — to end the litigation and attendant costs.

'The health insurance is the best thing in this proposed settlement but not as it stands now. The health insurance should and must be totally LIFETIME and not just for the next three years.'

— Retiree Robert L. Ryan, of Ross Township, writing to Judge Walter H. Rice

The class action was filed on behalf of past and current employees and representatives of the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers International Union who spent time at Mound.

Union policy analyst Richard D. Miller said the settlement was worth more than $12 million, including the estimated $1.3 million cash outlay and in-kind contributions by DOE. "From our point of view, it's a huge accomplishment."

Mr. Miller agreed that Congress could refuse to fund health insurance after three years, but, "politically, it's going to be very tough for the Ohio delegation to walk away from it."

In addition to research and development, Mound made triggers and detonators for nuclear weapons at the 306-acre facility.

The complaint at Mound follows one against NLO Inc., the company that managed the government's former Fernald uranium processing plant in northwest Hamilton County for more than 30 years.

Represented by Mr. Chesley and his colleagues, current and former Fernald workers won about $20 million, largely for lifelong medical monitoring and compensation for anxiety caused by revelations of radiation risks and fears of cancers.

That accord didn't require NLO/DOE to support workers' comp claims. Rather, it barred DOE/NLO from opposing claims cleared by a court-approved panel of physicians.

However, no money was paid for health insurance or treatment of illnesses blamed on exposures at Fernald.

Mr. Guttman said his clients' response to medical monitoring was "big deal." If they are suffering work-related illnesses, they want health insurance and care, not more data, he said.

"The health insurance is the best thing in this proposed settlement, but not as it stands now," retiree Robert L. Ryan of Hamilton-New London Road in Ross Township wrote to the judge. "The health insurance should and must be totally LIFETIME and not just for the next three years."

Mr. Ryan said he was exposed to more than a lifetime allowed dose of plutonium and assigned to work with other radioactive materials for years although his medical records indicated that further exposure was prohibited.

Ross Twp. man urges judge to consider way test handled

BY BEN L. KAUFMAN
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Robert L. Ryan wondered whether his exposure to potentially deadly plutonium at Mound Laboratory in Miamisburg was linked to his wife's life-threatening blood disorder 16 years later.

Because her doctor was unsure, the Ross Township resident wrote in a court document, "I submitted my wife's urine in place of mine to determine if her urine was contaminated.

"About one month later, I received the results. My wife's urine matched my urine results exactly."

That was frightening. His wife hadn't worked at the government weapons plant near Dayton.

Mr. Ryan's story was part of the package presented to U.S. District Judge Walter H. Rice by workers objecting to a proposed settlement in a class action that workers brought against former Mound managers.

Mr. Ryan said he inhaled 150 percent of the allowed lifetime alpha radiation in a plutonium accident in 1964 and was transferred to a building where a similar exposure was unlikely. There, however, he was exposed to different radiation.

In the same way, management was less than candid about his wife's urine test results in 1980, Mr. Ryan wrote: managers said it was switched with another employee's urine or contaminated in the lab.

Finally, Mr. Ryan said, managers admitted his wife's urine was not tested and his previous test result was reported as the current analysis to save time and money.

Mr. Ryan objects to the settlement, saying it does not protect workers adequately or assure them of lifetime primary health care insurance.

Reject it and order a broader representation at new settlement negotiations, Mr. Ryan urged Judge Rice. "This is the only fair way to treat the people who may have given their lives to win the Cold War."

Judge mulls proposal for Mound settlement

The Associated Press

DAYTON — The proposed settlement of a radiation-exposure lawsuit that could affect thousands who worked at the Mound nuclear weapons plant was passed to a federal judge Friday.

Former operators of the plant and a group of workers who filed the lawsuit asked U.S. District Court Judge Walter Rice to approve the settlement. The deal would provide health insurance coverage for workers and retirees who have cancers from radiation exposure not covered by insurance or Medicare.

Richard Schuster, attorney for former plant operators Monsanto Research Corp. and EG&G Applied Technologies Inc., called the settlement a "breakthrough."

"It brings with it swift and certain benefits," said Schuster.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced the proposed settlement in June but admitted no wrongdoing.

In addition to insurance, the department agreed to pay $926,000 to approximately 800 current plant workers. The money would be distributed after the 12 workers who filed the lawsuit received payments of up to $16,500 each.

DAYTON DAILY NEWS
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25, 1999

Judge to decide Mound settlement

By Wes Hills
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Before a standing-room-only crowd in federal court Friday, Mark Lerman asked if his potential need for an organ transplant would be covered under a health insurance plan in the proposed settlement of a class-action lawsuit regarding radiation exposure at the Mound plant in Miamisburg.

Lerman, 42, a former air-conditioning mechanic who had parts of his stomach, small intestine and pancreas removed because of a tumor, said such an operation could cost $300,000 and Medicare would cover only 80 percent.

"He's never going to work again," Lerman's attorney, Vincent Popp, told Chief U.S. District Judge Walter H. Rice.

But Lerman got no comfort in the proposed agreement.

He was told he would not be covered for two reasons — he already has medical insurance (Medicare) and his tumor was not cancerous.

The insurance plan covers only known radiation-related cancers and diseases associated with exposure to asbestos and beryllium.

After a daylong hearing in the packed courtroom, Rice said he will decide by Oct. 20 whether to accept the proposed settlement.

If he rejects it, Rice said he will try to have the matter mediated before it goes to litigation, which could consume several years.

Reuben Guttman, an attorney for the plaintiffs, spoke in favor of the settlement of the lawsuit filed in 1995 against the Monsanto Research Corp., which ran the Mound plant from 1948 to 1988, and EG&G Mound Applied Technologies Inc., which operated it until 1997. The Mound plant was once part of the country's nuclear weapons manufacturing system, building detonators and triggers for the weapons.

SEE MOUND/**2B**

MOUND: Federal judge to decide

CONTINUED FROM 1B

"I personally believe our government owes them more than they're getting," Guttman said. But he added, "What's been achieved is quite remarkable."

He noted that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has agreed to pay $6 million to study workers' radiation exposure, which will help them in obtain workers compensation if they suffer a radiation-related illness.

And a worker who gets a radiation-related cancer would not have to prove it was work-related to be covered by health insurance, Guttman said.

He said it also includes hiring preferences for existing workers, an improved radiation safety program at the plant and a $926,000 settlement fund.

Richard D. Schuster, an attorney for the defendants, said the settlement represents "a breakthrough" and provides benefits the plaintiffs could have never obtained from a jury or court order.

Schuster emphasized they are being offered these benefits despite "very significant legal defenses" the defendants can raise if the case is litigated.

Schuster noted, for example, that the government permitted higher radiation exposures in the past than today and there is "no proof the standards were violated."

He also noted that almost every claim in the lawsuit is eliminated because the employees are covered by workers compensation.

But Terry Goodman, an attorney for about 700 people opposed to the settlement, told Rice that it is "null and void" because not all categories of plaintiffs were represented..

"Not one class representative was a salaried worker," Goodman said, noting that such workers make up about 75 percent of the 5,000 to 6,000 current and former workers covered by the settlement.

Louise M. Roselle, another attorney for those objecting to the settlement, said the major issue is "taking away common law rights in a lawsuit they were not a party to."

Many of those covered by the settlement contend that they didn't hear about it until after it was negotiated and that it offers them almost nothing while removing their right to sue in the future.

Another sticking point, Roselle said, is that there is no guarantee the DOE will fund, beyond three years, the promised health insurance for workers not covered by other plans.

"We simply don't trust the Department of Energy," Roselle said.

R.P. Detwiler, an attorney for the DOE, told Rice that that while no government agency can obligate Congress to future funding, the obligation to fund the settlement carries "an extremely high priority" with his agency that, if ignored, might be enforced by a court.

Roselle's other objections include:

- Only workers (other than supervisors or managers) and union members at the plant in March 1997 receive cash payments.
- Only current workers receive the various radiological protection improvements.
- Deceased workers' families receive nothing.

"I am sure that if they were getting a good health insurance plan," Roselle told Rice, "the rest of the problems could be worked out."

▶**CONTACT** Wes Hills at 225-2261 or e-mail him at wes_hills@coxohio.com

Officials aren't sure how deadly Piketon shipments were

By Jonathan Riskind
Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — After initially insisting that less than an ounce of deadly plutonium went to southern Ohio's uranium enrichment plant, federal officials now admit they don't know the exact contents of some 200 shipments of radioactive material to the facility.

Newly unveiled records show that plutonium-laced uranium might have flowed to the Piketon facility from as far away as Europe, said David Michaels, assiatant secretary of energy for environment, safety and health. Where the rest of the 200 shipments came from, or precisely how dangerous the material was, has not been determined.

However, a series of reports examined by *The Dispatch* indicate that federal officials knew about contamination problems at Piketon decades ago. And now workers are coming forward to say that for years they were intimidated — even threatened with psychiatric examinations — to keep from mentioning safety concerns.

The Energy Department's investigation into what level of contaminated materials flowed into the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant will include a massive "paper chase" starting this fall and interviews that will begin by early January, said Michaels, who plans to visit southern Ohio in about a month.

On Friday, Michaels told Sen. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio, that he plans to hold a public meeting during the visit to take questions about what went on at Piketon. Voinovich said he will be at that session.

Federal officials don't know how many workers were exposed to radiation and what type of radioactive material they encountered over the past four decades, Michaels said.

Carl Hartley, a 25-year employee at the Piketon plant who knows at least six co-workers suffering from various forms of cancer, said many feel betrayed.

"We were being lied to by the government," he said. "We're real upset."

Please see **PIKETON** *Page* **3A**

PIKETON *from* 1A

Hartley attributes much of the lack of information today to decades of Cold War secrecy — which included former plant managers intimidating any employee who raised safety or health concerns.

Conditions at the plant — run since 1993 by a federal corporation called USEC that was privatized last year — have improved dramatically over the past decade, Hartley said.

But for years the only protection against clouds of radioactive dust and smoke was an essentially useless World War II gas mask, he said. Workers tracked whatever they picked up into eating areas and even into their homes because they wore the same shoes and clothes in and out of the plant.

"Any employee in the early years who filed a safety complaint, they sent you off for psychiatric evaluation," Hartley said. "If you continued to complain you would lose your job and pension. It was implied they might even have you locked up."

As recently as the fall of 1989, Piketon workers routinely ate, drank and smoked in "contaminated areas," according to a 1990 Energy Department report examining conditions there. The report, and similar ones probing more than 100 Energy Department facilities, was ordered by former Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins as part of his initiative to strengthen department oversight.

In 1980, a General Accounting Office report found even more serious problems. For instance, plant management knew in 1978 "that one area of a building was highly contaminated" but took no action to warn workers or clean up the contamination for more than a year, the report said.

However, even those critical reports didn't discuss the fact that during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the Piketon plant housed an operation that converted spent nuclear reactor fuel back into enriched uranium so it could be used again as nuclear fuel. Contained in that spent-reactor fuel was deadly plutonium and related materials.

Plutonium is thousands of times more radioactive than uranium; even a millionth of an ounce can cause cancer.

According to a 1977 report by former Piketon contractor Goodyear Atomic Corp., obtained by southern Ohio activist Vina Collins, there was an April 2, 1977, release in the coversion plant of "airborne emissions" that "resulted in the internal radioactive contamination of six persons."

The conversion plant was closed about 1978 because of radiation leaks, but workers and the



Chris Russell / *Dispatch*

Union official Carl Hartley said operators of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant used Cold War security to lie to workers about hazardous materials and intimidate them if they complained.

public knew little about the operation until *The Dispatch* reported its existence earlier this month. *The Washington Post* initially disclosed a similar — and perhaps larger — reactor conversion operation at Piketon's sister plant in Paducah, Ky.

Indeed, documents filed by USEC with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which took over oversight of enrichment operations when the plant was privatized, barely mention the abandoned conversion plant.

Those documents do note that the plant was housed in a closed-off section of a building that is still in use. Meanwhile, "the old oxide conversion equipment is abandoned in place," one document said.

So now workers such as Hartley, a 50-year-old who wonders whether he, too, will someday suffer health problems, want to know just what they were exposed to over the years.

More important, since gauging exactly what they encountered decades ago might be impossible, they want the government to promise them compensation for any resulting health problems, Hartley said.

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson already has proposed a "pilot project" to compensate Paducah workers, and the investigation there is further along. Energy Department officials said Paducah workers handled about 100,000 tons of plutonium-laced uranium.

However, Ohio lawmakers have vowed to amend that proposal to include Piketon before the program is approved by Congress.

The Piketon and Paducah plants aren't the only Ohio sites that apparently received at least some plutonium-laced uranium shipments.

The Fernald plant near Cincinnati, infamous for years because of radiation exposure problems, was a recipient as well, according to government records.

So too was a small plant in Ashtabula, Ohio, owned by the RMI Company, which converted uranium metal from one shape to another. In Tennessee, the former Oak Ridge enrichment plant also received some of the material.

Michaels said a nationwide Energy Department investigation is trying to get to the bottom of what contaminated materials went where.

He said several factors contributed to incidents like the flawed reactor recycling program: the need for Cold War secrecy; the belief that national security was paramount; and the feeling by some of the officials in charge back then that radiation exposure wasn't all that dangerous.

Energy lab target of investigation

MARION — Army investigators and U.S. Sen. Mike DeWine are asking the Department of Energy to lead an environmental investigation into the site of a postwar Atomic Energy Commission laboratory.

The Energy Department's possible involvement has evolved from an ongoing investigation of former military sites in Marion County.

The investigation was triggered by a health study that showed a higher-than-expected number of leukemia cases among graduates of River Valley High School. No cause has been found.

Mound product takes licking, still ticking

Craft survives brush with moon of Jupiter

By Timothy R. Gaffney
Dayton Daily News

MIAMISBURG — Launched a decade ago, the Galileo spacecraft and its locally built nuclear generators survived their riskiest moment yet Monday in the spacecraft's mission around Jupiter.

Galileo passed within 380 miles of Io, Jupiter's innermost large moon, just after 1 a.m. Monday, braving a region of such intense radiation that mission controllers feared the craft might not survive.

No problems were reported, however.

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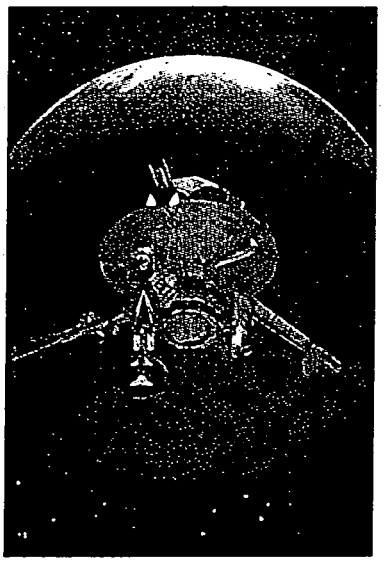
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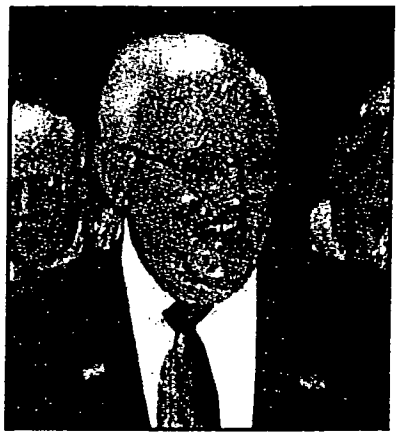
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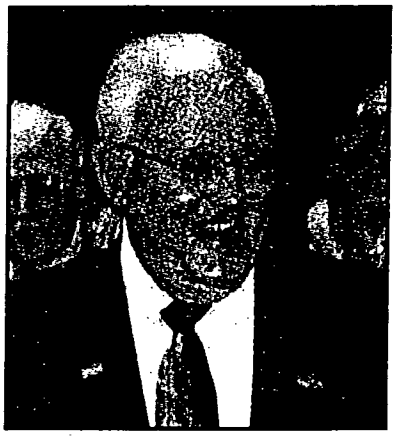
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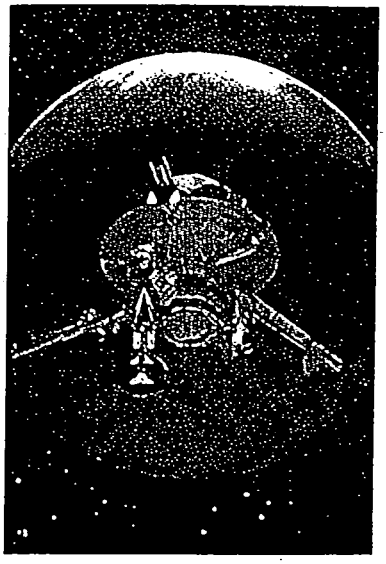
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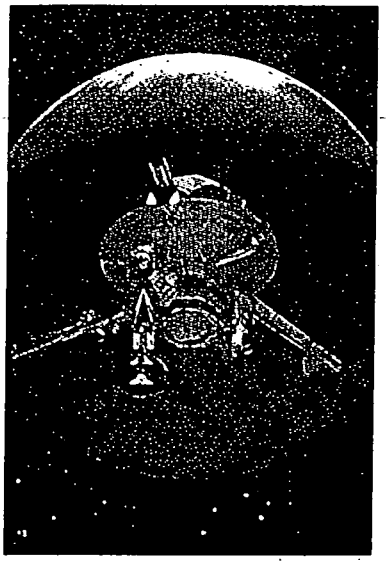
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