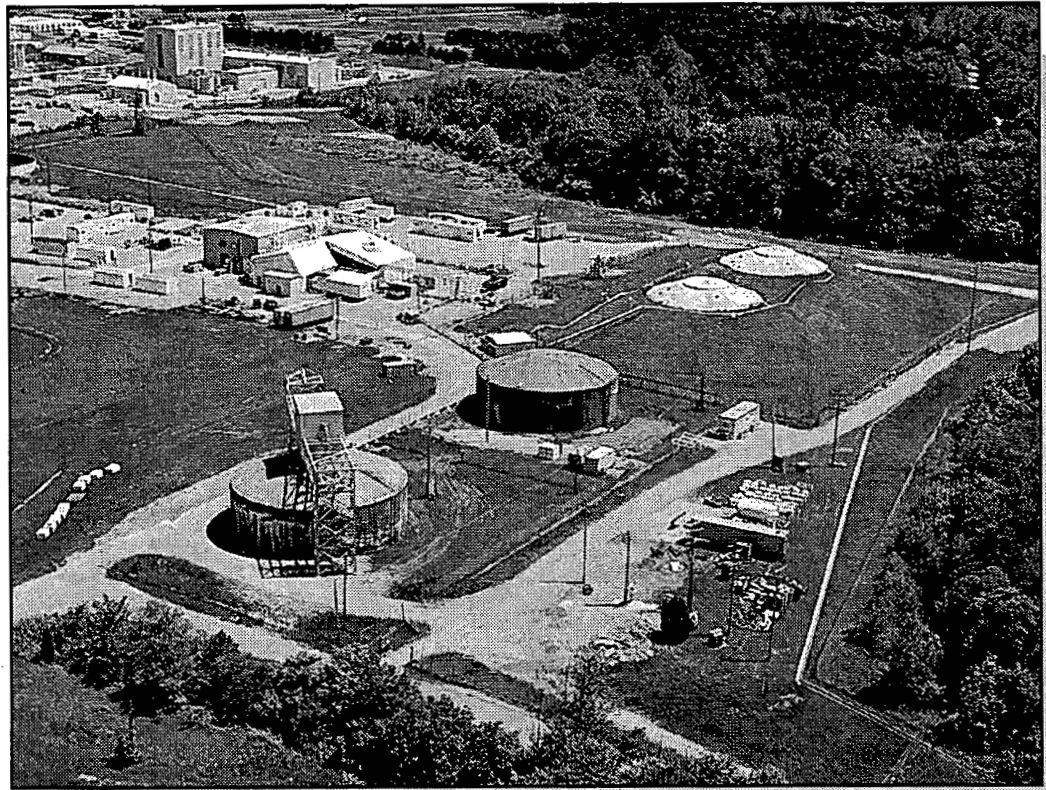


Silos Project

Fact Sheet



Located on the western periphery of the Fernald site, Operable Unit 4 includes Silos 1 and 2 (K-65 Silos), Silo 3 (metal oxide silo), unused Silo 4, and ancillary structures, including the Vitrification Pilot Plant. (6385-114).

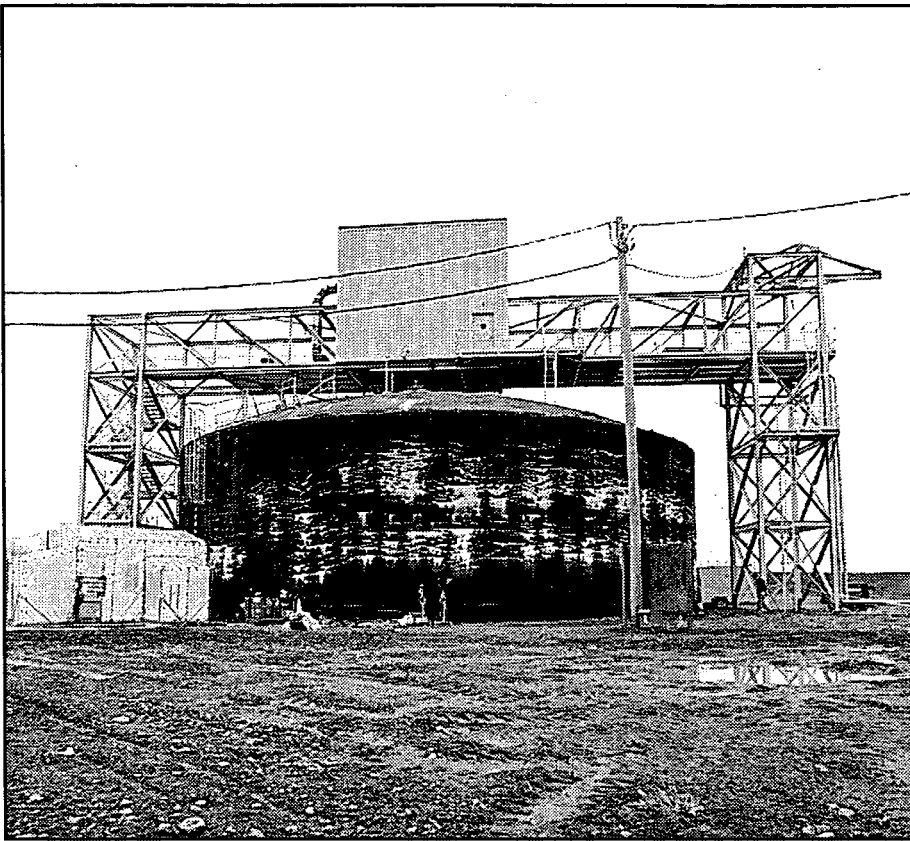
Description

The Silos Project, (formerly known as Operable Unit 4), at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Fernald Environmental Management Project is one of five areas designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as requiring remediation. The project is located on the western periphery of the site, and includes Silos 1 and 2 (known as the K-65 Silos), Silos 3 and 4, and nearby structures. Silos 1 and 2 contain low-level radioactive wastes dating back to the 1950s. In 1964, they were reinforced with an earthen berm, which was upgraded in 1983. Silo 3 contains cold metal oxide, and Silo 4 is unused.

Cleanup Plan

Today, activity centers on the accelerated remediation of Silo 3, with the goal of safely removing, stabilizing (on site or off site), and transporting its waste to an off-site disposal facility in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner. DOE expects to award a contract to a qualified vendor by spring 1999, and complete final remediation of Silo 3 by 2003.

The path-forward for Silos 1 and 2 includes a formal re-evaluation of the selected remedy—vitrification—with stakeholders and regulators. This process, known as



Mock-up and operator training is being performed on Silo 4 at the Fernald site to prepare for Silo 3 waste retrieval. (6759-27).

a Record of Decision amendment, began with a screening of stabilization technologies. These screened technologies will be tested and proven, and the results used in a detailed analysis of the alternatives and included in a revised feasibility study document. Once the amendment is complete and the remedy is chosen, a vendor will be selected to perform the full-scale remediation of Silos 1 and 2.

DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald are now working with stakeholders to pursue accelerated waste retrieval, which involves physically removing waste from Silos 1 and 2 and placing it in transfer tanks. Accelerating this phase of the project should reduce the risk associated with

storage in the current silos, and allows the first step toward final remediation of the K-65 materials in Silos 1 and 2. Contractors will be requested to prepare proposals for retrieval and storage, with bids anticipated back during the summer of 1998. Once a vendor is selected, design and construction will begin.

Other Silos Project activities include supporting the closure of the Vitrification Pilot Plant. DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald will remove, decontaminate and dispose of hazardous material that resulted during testing of this plant. Examples of this type of waste include lead, barium, and chromium, which are considered by-products of glass manufacturing. The overall goal is to maximize reuse of the plant's equipment.

For More Information...

More information about this and other Fernald cleanup projects is available in the Public Environmental Information Center at 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway (Delta Building), or on Fernald's Web site address: www.fernald.gov. Stakeholders can also learn about cleanup plans and progress at Fernald's monthly briefings held on the second Tuesday of each month.

For specific questions about Silos Project activities, call Nina Akgunduz, DOE-Fernald Team Leader at (513) 648-3110. Her e-mail address is: nina-akgunduz@fernald.gov.