



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Legacy Management



Fernald
Preserve

Community Meeting

November 19, 2008

8671

The Legacy Management community meeting was held on November 19, 2008, at the Fernald Preserve Visitors Center. Eight people attended the meeting for an update on restoration, environmental sampling, aquifer restoration, and Visitors Center usage.



Nature Nook



Northern Leopard Frog *Lithobates pipiens*

- Among the first seen in Hamilton Co. in 20 years
- 2 to 3.5 inches long
- Females only mate once per year and lay up to 6,500 eggs
- Likes permanent water (lakes, streams, wet meadows)
- Well adapted to the cold

8671.02 11.08

A regular feature of the community meeting is the Nature Nook, which highlights flora and fauna that inhabit the Fernald Preserve. The leopard frog was recently found on site in two different areas. This is a very rare species of frog in southwestern Ohio and among the first leopard frogs seen in Hamilton County in 20 years. Amphibian populations are sensitive bioindicators and are routinely used to judge the health of an ecosystem.



Fernald Preserve

Legacy Mission



Manage DOE's post-closure responsibilities and ensure the protection of human health and the environment.



Worker Safety and Health

OSHA Recordables (yearly)

| Fernald | DOE Complex | LM | Industry |
|---------|-------------|-----|----------|
| 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 4.6 |

Fernald Preserve (quarterly)

| Lost time | First aid | Recordables |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

8671.04 11/08

The Fernald Preserve's safety performance, as well as Legacy Management's safety performance as a whole, has been exemplary, with zero OSHA recordables, lost-time accidents, or first aid cases. The site's safety record continues to exceed national industry standards.



Sampling

Current

- OSDF leak detection monitoring at 42 wells
- Groundwater sampling at 140 monitoring wells
- Surface water sampling at 16 locations
- Treated effluent and biowetland sampling at 2 locations
- Air particulate, radon, and direct radiation monitoring at 6 locations
- Sediment sampling at 2 locations in the Great Miami River
- 90-day look ahead
 - Continue approved semi-annual, quarterly, and daily sampling

8671.05 11.08

Routine environmental monitoring is conducted to ensure the continued effectiveness of the site's cleanup. The current monitoring regimen includes groundwater, surface water, effluent and biowetland, air particulate, and sediment sampling. In the future, all monitoring will continue, with the exception of air particulates. With the completion of site surface cleanup activities, no air particulates have been detected at Fernald during the past year; therefore, with the approval of the Ohio EPA, the air particulate monitoring will be discontinued in 2009.



Aquifer

- 2008 groundwater pumping rate is ~96 percent of design through 9/30/08
- Continue treating groundwater as necessary to meet discharge limits
- Shut down pumping for two 2-week periods in April–June time frame
 - Allowed aquifer water level rebound
 - Redissolve uranium in unsaturated sediments
 - Water levels during the 2008 study were higher than those measured during the 2007 study
- 90-day look ahead
 - Continue pump and treat operations as necessary to meet regulatory commitments

8671.06 11/08

The aquifer cleanup, which involves pumping and treating water from the aquifer, is progressing as planned with treatment projected to be completed in the 2016 timeframe. Over 293 million gallons of groundwater have been treated this year, and we are on track to end the year well below the 600-pound annual uranium discharge limit.



Restoration

- Trail construction and landscaping
- Wildlife surveys
- Erosion repair and road upgrades
- Invasive species control
- 90-day look ahead
 - Expand plant and animal inventories (All-Taxa Biodiversity Index)
 - Plant dormant willow cuttings



8671.07 11.08

The ecological restoration of the Fernald Preserve is ongoing with trail construction, wildlife surveys, and invasive-species control. The recently completed 0.7-mile Shingle Oak trail was opened for public use in October.



Fernald Preserve

- Morgan Elementary second grade
- Ohio Valley Camera Club
- Tristate Hiking Club
- Cincinnati State
- Miami University
- Senior Centers
- Cub Scouts



8671.08 11.08

With the opening of the Visitors Center, more classes, conservation organizations, and community groups are visiting the Fernald Preserve. From August 20 through November 25, nearly 2,600 people have visited.



Visitors Center

Community Meeting Room

- Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual meeting
- National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
- Senior Centers
- U.S. Green Building Council – Cincinnati chapter
- Fernald Retiree Connection



8671.09 11.08

Numerous organizations have used the free Community Meeting Room. Since August, there have been five scheduled meetings, with 320 attendees. Reservations for 2009 are being received.



Visitors Center

Platinum Certification

- U.S. Green Building Council certification
- First platinum building in Ohio
- Second platinum building in the DOE Complex
- Platinum certification exceeded expectations
- Destination for those interested in “green” construction and operation



8671.10 11.08

On September 20, 2008, the Fernald Preserve Visitors Center received platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Acting U.S. Department of Energy Deputy Secretary Jeffrey Kupfer unveiled the plaque and officially dedicated the building.



Consent Decree

- On March 11, 1986, the State of Ohio filed a complaint against the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), NLO Inc., and NL Industries Inc. concerning Ohio's claim for natural resource damages.
- The complaint asked that DOE restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources allegedly injured or threatened due to the release of hazardous substances at the Fernald site.
- Through the years, much of the claim was resolved through ecological restoration.
- On November 11, 2008, the federal court accepted and signed the final agreement between the State of Ohio and the USDOE.
- DOE agreed to a one-time cash payment of \$13.75 million to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of injured natural resources at and in the vicinity of the Fernald Preserve and to reimburse Ohio's Natural Resources Damages Assessment costs.

8671.11 11/08

A finalized consent decree officially settles the long-standing Natural Resources Damages law suit brought by the State of Ohio against the Department of Energy. Key points of the Natural Resource Restoration Plan and the enforceable parts of the consent decree are noted.



Community Meeting

Join us:

April 29, 2009

6:30 p.m. Wednesday

Fernald Preserve Visitors Center



Jane Powell

DOE-LM Fernald Preserve Manager
(513) 648-3148
jane.powell@LM.doe.gov

Sue Walpole

S.M. Stoller Community Relations
(513) 648-4026
sue.walpole@LM.doe.gov

General

(513) 648-6000
fernal@LM.doe.gov
www.LM.doe.gov

8671.12 8/08

The next community meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 29, 2009, at the Fernald Preserve Visitors Center.