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Fall 2006

### F-CHEC Community Letter

Fernald Community Health Effects Committee

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Fall, 2006

Dear Neighbor,

Does anyone know whether contaminants exist in the water that supplies our wells and cisterns?

What information exists about radioactive, chemical, and heavy metal contaminants in our water?

How many households in the seven townships within five miles of the former Fernald uranium processing plant may have been exposed to these contaminants?

These are the questions that the Fernald Community Health Effects Committee (F-CHEC) wanted to begin to answer in our research project.

In 2002, F-CHEC received a grant from the Citizens' Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund (MTA) and partnered with researchers at the University Environmental Health Foundation (UEHF) to study these issues. Our research project was called, *Fernald Area Cisterns and Wells: What Is Known and What Does the Public Need to Know?*

F-CHEC members are local residents of the seven townships within the five-mile exposure domain of the Fernald site. We formed F-CHEC in the fall of 2001 when the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) disbanded the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee (FHES). We believed there were more health questions that needed to be studied. The issue of potential exposure to contaminated water was on the top of our list.

This report contains the information we collected to answer our research questions. You'll read the results of our survey to determine how cisterns have been used and maintained throughout the years. You'll see our inventory of existing sources of data about local water quality. And you'll find our catalogue of wells located within five miles of the site. Although we are short on conclusions, this accumulation of information can be used to better study whether local residents have been exposed to contaminants in their cisterns and wells.

One of our goals with this research has been to empower our community by providing knowledge of potential exposure pathways to contaminants from the Fernald site. We hope you find this report informative. You may want to share this information with your physician when addressing your health concerns.

We want our future generations to be informed and to consider the implications of this information.

Good health to us all!

Sue Verkamp

Edwa Yocum

Carol Schroer