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DOE Cites Fluor Fernald Inc. for Nuclear Safety Violations

Washington, D.C. – The Department of Energy (DOE) today notified Fluor Fernald, Inc. (Fluor Fernald) that it will fine the company \$33,000 for violations of the department’s nuclear safety requirements. Fluor Fernald is the department’s contractor responsible for environmental cleanup activities at the Fernald Closure Project.

The Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) issued today results from a routine program review conducted by the Office of Environment, Safety and Health in July 2005. It cites numerous instances of site personnel failing to comply with site radiation protection procedures. These failures included not having a technician present to check personnel for radioactive contamination when working inside and exiting radiation contaminated areas. The contractor is also cited for failing to audit the performance of its radiation protection program adequately.

“It is our practice to review the performance of contractor radiation safety programs routinely. We must protect the health and safety of our workers as sites progress towards closure and accelerate environmental remediation activities,” said John Shaw, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health

The Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988 authorizes the Energy Department to undertake regulatory actions against contractors for violations of its nuclear safety requirements. The enforcement program encourages DOE contractors to identify and correct nuclear safety deficiencies at an early stage, before they contribute to or result in more serious events.

Additional details on this and other enforcement actions are available on the Internet at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/enforce>.

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