

**210045 Interviewer:** Can you tell us a little bit about your personal background? Where you were born, where you grew up? And when did you move to the Cincinnati area?

**210057 Sue:** Well, I was born and raised in Cincinnati, and have lived inside the city of Cincinnati for probably more of my life than I have lived in the suburbs. And I have relatives that have lived out here, so I have been around here out here back and fourth. My grandparents lived not far away, and I used to love to go there for summers. And they had a farm and my aunt and uncle, and it just was something I really liked to do. But we decided to stay in the city to raise our kids. It was important to me to have the kids close to school. So we lived where I could watch them walk down to school and that made me very comfortable, and I could be very involved with them and the school and that whole scenario. My husband always wanted to have a farm, and he had looked many, many times. We've looked at more farms than I could imagine. And he had looked out in this area many times, and there were many places that he wanted to buy, but we were concerned about, by that time, we had heard about Fernald. We didn't want to expose our children to any possible problems, health problems, because by that time, FRESH had already formed, and they were giving out lots of information about all the illnesses. So we pretty much stayed away. But then coincidentally, in 1991, my husband had a cohort at work say, "Russ, weren't you looking for a farm?" And he said, "Yeah, I've been looking for the last several years." And she said, "My neighbor is going to sell their farm. You're interested? I'll connect you." And that is how we ended up here. I was a little concerned when I found out the area, at first. But I called down at Fernald and talked to their Public Relations department. They gave me lots of information to read and had me talk to a couple other people down there. I relayed all that to my husband, and I felt that the plant's closed, there are no more problems, they are just cleaning up and de-mantling the buildings, and so it's no longer a health concern. And frankly, here's an opportunity to be one of the first people in the area and grab up some land and might be a good business decision. So we bought the farm.

Uh, it was shortly after that, after we were in and settled, that our neighbors, the farm that is in the back of us, he and his wife came over on a horse and buggy to take us a tour around the area and show us. And I specifically had mentioned that I had never seen Fernald. He said, "Oh, we can go actually see it." We took the horse and buggy, and we clomped right down into the, it's the back driveway off Willey Road. And we no sooner had gotten a little ways down the driveway, then we saw one of the police vans or security vans. He had his lights on, and he came flying out. He stopped us and asked us who we were, and wanted to see ID from my husband and Bill. He left the door open, and it was quite visible, as the men told me later, that he had an M-16 rifle laying on the car seat. So, I was pretty intimidated. I didn't understand why this big security if the plant's closed. They had no gates on the outside of the driveway. But he made us turn around, and he escorted us all the way out. And, he stayed, actually, in the driveway for as far as we went until we couldn't see him anymore. He was going to make sure that we did not circle around and come back. So, that was my first indication that maybe things aren't quite as good as people were saying that they are. Maybe I've not talked to the right people. Then, a little while later, several weeks later probably, when we came home one day, we had people on our property we didn't know. They were setting up survey equipment. And uh, they said they were surveying for Fernald, that they wanted a survey of the whole area. They had not asked our permission to be on our property, and my husband told them they had to leave.

That worried us even more. Why are they surveying, what are their intentions, because, no one contacted us at all about this. So, that's when I first started to think that I had better get involved. So when information came out, my first involvement was they wanted some residents to read over some documents that they were putting out to the public. I agreed to do it. And I went down, well, actually, it was over here in one of these buildings, and we read the document with them. And I guess the first thing that bothered me in the first paragraph is that it talked about Fernald, Ohio being a very small community of like 30 people. So, there wasn't much impact on humans. And just that sentence was sending up red flags to me, that that really was giving an impression that wasn't exactly true. I mean the little town of Fernald, well, that's not where the big, huge complex is, which the complex goes all the way across counties into Ross, and you have all of that area. So we objected, at that point in time, at that very sentence, which of course they agreed that, yes, they would change it. But it just made me feel a little bit untrusting. I wasn't sure what I was getting into. And so, I started attending more of the information sessions, trying to find out what was going on, listening to some of the neighbors, hearing the anger in people's voices, and hearing the mistrust. So, that's why I decided I've got to get more involved, and I've got to find out what's going on. And so, when they requested people to apply for the Fernald Health Effects Sub-Committee, I sent in my application because I thought, now, here is a good way to have an impact on what's being looked at. I am, my background is as a health professional, and so, perhaps, I can, you know, help; and if nothing else, I could learn myself, what kind of risks that we may have walked into because I was very concerned that there might be risks there to my health and to my husband's health that we hadn't known about before we bought the property.

**210841 Interviewer:** Let me back up in your story just a little bit. You said you had some relatives in the area. And that you had, you and your husband had been thinking about purchasing a farm at some point and had done some scouting out here at some point. Can you remember maybe the first stories or information you've got about Fernald, whether it might have been from FRESH or from just other neighbors in the area, before you talked to the public affairs person right as you were deciding to buy the farm that you got the final lead from, just, in general, as you were scouting out here?

**210911 Sue:** O.k., well, in growing up and in scouting out, well, actually, I'm not the only one either, my husband, also, because he's born and raised in Cincinnati, he used to hunt out here. Some friends of ours, actually, own a large number of acres right next to the plant, and that's where he used to hunt. We would come down occasionally for picnics and what not. I remember when our first child was born of coming down to show Tony and Dotty our new baby, and it, you know, was just a place we came relatively often. And at one point in time, there was some property that was kind of across the street from them, and we had considered one of those lots at the time. And, just were thankful that we didn't end up buying one at the time in retrospect. But we all thought that it was a Purina Dog Food Plant because, you know, of the checkerboard. Everyone just assumed that they were making feed materials, they were making feed materials for animals. Just thought, well, the parent company must be Purina. And figured that it's in farm country, so it's probably horse feed and cow feed. That's what I thought it was; that's what my husband thought it was. And it wasn't until we got more involved in finding out about it that we learned that no, it was actually feed materials for weaponry. That was probably already in

the '80s when some information was probably coming out, and that's when we were feeling glad that we hadn't already made a purchase. However, my sister was out here; they had bought property. And I was very concerned about that because they had moved away from Cincinnati, and then they came back to Cincinnati; and this is where they bought. So, it became a great concern for, well, my grandparents being not too far away, and my aunt and uncle being not too far away, and my sister and her small children. And that's when my husband and I made a conscious decision: we were not going to buy out here, and we actually started looking out in Lebanon. We thought, we'll just go to the east side of town and looked and looked and looked and it just, uh, the only reason that we ended up waiting as long as we did because we had four children who didn't want to be moving. So there was a lot of pressure on mom and dad – "no, not this place," "no, we don't like this," "we don't want to move"-type. It wasn't until they started going off to college and getting down to not having to deal with that issue, and that was about 1991.

**211224 Interviewer:** I've seen a few photographs of the site during the production years. Most of them I've seen are black and white. I have seen a few color photos. I don't know if you can recall in your various visits out to visit some neighbors and friends near the site if you can recall any site, sounds, smells, what it was like? You mentioned a checkerboard. Was that the water tower you were referring to? (**Sue:** yes) Is there anything else that you can recall along those lines, just what it looked like?

**211245 Sue:** There was one night that we were getting home late, and I did notice that there was some yellow or orangish kind of smoke. At the time, we thought it must be coming from the chemical plants. And I never thought anything about it since that time until during one of the Fernald Health Effects Sub-Committee meetings, some of the workers came, and they were describing exactly what I saw about when that would have been. And I realized that that's what I had seen. The chemical plants didn't do that; it was a release from Fernald. And, it's just that at the time, I didn't know what it was.

**211344 Interviewer:** Did you find out at any point along the way after that initial visit on your property by the folks that wanted to do some tests, why they were out there? And, did you have any other visits from folks on your property?

**211352 Sue:** Well, we didn't find out why they were particularly out there, but I did inquire about having our water tested because we had put in a well. And, when we put it in, we got the permits and everything and nobody said anything about that there might be a problem. And so, they said that they would test it for me. So we signed up for the testing, and they tested our well many times, actually, in '92 and '93. And most of it was pretty much zero uranium. They weren't seeing much of anything at all except for the very last one. I believe it was November of '93. I'm not sure; I'd have to look at my paperwork. But, that was the first time that they got a level which was at their, you know, abnormal, you know, right at that level. They said that that must be a lab error. They would run right back out and get another sample. So, they came right back out and got another sample. Then they sent us another form that said it was okay. And, they just explained the way that one spike as lab error. So we wanted to stay in the program because it worried me about spikes, you know, and being a laboratorian myself, I did not feel

that lab error was an acceptable answer because that's my field, and I would never let a result go out on a lab error. Everything is reviewed. I mean, you just don't let it happen. So, I was very concerned. Well, we received in the mail a long document asking us to sign it to continue in a program to get our well tested. And in that document, we were going to sign permission for them to come on our property any time they wanted, to dig on our property any time they wanted, to land aircraft if they wanted. It was all-inclusive to do anything they wanted, whenever they wanted. And we called and told them, no, we didn't want that. They said it was necessary to come on the property. I told them just, "I will sign something that says I give a technician my permission to come in and take water for analysis; we will sign that document." They said, "We can't do that. You have to sign all or none." So, we said, "We can't do that." And so, they stopped testing our well water. And I don't know what happened when they decided who gets city water and who doesn't because it was determined that my neighbors to the east of us, they should get city water pumped up to their house. And, then, it was decided that we shouldn't, and I had a problem with them drawing some arbitrary line saying they had a potential of being sick, but we didn't have a potential of being sick. We even sent a letter to DOE stating our position that we were not comfortable with that decision, but they just wrote back, and they said that was their decision and that was that. So since then we've certainly spent more time buying bottled water and stuff. It does worry me. I still do drink the water, but I just make sure that I don't drink it exclusively. We put a very good system in our house. I put a reverse osmosis system in so that we only drink that water. But, I also buy bottled water because I like to drink a lot of water, and if there is a miniscule amount in there, I want it to stay a miniscule amount and not multiply it by the amount of water that I drink. But, I still am concerned about the water under the aquifer because I don't know that they can really assure me that that water is always going to go a certain way. There are all kinds of nooks and crannies under there, and if it hits one and goes off towards my well when I'm pumping, it would seem to me that it's possible that I would get a contaminated uranium particle or ... And maybe that's not what it is; maybe it's the chemicals. No one is looking at the chemicals. They're using some very powerful chemicals there. Maybe they are not finding a lot of uranium, but maybe the chemicals there that I am then drinking are making me sick or making my husband sick. And you know that concerns me. It concerns me that they're not taking a larger area of people - put the Cincinnati Water Works in, you know, just put it in. And, then, the residents are going to pay for their water then like the rest of Cincinnati. It's not that we're going to have DOE pay for our water for the rest of our lives. But, get the infrastructure in. Take that important step and make sure that people are safe from any further damage.

**211934 Interviewer:** Where in relation to the site is your farm?

**211939 Sue:** Well, if you are coming up Willey Road past the site, as soon as you hit Paddy's Run, we are just up on Willey, actually we're the third driveway. We go off on the left, and our 40 acres sits back there. Both of our neighbors actually sit at the front of our property. So even the neighbor who has the Cincinnati Water Works, behind his house that's our property. That's us. And, uh, so again I don't know how they drew that arbitrary line. I don't know who the hydrologist was that put his name on the line and said, "Absolutely, these people can't possibly get any spike of any, you know, damaging toxin of any sort or radium, uranium." At our last Fernald Health Effects Sub-Committee, we did hear from Dr. Pinney that, in fact, they are seeing

urinary tract cancers of a very high rate in this area in well drinkers. So that says to me that there is some reason for concern. So, yeah, I am plenty worried about it, and if I, I guess if I had a million dollars, I'd be moving. But that is not always the most practical thing to do. People just can't pick up and go somewhere else.

**212121 Interviewer:** Are there any other things that concern you now in terms of runoff or other environmental issues that maybe you, weren't as much in the forefront when you first moved out there.

**212134 Sue:** Well yeah, the silos. We knew that they had been capped, so again, we're thinking, okay, that's all safe. We didn't know that there were releases, accidental releases ... of radon. We didn't know that the silos are crumbling, and that's, you know, a huge danger if it gets ahead of them. Which sure, they feel assured that it won't but it worries me. It worries me that I just found out through the Sub-Committee meetings that they have plutonium stored down there. And that they had one unsafe container they were aware of, one they weren't sure whether it was in a safe container or not. This is very troubling. No, I had no idea. I wouldn't have ever fathomed that these things would have ever come to light. Especially since they have a public affairs office, and I would have thought those people would have known what the dangers are; and, apparently, they didn't know because they didn't know enough to tell me. And, I asked specific questions. They didn't know. So, yeah, in hindsight, I would not have gone forward with this kind of purchase had I known up front all of these things; no, I wouldn't have done it. Now, we're in the boat. So, like I say, we put in the reverse osmosis system, which by the way is not cheap, but it gives us a peace of mind about our water intake.

**212322 Interviewer:** So, you are on sort of the west and a little bit on the south side of the site. That's the side that ... the silos are on the west, up the road a ways and over.

**212336 Sue:** Right, they're very close. I didn't realize how close they were. I was thinking most everything to do with the plant was way into the center of the plant. I didn't realize that it extended almost all the way to Paddy's Run, that there still were things like silos. So, yeah, I didn't know as much as I thought I knew until we started the Fernald Health Effects Sub-Committee. And the first couple years, that was started up in '96, those first couple of years, we were inundated with information, and I just was always shocked at what I was hearing, what I was learning. And, it's incredibly sad because it shouldn't have happened. I mean, I understand secrecy. My husband and I sometimes get upset about information that foreign countries seem to know about us because we do need secrecy for security. But, somewhere along the line they lost track of doing the right thing to Americans who were part of the process. They still should have told them what their risks were. They might have done it anyway. They *would* have done the job anyway, but they might have done it a little differently. We watched the video of the workers who were tasting the uranium. Now, if they had been told, "This is dangerous stuff," they probably would have done the job, but they wouldn't have put it in their mouth. And, I think that's the difference. They should have told them. They didn't need to tell them a lot of details; they just could have given them rules: "You don't do this; you don't do that." Just like you do with your children. You can't always explain the long why, but you just tell them, "Well, we don't want to put that cord in your mouth and stick it in the ..." I mean, you just need to tell

them the do's and the don'ts for their own protection. And I still think you would have gotten good workers. You know, I think that I grew up in an era and my husband grew up in an era where you did things for your country. Believed very much in what Kennedy said, you know, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." And I think that people would have been there, but we shouldn't have harmed them in the process.

**212616 Interviewer:** You were nominated to join the Health Effects Sub-Committee in 1996 when it was formed. Before that, you filled out and volunteered to be, put your name in nomination, before that, did you go to any community meetings, whether they were DOE meetings or FRESH meetings or whatever? Can you remember any of those meetings before you started serving on a regular basis?

**212641 Sue:** Yes, I remember the community meetings. There were a lot of angry people, and there was a lot of shouting. And, I remember that the panel, the DOE panel, they had to have very specific things that you were allowed to talk about. It was just one subject, you couldn't bring up anything else. Apparently, that was the only way that they could control it, otherwise it would have been a mass argument for hours and hours; and that's the way that it had to be controlled. Yes, we went. My sister and I went and tried to gain as much information as we could. I took their course on their personal protective equipment that they used. I went to many of the, anything that they, as many as I could go to. I actually ..., when I first started going, a funny thing was, I did sit in the back of the room, it was, I think it was either in the Alpha or the Beta building, a small room. And I sat in the back. I was just interested in the discussion, and I heard two people behind me against the wall, the one said, "That's her." I have very good hearing. Then I knew they were talking about me because they said, "You mean Health Department?" "Yeah, that's her." So, it's like I wanted to turn around and say, "I hear you. You don't understand I have very good hearing." So, they were identifying me, and I was wondering, why is it that they need to know that I worked for the Health Department? Why is that important to them? Because I don't work for Hamilton County Health Department, I worked for the City of Cincinnati, which, you know, has no jurisdiction whatsoever out in this area. I just thought that was rather amusing that it was important to them to pick out people. And I just got to the point with all of it of realizing that there was mistrust on both sides. And unfortunately, most of us looking at this now, perhaps, don't have the history. The DOE workers maybe are not the same that were back there in '51. Uh, so it's a shame because there was a great mistrust. Actually, I can tell you one more thing. You know, I served on the evaluation of the Health Effects Sub-Committee and I just got the report last month.... (tape change)

**220048 Interviewer:** You were mentioning that you recently got a copy of this assessment about the Health Effects Sub-Committee. Why don't you go ahead and finish your thought there, and then, we'll take you back to when you first joined.

**220058 Sue:** Right. The draft report was out, and I was surprised to, and I guess I should have realized it before, but I was surprised at the level of mistrust on both sides. And I was also surprised at the amount of fear that the government people had of dealing with the communities, with the public. Uh, I hadn't realized that there were a lot of shouting matches. That people had said some things quite inappropriate at many of the meetings. Uh, I had been at one meeting in

which a threat was made. Uh, me, personally, I discounted it because I thought, well, it's obvious that those people just come from a bar, and they have no idea what they're saying. But, if I was from the federal government and people I didn't know were acting like that, I can understand their fear. And I also surprised myself in understanding a little more why CDC and ATSDR were having problems dealing with the public. They're trying to get a job done, and they are constantly being interrupted because they have to explain. And normally, when you are in science, you do all your work, you ask all your questions, you have your brainstorming; and you are asking the same questions, some of which are stupid questions, but when you're brainstorming, trying to find an answer, that's okay. But now you are doing it at a public forum, and people don't understand. And something that you may not want to pursue is suddenly before you, and suddenly, you know, your directions are changed. I realized how difficult that is for them, and I don't know that I appreciated that as much during the meetings. And I began to understand why they were raising doubts about the usefulness of the forum. I do think the forum is useful. I think that probably it needs more thought. Probably, it needs more PR people presenting the information instead of scientists. Scientists are dealing with the facts and what they're seeing or what they're not seeing. Uh, maybe there needed to be a go between so that the scientists could continue their work, the community could still ask questions. Uh, I just realized that there are lots of problems with the way that was constructed. Although, I think that community input is very important, and I think the community should speak for residents and workers because a lot of the workers are residents. And, you know, I think it's important that it continue, but how it continues might need to change to satisfy the needs of government and the needs of the community and, you know, the expenses thereof because after all, we're all part of the government. I mean it's all our money. So, it probably needs to be looked at. I'm glad to have been part of the evaluation. At the beginning, I was not happy about it at all. We went into it. That first meeting was very contentious. It seemed like everyone was on different pages, and I left there thinking this is never going to work. I don't even know if I want to be a part of this. But as we met, we met by telephone every two weeks. And, as people got to talking and began to understand where others were coming from, and everyone began to make a conscious effort to get to the middle ground of where we're all at collectively, it got smoother, smoother, and smoother. And, by the end, I felt like we were a very cohesive group even though we were coming from very different perspectives, and I think we provided valuable information that they now can use to decide the direction of the sub-committees. Because community involvement, and I think the government agrees, too, community involvement is important. So now they just need to figure out how to make it work.

But, the Fernald Health Effects Sub-Committee, the first two years, like I said before, '96-'97, definitely were learning years. There was so much information coming at us. And, it was very hard every quarter because you'd come in and you might have gotten the information a couple of weeks ahead of time; and then, there you are, and it's all being bombarded at you. And, there is just so much that you can absorb. You can't absorb it all. Or, maybe, the question that you want to ask, well, is lost by the time you get to the questioning part because now there's this other thing that's, now, it's the thing to ask. And there were a lot of problems, I think, in the continuity of the information. You'd come home with big packets of stuff, and I think I was one of the few people that I have it in a file system at home. You know, it's not still in the, well the last one is still in the folder, but all the others been separated so that I don't have duplicate

information. I have the most recent so that anything old, I get rid of it because it's, you know, the old information. So that at any given time, I can go to, you know, water, and I can pull up water, "okay, what did we all learn about that?" But, it was very hard to do that, to keep it all organized because the issues were just so massive. And I tried to make sure I read everything that they sent out, but it's like reading a novel. When you get done reading it, you know what the gist of the novel was, but if someone asks you a specific question about a specific page, you might not know, and because of the sheer volume of the pages that you are reading. But it seemed like the first two years was just taking in information; they were feeding us. Then it got to the point where we started asking serious questions. And we started getting to make some informed recommendations. Uh, the lung study issue came up, and I think we pretty much collectively agreed that it is great to do a lung study, but you are in an area where there is a large amount of smoking. The confounder is too great. You're not going to learn anything about the issue of Superfund sites and lung cancer. You're not going to be able to come up with anything that you can say. So, we decided that that's really not the appropriate thing to do in this forum. And I think that was a right decision. Now that might have knocked NCEH out of active duty around here because after all they are a radiation studies branch. But I just don't think that was the issue here. The thing that was frustrating was that we kept asking for information on the chemicals, and they didn't want to deal with that. They wanted to deal with radiation. Well, it took so long for us to understand that they want to deal with radiation because they are the radiation people. If they would have explained up front that actually the money is going to radiation, and that's where you've got to do your research. Well, if we had have known all that going in we would have been trying to help them early on gear more toward ATSDR who was working more with the chemicals. Uh, I still think that there is probably more work to be done with the chemicals. I don't know if that will be done. I believe it will. Uh, I just think it's too bad that it wasn't started a couple of years ago.

**220953 Interviewer:** In all the presentations over the 3- or 4-year period from the scientists and then there were a lot at some of the later meetings, you know, the evening public comment times, can you remember one or two either presentations or pieces of information that you thought you had no idea that that was a possibility and that it really kind of made you have a reaction of either fear, or anger, or whatever, that was something that was out of the ordinary or surprising to you?

**221021 Sue:** Well, I guess the thing was the plutonium. I did not know that they had 16 hoppers of plutonium down there. I had no idea. I was just shocked. And I was very worried because during that same presentation, we learned that, of course, we know plutonium is very lethal to large amounts of people. And they were, of course, telling us that in the containers, though, it's diluted out. Somehow, that wasn't satisfactory. It's plutonium. You know, if it leaks out, if it's leaking, I don't know, it just seemed to me that that's information that should have been shared with people who live around there. It's plutonium. They should have protected us from that. They know that it is probably the most lethal compound known on earth. How do they know? What scientists have given the assurances, were willing to put their name on it that nobody could get hurt by these? I don't think there was anybody to say, absolutely, there's no danger. And also it worried me from the standpoint that in the ten years that we have lived here, the plant has become insecure. You can now walk in that plant. I was going to a meeting a couple months ago, and I got lost. I was going obviously in a different direction. I thought I was headed to the



right building, but nobody was there. And, I walked around for fifteen minutes going in and out of buildings; nobody stopped me. There was nobody to question me, and I didn't like that. When I had finally found my group, there was nobody to stop me from going ... what if I was a terrorist, and I had something? The guard at the gate didn't check my car, didn't check me, just asked me where I was going. It was just ..., suddenly, we went from being probably overly secure in asking neighbors what you are doing here and making sure they see your gun, to having no security, and there is plutonium on the plant. So, I do have concerns about that, too. Now, it is not secure at all. So, how do we know that some terrorist group won't come in and carry some of that off. I mean, you know, so, all those things are concerning me and probably plutonium, a big one, a very big one.

**221315 Interviewer:** Can you comment at all about some of the meeting dynamics in the Health Effects Sub-Committee during the evening public comment time as opposed to during the daytime where there were sort of controlled informational presentations. What sorts of questions would some of the experts get from the general public? And, can you remember any of them that were really on point or really raised some issues with you at any of those sessions?

**221337 Sue:** Well, one I remember an elderly couple came; he was dying of cancer. The unfortunate thing is that even though, and Dr. Pinney has told us many times, people were informed just what the role of the Fernald Medical Monitoring Program was, it was not to be their major doctor, their main doctor. It was not to be the one that diagnoses things. A lot of people thought that it replaced their primary care physician. And this couple, I think, was an example of that. They were very confused as to why they didn't get certain treatments for him earlier on, but they did not understand that the Medical Monitoring Program is just that. It's a monitoring program. It's not a primary health care clinic. And that just, it made me so sad that people assumed ... it made me sad to the point that when I got home, I called my sister, and I said, "You're going to medical monitoring, right?" "Yeah." "You still are going to your other doctor, right?" "Yeah." Well, she's, you know, quite a bit younger person, she would; but what about all the people that didn't understand that and, maybe, missed out on routine exams, and what not, that may have helped in their diagnoses. We heard about six weeks after that that he had died. He just was pleading to us at the end of his life he just wanted someone to really look into what's causing it so that if there's any tests that could be done for people early enough. That hit a chord with me because I think maybe that's really the point of the whole thing: there has to be screening. Well, to do screening, you have to sort of know or have an idea what you're screening for. I think we now know that urinary tract cancer is an important issue. Probably, efforts need to be made to be screening people. Offer screening programs to people in the area, workers and your residents. So that they might get the test, the screening tests now before they get the symptoms then to have to wait and be beyond help.

**221613 Interviewer:** Other than the issue of doing more research on non-radioactive or chemical exposures, can you think of any other recommendations or advice that the Committee really wanted some of the health researchers to follow up, and they chose not to, and it caused some maybe disappointment or disagreement?

**221631 Sue:** Well, we really wanted to look at the workers' data. Uh, it doesn't make sense to me that that would be neglected. I just don't think that CDC had it in their power to look at it. Maybe NIOSH part of CDC did. But, uh, I just think that, well, they were saying it had to do with the lawsuit. Uh, I think that that could have been worked around. I think that there would have been a way to preserve people's identities and still get the data out. Just like anything else, you wouldn't be able to say that Joe Smith got his cancer from the plant, but maybe you would be able to say that there are 10% more cancers in this population. Everybody needs to go get tested. Their doctors need to know that they've worked in this area where there has been an increase of incidents or something like that. And I just, I don't understand letting that, well, we understand that a lot of the old data is in cardboard boxes stacked up in places. Well, in this day and age, computerization is the way we do things. So why wouldn't they spend the money to do that? Well, the cynical part of me says it's because they know that it's going to show serious damage, and they don't want it out there because of all of the people that are going to be hurt, it's going to be the workers. Once the workers establish a higher amount of illness, then the residents are going to come in, and it's a huge, you know, financial thing. Well, I can see that. Maybe [DOE Secretary] Richardson said the best idea, "Apologize, write everybody a check, and be done with it." Maybe that's the way to solve it. I don't know. Of course, I am against people getting a billion dollars for hot coffee. I mean, this is silly. I don't want that. I just think that we, not just for these people here, but for humanity, we need to know what it is that resulted health wise from what happened here because we don't know that, I mean ... Who was it that said the best way to repeat history is to forget history? And, I think we have an opportunity to make sure that history is not forgotten here. And, I think that includes the worker data, and I think that it should be computerized. We are not talking about a lot of money. We're talking about DOE has how much money budgeted, and we are talking about \$250,000; it's a drop in the hat. So, I don't understand why they don't want to do it. I think it should be done. They didn't want to do it. NIOSH said they would fund it, but they needed the identifiers. So, everybody had a mix on how they wanted it done, and, effectively, it doesn't get done. And, I think, that that's just a shame; it should be done. And if they allow us to continue to operate, I would think that still is an issue that needs to be addressed.

**222006 Interviewer:** My producer is writing me a note and I can't read her handwriting, so if you wouldn't mind, maybe Andrea can ask this question herself.

**222009 Interviewer 2:** I was just wondering, you both know the subject really well, but for people or students who may not be familiar with the Sub-Committee's findings, if you wouldn't mind discussing a little bit more of what some of the health effect concerns were, generally, uh, in terms of what the Sub-Committee was concerned about, like, again, for someone like myself who might not know anything about what the concerns were here at Fernald, like increase in lung cancer, were there, was it, urinary tract cancer was one, could you just kind of give us a little bit of a ...

**222051 Sue:** Well, there is a lot of anecdotal data. The persons involved in FRESH, which is the residents group, they had developed a map, which pinpointed where all the various illnesses were. And their data showed a lot of cancers, and, especially thyroid was one of the ones that there were a large number of. And they also looked at things like miscarriages, leukemias in

children, other, uh, learning disabilities. I know both of my nephews have that problem. And they just had everyone note what was found in various of the families and looked for a repeating pattern. And, actually, the anecdotal data says, yeah, there is some repeating problems, which would be very interesting and maybe not found in another community of this size somewhere else where they don't have all of this. You can't say that that was caused by Fernald, though, these anecdotal data. It may have to do with the fact that in this part of the country, we have a higher amount of uranium in the ground in the first place. It could be related to that. I guess we were concerned to hear what the people were seeing, if there is value to the anecdotal data. There was a lot of bone cancer. All of these things are important. And actually, the other thing that was of particular interest to me is that you might not find a lot of bladder cancer, for example. You might find some bladder cancer, some kidney cancer, some other cancers, but look at the system. That's what the anecdotal might tell you, is there were systems cancers. That's because we're all different. We have different genetic make-ups. We might have certain weaknesses in our families. But, if there's something like an exposure, it might affect me in the bladder because that is where my family's got problems, and it might effect someone else's in the kidney because that's kind of where their .... So, you know, I think that the anecdotal information was good enough to say there are problems. Unfortunately, the scientists can't use anecdotal data; however, we did have one, a doctor from California who spoke to us and said that it is important to use the anecdotal data. She didn't use anecdotal data, but she just used what data that she saw that the scientists had. She said, and this was Dr. Ritz, she said she thought that there was enough of a problem there to warrant further work. That she absolutely believes that there were health effects from the operation of Fernald and absolutely believed that it should be looked at more closely. And this is someone who's just looking at what the numbers say. She is just a statistician who's looking at what the numbers say, and I think that she is absolutely right. And, of course, the cynical part of me again would say, "And they dropped the ball now because there are some people that are saying, 'Yeah, there's a problem, so we better get out of it, now.'" But, I don't like to think that, I, I ... The people that we worked with at CDC, NCH, NIOSH, and at ATSDR are all wonderful people. They are truly good scientists. They are looking for good science, and I have been impressed by all of them. And I know that they have a role that has to be attended to first, and that is good science. They have to have the parameters that they need to absolutely say this or absolutely say that. And, you know, it's unfortunate that that wasn't occurring on the issue of radiation, and we never got to the point of the chemicals and that. But I think there was a lot of concern. It's just too bad that the plant was left open for a number of years after the initial concerns were raised because there were a lot of children in the area that continued to be exposed. And, they should have come in quite a bit earlier to take a look at whether or not they could possibly be harming people because the area surrounding the plant was growing by leaps and bounds. And people were buying up 5-acre tracts faster than you would think could happen. Lots of families were moving in all over with small children, so I think they were remiss in not doing something at that point in time when they saw the number of people that were moving in the area.

**222625 Interviewer:** Did your family, you mentioned your nephews, has your family personally experienced any questionable health effects, do you think? Are you concerned about that? You said your sister, your grandparents?

**222640 Sue:** Well, I have multiple sclerosis. And I've wondered if that was due to an exposure because as their finding out now that MS is probably caused by ... well, first, you have to have the right genes to allow it to be possible, but then you need an exposure and, probably before you are fifteen years old. Well, those were the years that I was on my grandparents' farm drinking the water and being around in this area quite a lot. So yeah, I do wonder if that could have had an impact on me. You know, as to other health problems, well, my uncle, he started not being able to use his legs. And they absolutely could not find any reason for that happening to him. And because he was a sub-contractor at the plant, I just, kind of myself, believe that it has something to do with that. That he must have had an exposure or repeated exposures to something that damaged his nerves because they never could find a reason why he had the incredible weakness, and they couldn't stop it either. It was a progressive weakness. And once it got bad, then he got one thing and then another thing until he finally died. Really, I don't know, we can't ever say that it caused a specific person's death, but I guess I will always wonder if his problems were created by Fernald, if he would still be here today if he hadn't had all that exposure. I guess there is a piece of me that wonders if there's any chance that I got an exposure which has caused my MS and caused me, actually, in recent years, now that I am living out here, to not do as well as I was doing. I was doing great, you know, '90-'91, and after living here a few years, it started having reoccurring problems. I don't know whether to attribute that to age. I don't know. I don't know. But, yeah, I do have some concerns.