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**FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, OPERABLE UNIT 4
- FERNALD, OH**

04/05/94

DOA DOE-FN
2
COMMENTS

BOB MILLER
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

JOHN P. CO
Director



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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
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April 5, 1994

Mr. Ken Morgan
Public Information Director
ATTN: FS/PP-DEIS Comments
Fernald Field Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

ACTION	_____	
INFO	_____	
MGR	_____	
AMA	_____	
AMSSH	_____	
AMO	_____	
AMEH	_____	
OCFO	_____	

MGR BURGEL EPO PRO

Kitchen
Fine
Layton

RE: Fernald Environmental Impact Statement, Operable Unit 4
Fernald, Ohio

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Thank you for providing the State of Nevada the opportunity to review the Department of Energy's Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Remedial Action at Operable Unit (OU) 4 of the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). As you know, this "Draft EIS" assesses alternatives for the removal, treatment, and disposal of radioactive material at DOE's Fernald site near Cincinnati, Ohio.

The proposed action analyzed in the Draft EIS is to assess the potential environmental impacts of DOE's preferred alternative, which is to remove silo materials and surrounding environmental media, stabilize the product through vitrification, and send the treated material to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) for final disposal. According to information provided to officials from DOE's Nevada Operations Office (DOE/NV), if the proposed action is implemented, over 300,000 cubic yards of radioactive waste would be disposed of at NTS. Disposal activities would cover a period of approximately thirty years.

As you know, comments on the Draft EIS are due on April 20, 1994. However, for the reason discussed below, we believe the comment due date should be extended to facilitate a more comprehensive stakeholder involvement process for the citizens of Nevada.

Recently, a group of concerned Nevadans, affected Indian Tribes, and local government officials along with officials from the State and DOE jointly participated in the establishment of a Site Specific Advisory Board for DOE/NV's Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program at the NTS. The group is officially titled The Citizens Advisory Board for NTS Programs (CAB). This new CAB for NTS programs held its first organizational meeting on March 8th, 1994.

Because the CAB will likely play a key role in advising DOE/NV about stakeholder concerns involving major program decisions such as those proposed in the above mentioned document, we believe it is of paramount importance that the CAB be given the opportunity to discuss the possibility of requesting a briefing on the proposed action and alternatives discussed in the Draft EIS.

You might recall that such a briefing was provided by DOE officials and contractors from FEMP to officials from DOE/NV and the State of Nevada. Granting our request for an extended comments period of at least 60 days would allow the CAB to address this issue at its next meeting, which is scheduled for April 20, 1994.

We await your prompt decision concerning this request.

Sincerely,

Maud Naroll

Maud Naroll
State Clearinghouse

MN/jbw

cc: Members, Citizens Advisory Board NTS Programs
Governors Office and Affected State Agencies
Nevada Congressional Delegation
Carol M. Borgstrom DOEHQ\NEPA
Nick C. Aquilina, DOE/NV
Joseph Fiore, DOE/NV
Donald R. Elle, DOE/NV