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**RESPONSE LETTER TO MR. APPEGATE FROM THOMAS P.
GRUMBLY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

04/28/95

DOE-HQ APPEGATE
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LETTER



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

APRIL 28, 1995

Mr. John S. Applegate, Chair
Fernald Citizens Task Force
P.O. Box 544
Ross, Ohio 45061

Dear Mr. Applegate:

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 1995, on behalf of the Fernald Citizens Task Force, in which you have submitted a recommendation to establish site priorities and accelerate remediation at Fernald. The Department shares the same goals of effective, efficient and accelerated cleanup.

The Department of Energy is currently investigating innovative alternatives for the Environmental Management program's Fernald Environmental Management Project, including various alternatives to accelerate the cleanup of this site. Two scenarios identified proposals to complete cleanup activities at Fernald in either a seven-year period, as your recommendation submits, or a ten-year period. For both of these proposals, additional funding would be required for the Fernald Project beginning in fiscal years 1996 and 1997. Our initial analysis indicates that the Fernald Project would need to receive an additional \$60 million in fiscal year 1996 and an additional \$120 million in fiscal year 1997.

At this time, the outyear funding profiles for the Fernald Project have not been finalized because the funding requests for the entire Department have not yet been finalized for the outyears. We expect, however, that the Office of Environmental Management funding request for these fiscal years will be decreasing. Additional funds would, therefore, need to be redirected from other planned projects to support accelerated cleanups.

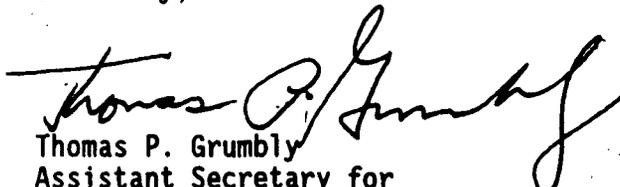
We appreciate your findings and recommendations for Fernald, and we look forward to working closely with the Fernald Citizens Task Force and our regulators in identifying and implementing the best strategy for establishing site priorities and accelerating site cleanup, especially during these challenging times of budgetary deficit issues. Input from our site-specific advisory boards, including the Fernald Citizens Task Force, will be invaluable during this period of increased budgetary constraints as we continue to work closely to review priorities, seek alternate approaches for conserving site funds, and, as appropriate, reallocate site funds to support accelerated cleanup.



In closing, I would like to reiterate the Department's appreciation for the work of the Fernald Citizens Task Force. Your efforts have resulted in a well-researched and thoughtfully presented set of recommendations concerning the remediation of the Fernald site. I have asked Jack Craig, Director of the Fernald Area Office, to contact you to further discuss the Task Force's specific recommendations.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me, or Jack Craig at 513-648-3107.

Sincerely,


Thomas P. Grumbly
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc:

Jack Craig, Fernald Area Office