

410

6-105.2

NRT TELECONFERENCE APPROVED MINUTES FROM JULY 18, 1996  
MEETING

09/24/96

NRT  
~~2~~ 3  
MINUTES

NRT

MEETING NOTES  
FINAL

SUBJECT: NRT TELECONFERENCE

MEETING DATE: July 18, 1996

LOCATION: FERMCO Fernald Office

ISSUE DATE: September 24, 1996 File Record Storage Copy 104.5

---

DISTRIBUTION:	+ Participants	+ + Part-time	* Author of Notes
	Stephanie Bogart, DOE	Arlen Hunt, FERMCO	+ Craig Straub, FERMCO
	Jim Chapman, U.S.EPA	Jay Jalovek, DOE	Sue Walpole, FERMCO
	Eva Dupuis-Noille, FERMCO	Greg Jones, FERMCO	Rod Warner, DOE
	Terry Hagen, FERMCO	+ Bill Kurey, USF&WS	Keith Wilkerson, FERMCO
	+ Don Henne, DOI	Julie Loerch, FERMCO	+ Eric Woods, FERMCO <i>WEA</i>
	Bill Hertel, FERMCO	Keith Nelson, FERMCO	+ Pete Yerace, DOE
	Reneé Holmes, FERMCO	Doug Sarno, FCTF	PEIC
	+ John Homer, FERMCO	+ Tom Schneider, OEPA	
	+ Tim Hull, OEPA	Ed Skintik, DOE	

---

1. The first item discussed was the draft letter to be issued from the Fernald Trustee Representatives jointly to the U.S. EPA. Draft inserts had been provided by the Ohio Attorney General's office which were discussed by the Trustees, collectively. After discussion which led to some wording changes in the letter, it was decided that FERMCO would prepare a final draft and submit it to the Trustees for a final review as soon as possible. Once final concurrence had been received from all Trustees, the letter would be signed by DOE-FN and forwarded to the other Trustees for signature.
2. The submittal of the Natural Resource Impact Assessment to the Trustees is on schedule for July 31, 1996. A meeting date of Tuesday, August 20, 1996 at approximately 9:30 a.m. at the Fernald Site was set for FERMCO to present the results of the Impact Assessment to the Trustees and discuss any comments/questions they may have.
3. A strategy for integrating natural resource monitoring into the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan (IEMP) was proposed by FERMCO in response to discussions during the June 18, 1996 teleconference. The proposal involved adding a commitment in the IEMP for FERMCO/DOE to develop a separate Natural Resource Impact Monitoring Plan (NRIMP) to address all aspects of natural resource monitoring that would be necessary

MEETING NOTES - Continued

during remediation. It would also be outlined in the IEMP and in the NRIMP that reporting of the results of monitoring would be integrated with the reporting required by the IEMP. Submittal of the NRIMP to U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA would occur in the fall of 1996. During discussion of the proposal, it was suggested that the Plan be prepared as an addendum to the IEMP and it was agreed that FERMCO would pursue that idea. Submittal of the IEMP to U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA is scheduled for August 1, 1996.

4. An update on the status of the Community Reuse Organization (CRO) was also provided. The recommendations for membership to the CRO as well as the Charter for the CRO had been submitted to DOE by Maria Curro-Kreppel in late June. These were close to receiving final approval. The first meeting of the CRO is scheduled around August 17, 1996.

A weekend retreat for CRO members was planned in September. The idea of the Trustees briefing the CRO at the weekend retreat to inform them of their regulatory responsibilities and their tentative path forward (i.e., some form of on-property restoration) was also discussed. One concern was raised that the retreat may be too early to brief the CRO. Don Henne questioned his ability to attend the briefing, but added he was comfortable with the other Trustees presenting on his behalf. It was agreed that FERMCO would keep the Trustees informed of the dates for upcoming CRO meetings and a decision with regard to a briefing by the Trustees would be made when more detail is known. In addition, FERMCO agreed to distribute the CRO Charter and membership list when it becomes available.

## ENERGY DEPARTMENT AWARDS FIRST \$48 MILLION IN RESEARCH GRANTS

The Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded \$48 million in grants as a component of the Environmental Management Science Program to fund research projects dedicated to developing cleanup technologies. This first grant, announced by Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary Aug. 20, will "fund 138 research projects at 52 universities, 11 Department of Energy National Laboratories and other private and public technology developers and researchers," according to a DOE press release.

The agency says that the research projects should result in new technologies aimed at expediting cleanup at the nation's former nuclear weapons complex.

An Energy Department source says that "If Congress continues its [appropriations] actions" in a final conference appropriations bill, the agency will award between \$25 and \$30 million in new grants from FY97 appropriations next year. This \$48 million came from FY96 appropriations. The House and Senate passed DOE spending bills July 25 and 30 respectively. The DOE source says the agency anticipates a final conference report with approximately \$50 million in funding for the grants program in fiscal year 1997.

The source adds that while the agency has not finalized its internal FY98 budgets, "the program does appear to have broad support" in Congress.

In July, the National Research Council (NRC) issued the first of three reports evaluating the department's Environmental Management Science Program (*Superfund Report*, July 24, p14). This report emphasized the need for the agency to make more long-term commitments to the program to encourage participation, better inform potential researchers of the agency's cleanup needs, and institute methods to transfer basic research to cleanup applications.

The DOE source says that the agency is working closely with the NRC and that "The academy is helping us better define" the needs associated with the program. The source adds that the Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB) — a panel of external experts organized by the agency and dedicated to providing the agency with management advice — has created a science committee dedicated to improving the Environmental Management Science Program's grant program. According to the agency, the group held its first meeting on Aug. 20.

In addition, DOE sources stress that the agency is developing methods to share cleanup technology developments among other agencies such as EPA. The agency says that cross-pollination among personnel from different agencies sitting on the EMAB is one example of this effort.

## GAO COMPLETES WORK ON ENERGY DEPARTMENT NRD LIABILITY ESTIMATE

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has completed work on a report identifying the Energy Department's potential natural resource damage (NRD) liability. A GAO source says the report was sent back to its requestors, Sens. Bob Smith (R-NH) and John Chafee (R-RI), but will not be publicly available until later this month. Smith and Chafee have put a 30-day hold on the report. At presstime, congressional sources could not be reached for comment.

In a May letter to Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK) revealed that draft estimates by GAO indicate that DOE's NRD liability may be as high as \$15.8 billion and as low as \$2.4 billion (*Superfund Report*, May 15, p16).

At the same time, the White House released a study indicating that at most, DOE faces somewhere between \$143 million and \$522 million. Sources say the White House is set to release a new estimate that will increase that estimate by about \$500 million.

Murkowski, in his May 9 letter asked O'Leary to determine whether DOE plans to list the agency's potential NRD liability in future versions of its financial statements, and if so, which estimate it will use. A DOE source says the agency issued an interim response and that while a final response was due at the end of July, the response has not yet been signed. This source says the response awaits a final signature by O'Leary and will be forwarded to Murkowski's staff shortly.