



Department of Energy

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JAN 12 1998

DOE-0334-98

**Mr. John Applegate
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box 544
Ross, OH 45041**

Dear Mr. Applegate:

PRIORITIES AT THE FERNALD SITE AND SUGGESTED ISSUES FOR FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD CONSIDERATION

Reference: Letter, J. Applegate to J. Craig, G. Jablonowski, G. Mitchell, and F. Bell, "DOE and Agencies Priorities and Issues," dated December 16, 1997.

The purpose of this correspondence is to respond to your request made in the referenced letter seeking the advice of the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding its priorities at the Fernald site and the site issues it would most like to see the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) address in 1998.

This is an excellent point in time for the CAB to revisit its charter and accomplishments, to take the time to evaluate changes at the site, and to determine where it can be most effective and influential. After discussion with Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF) representatives, we would like to make the following suggestions:

- 1) Return to your original 1995 recommendations and re-examine site progress against them, as a point from which to determine which recommendations require renewed effort on the part of the CAB, which should receive only maintenance tracking, and what recent or developing issues should be added to your purview.
- 2) Choose a limited number of site projects on which to focus your efforts, zeroing in on those projects of very high priority. Suggestions for priority focus include ---
 - Silos Projects Path Forward
 - Transportation and Offsite Waste Disposal Issues
 - Disposition of Nuclear Materials

With your chosen projects as a framework, consider restructuring/reformatting your existing committee structure to concentrate in those areas, outlining for each committee a clear charter and scope of work.

- 3) **Develop a plan to maintain the high national visibility that the CAB has enjoyed throughout its existence, by continuing to participate in wide-ranging forums such as the National Dialogue, the Accelerated Cleanup Plans at the state and national levels, and the complex-wide efforts surrounding the concept of Inter-Site Stakeholder Cooperation. The Fernald CAB is in the enviable position of having members who are extremely well-informed and who have maintained an excellent ongoing relationship with members of other CABs, as well as other stakeholder organizations across the country interested in issues that impact the Fernald site. We suggest that you make the best use possible of these resources and look for ways to build upon an already outstanding reputation for knowledgeable public involvement, with the awareness that such a reputation greatly enhances your ability to influence decisions that go far beyond the confines of this facility.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on these issues. We look forward to continuing to discuss these issues with you in the coming weeks, and will be glad to provide you with any technical support you require in your deliberations. Should you have any further questions concerning our input, please contact me at (513) 648-3101.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Craig
Director

FEMP:Reising

cc:

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