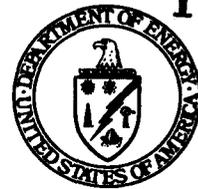




Department of Energy

**Ohio Field Office
Fernald Area Office**

P. O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705
(513) 648-3155



DOE-1196-98

Dear Stakeholder:

The Department of Energy (DOE), in conjunction with the Fernald Natural Resource Trustees (NRTs), is seeking input from the local community and interested stakeholders on two documents related to the restoration and future use of the Fernald property. The documents are the *Environmental Assessment for Proposed Final Land Use at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (EA)* and the *Natural Resource Impact Assessment (NRIA)/Natural Resource Restoration Plan (NRRP)*. Comments on these documents, along with the recommendations from the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board and the Fernald Community Reuse Organization (CRO), will be taken into consideration in determining the future of the Fernald property once final cleanup has been achieved.

The DOE has prepared the EA to describe alternatives for future use and propose the DOE's preferred alternative. The proposed alternative recommends natural resource restoration over the majority of the property with the exception of 115 acres occupied by the on-site disposal facility, and 23 acres under evaluation by the CRO for potential economic development. This alternative satisfies all regulatory requirements and previous commitments to the public, and allows the DOE to settle a claim filed by the State of Ohio for damages to natural resources.

The NRIA/NRRP was developed by the NRTs. The NRTs include representatives from the State of Ohio (represented by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency), the Department of Interior, and the DOE. The NRIA/NRRP estimates impacts to natural resources due to past and present Fernald activities and proposes a series of restoration projects designed to compensate for these impacts. Implementation of these activities would also provide the basis for a settlement of the State's natural resource claim against the DOE.

Both documents will be available September 18, 1998 at the Public Environmental Information Center, 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway (513-648-7480).

Upcoming opportunities for public input:

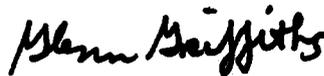
September 21 30-day Public Comment Period begins on the EA and on the NRRP. Comments on the EA can be mailed to Gary Stegner, DOE Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 538704, Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704 or faxed to 513-648-3073. Comments on the NRRP can be sent to same address in care of the Natural Resource Trustees.

- September 23 Natural Resource Trustees will hold a public workshop to discuss the NRIA/NRRP at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway at 6:30 p.m. The DOE will provide an introduction with a discussion of the public involvement process and the EA.
- October 13 Public Hearing on final land use at Fernald at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- October 20 30-day Public Comment Period on the EA and the NRRP ends

Enclosed for your review is a fact sheet which provides additional information on activities to date.

Restoration of the site is our mission and DOE pledges to work together with all involved parties to lay the groundwork for a Fernald Site that will carry a positive image into the future. I look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Sincerely,



Glenn Griffiths
Acting Director

Enclosure: As stated