

Fernald Community Reuse Organization¹⁸³⁸

Fact Sheet



On April 30, 1997, DOE awarded a one-year, \$150,100 start-up grant to the Fernald CRO. Seated to the left is Dr. David McWilliams, CRO chair, and Mike Detmer, DOE Ohio Field Office (6577-6).

Background

The Fernald Community Reuse Organization (CRO) is a nonprofit organization established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help local communities offset adverse economic and social impacts resulting from downsizing and closure of the Fernald site.

The Fernald CRO is part of a network of community groups nationwide operating under the guidance of DOE's Office of Worker and Community Transition. In accordance with Section 3161 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993, DOE's community transition program is designed to minimize negative impacts of downsizing at former defense nuclear facilities and reduce the communities' dependence on DOE through financial assistance (e.g., grants, cooperative agreements).

Based on input received from local communities, workers, and other affected stakeholders, the Fernald CRO will develop a comprehensive community transition plan for DOE's consideration. DOE will consider allocating full or partial funding for these activities. The CRO will also seek additional funding from a variety of state, federal and private sector sources.

Mission

The Fernald CRO will serve as a regional forum to facilitate public dialogue on the following issues:

- Fernald work force transition and local economic development planning;
- Potential reuse of the Fernald site;
- Potential reuse of Fernald equipment and resources.

To assist the new community group with the challenges of organizing and developing its infrastructure, DOE awarded the CRO a \$150,100 start-up grant in April 1997. The CRO contracted the services of an economic development specialist in September 1997 to provide professional services to the group.



The Fernald CRO meets monthly within the community with opportunities for public participation (6529-2).

About Fernald

The 1,050-acre Fernald site is located near Ross, Ohio, approximately 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati on the border of Hamilton and Butler counties. Owned by DOE, the former uranium processing facility is undergoing extensive cleanup work. Within the next decade, DOE and its contractor, Fluor Daniel Fernald, plan to complete remediation consistent with site cleanup agreements.

Fernald CRO Vision

The Fernald CRO's Vision is to work as a group of interdependent communities sharing resources and participating in long-range planning to provide a safe, family-centered environment that protects the health and welfare of all.

Membership

DOE appointed the initial Fernald CRO membership in August 1996 for two-year or three-year terms. CRO members are volunteers, and include local business owners, community leaders, educators, local elected officials and residents from the three communities surrounding the Fernald site: Ross Township, Crosby Township, and Morgan Township. Dr. David R. McWilliams, Ross Local Schools superintendent, is the chair.

Public Involvement

The Fernald CRO meets on the first Tuesday of each month, with opportunities for public comments and questions. Interested stakeholders may also serve on CRO committees.

For More Information...

For more information on the Fernald CRO, visit the CRO's Web site (<http://www.fernaldd.gov>) under the "Stakeholders/CRO" section, or call or write to:
Fernald CRO, P.O. Box 38, Ross, OH 45061, 513-648-4168.