



-- 2599 FCAB UPDATE

Week of October 18, 1999

(Last update was dated September 20, 1999)

MEETING SCHEDULE

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 3, 1999, 6:30 p.m.

Large Laboratory Conference Room

REMEDATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 4, 1999, 6:30 p.m.

Large Laboratory Conference Room

FULL BOARD

Saturday, November 6, 1999, 8:30 a.m.

Large Laboratory Conference Room

FERNALD MONTHLY PROGRESS BRIEFING

Tuesday, November 9, 1999, 6:30 p.m.

Services Building Conference Room

DOE SILOS WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 17, 1999, 6:30 p.m.

Services Building Conference Room

Reminder: if you will not be able to attend any meeting, please call the office and let us know.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Minutes of 9/11/99 full CAB meeting
- Detailed reorganization charts for EM Headquarters
- News Clippings

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All comments on the draft minutes of the 9/11/99 meeting should be sent in to Doug by October 29, 1999.
- The FCAB's address has changed from the P.O. Box in Ross to Fluor Daniel Fernald, PO Box 538704, MS 76, Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Doug Sarno, Phoenix Environmental

Phone: 513-648-6478 or 703-971-0058 Fax: 513-648-3629 or 703-971-0006

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Draft Minutes from the September 11, 1999 Meeting

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:35 a.m. until 11:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 11, 1999, in the Large Laboratory Conference Room on the Fernald site. The meeting was advertised in local papers and was open to the public.

Members Present

French Bell
Jim Bierer
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin Clawson
Jack Craig
Lisa Crawford
Lou Doll
Pam Dunn
Mike Keyes
Gene Jablonowski
Jane Harper
Graham Mitchell
Ken Moore
Robert Tabor
Fawn Thompson
Gene Willeke

Members Absent

Darryl Huff
Thomas Wagner (excused)

Designated Federal Official

Mike Jacobs

Phoenix Environmental Staff

Gwen Doddy
Douglas Sarno
Crystal Sarno

FDF Staff

Tisha Patton
Sue Walpole

Approximately 13 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public, the media, and representatives from Department of Energy and Fluor Daniel Fernald.

1. Call to Order

Chair Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. Announcements and New Business

Jim introduced Susan Brechbill, Manager of the Ohio Field Office. Brechbill said that she hopes to attend meetings, heard good things about the FCAB and looks forward to working with them and thanked them for their participation. Introductions were made.

Jim Bierer reported on a very busy summer for the FCAB. The SSAB Transportation Working Group had its first meeting at the Transportation External Coordination Working Group in July in Philadelphia. A number of DOE Headquarters staff were on site throughout the course of the summer and FCAB members had an opportunity to meet with them including the new Assistant Secretary for EM, Carolyn Huntoon.

Jack Craig noted the recent problems that have been identified at the Paducah site in a series of Washington Post articles. He distributed a fact sheet regarding the presence of trace levels of plutonium introduced as part of the production process at Fernald. Gene Willeke noted that the remediation committee discussed these issues and related concerns about contamination "outside of the fence" and concluded that similar conditions did not exist at Fernald. Susan Brechbill noted that a big part of the problem was that the information at Paducah was not provided in an open forum, while the presence of plutonium at Fernald has been public information for some time. Lisa Crawford expressed astonishment that DOE had not learned a lesson from what happened at Fernald. Fernald had similar problems 15 years ago and we have all worked extremely hard to overcome those mistakes. That DOE has repeated the same mistake makes her wonder why DOE is not following its own practices. Pam Dunn asked what response Congress had to these stories. It was noted that a Committee has been formed.

Susan Brechbill noted that Ohio Field Office policy is one of complete openness, and if there are circumstances where information cannot be released they will explain why. It was also noted that Carolyn Huntoon has proposed a reorganization of DOE EM Headquarters. A description of this reorganization will be provided to the FCAB. There will be increased security measures implemented at Fernald in the near future which will include a closer inspection of badges upon entering the site.

3. Re-Bid of Fernald Contract

The first week in August, Jack and Susan met with the Secretary to discuss the options for the remediation contract at Fernald. Fluor Daniel Fernald is nearing the end of the contract which began in 1992. The Secretary decided it was necessary to re-bid the contract according to DOE policy as there is no legal reason not to have the contract re-bid. A Source Selection Board has been identified made up of DOE field office personnel and headed by Glen Griffiths. Their first task will be to develop a schedule

for developing a request for proposal. DOE has asked regulators, workers and community members to provide input regarding their desires for requirements and goals of the next contract.

Graham Mitchell noted that OEPA has provided comments to DOE as to what they expect from the contract. These comments will be sent to FCAB members.

It was decided that the FCAB would also provide input to the contract process. Comments will be developed at the next remediation committee meeting and provided to DOE by October 15. DOE extended the due date by two days to accommodate the FCAB's schedule.

4. DOE Response to Cattle Grazing Recommendation

Doug Sarno introduced the topic by noting that DOE had sent a response to the FCAB recommendation indicating basic agreement with all aspects of the recommendation. New leases are currently being negotiated with the lessee. However, in the meantime, two issues have come to the attention of the FCAB that require discussion. First, Doug talked to DOE earlier in the week regarding the movement of fences. Rather than move the fences back the 50 to 100 feet requested by OEPA and the FCAB, an initial survey in the field was done to move the fences back only 30 feet. Doug Sarno and Tom Schneider of OEPA visited the pasture area to review this possible change. The fence consists of a single strand of electrified barbed wire on metal posts about three feet high. The current position of the fence is right on the edge of a steep drop-off of 20 or more feet to the creek bottom. While the proposed setback is less than what was requested, both Tom and Doug noted that it would still serve the purpose of assisting in expanded an established riparian zone. Jack Craig noted that DOE had already agreed to the 50 foot setback and that it would uphold that agreement. If any reason occurs that this setback cannot be met, DOE will discuss it with the FCAB.

In a second issue, Mike Keyes brought to the attention of the FCAB that on three separate occasions in recent weeks, cows have wandered off the pasture and onto the site. A number of concerns were expressed with regard to these events including safety, possible contamination spread, and particularly the staff time and resources that were expended in dealing with the matter. Security guards and rad techs were both required to deal with the incidents, which lasted up to six hours before the farmer retrieved his cattle. Jack Craig noted that DOE takes cows getting loose very seriously; and will take strong steps to ensure that the lease will include strong provisions for any future occurrences.

5. Update on SSAB Transportation Working Group

Doug Sarno presented the draft mission statement that was developed by representatives of eight SSABs at the first meeting of the SSAB Transportation Working Group. Fawn Thompson represented the FCAB at the meeting and Rocky Flats and Idaho were the two major sites who did not attend. Participating sites are being asked to ratify the draft mission of the group. The future of the group will be determined at

the September 1999 SSAB Chairs meeting based on which sites wish to continue. The representatives that were present at the meeting were encouraged by the Working Group and ongoing participation in the Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC/WG). Tom Wagner will be attending the chairs meeting and would like to bring the FCAB endorsement of the Working Group to the chairs meeting

Graham Mitchell asked about the concerns of the sites who did not participate. Doug Sarno answered that there is concern that issues are site specific and that they do not want any statements to be generated by such a group and have the appearance of approval by all of the participating boards. Concern was also expressed about the resource requirements of supporting such a group. Lisa Crawford asked if DOE-HQ were supportive of the group. Doug noted that HQ has been very supportive and that Martha Crosland participated in the meeting. DOE has expressed its feeling that it is important to have stakeholder input at TEC/WG.

Gene Willeke motioned to endorse the mission of the Working Group. Ken Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Silos 1 & 2 Revised Feasibility Study Independent Review

Doug Sarno introduced the topic by noting that the Remediation Committee has been following the progress and issues of the Silos Project. The Proof-of-Principle results were discussed briefly last month and we are looking forward to October when FDF will deliver the draft Revised Feasibility Study for Silos 1 and 2 to DOE.

Todd Martin, the Critical Analysis Team (CAT) leader, provided a brief overview of the goals of the CAT. The CAT is a continuation of the independent review of the Silos projects that was begun with the Independent Review Team originally assembled to review the vitrification decision. The CAT is looking at the current decision process to ensure it is technically sound, fiscally and financially responsible and logistically practical and accountable. The CAT has been very involved in the technical review for the Silos 1 and 2 feasibility study. Martin noted that while Fluor Daniel Fernald has been very open and supportive, they do not always listen to the recommendations of the CAT.

Gene Willeke questioned whether the decision to move the silos material into transfer tanks will create problems. Martin responded that the tanks should make it easier because the retrieval of material from Silos 1 and 2 will be very difficult and anything that can help provide a steady stream of product to the treatment plant will be an advantage. Willeke also asked about retrieval from Silo 3, as the material is a lot different than expected. Martin responded that retrieval from Silo 3 should not be a problem, and that the design for that is one of the things the CAT will be looking at this week. Ken Moore asked if high pressure hoses being used to clean out the silos presented a threat to the aquifer. It was noted that the materials in Silos 1 & 2 are already wet and there is a drain going into the leachate system.

Doug Sarno reviewed the schedule for the Revised Feasibility Study. The next step is the delivery of the Revised Feasibility Study to DOE by FDF at the end of September. There will be a series of public workshops and meetings to discuss the decision before

-- 2599

DOE submits its proposal to EPA on February 1, 2000. The final proposed plan will be produced in the fall of 2000. Though the formal public comment period will occur over one year from now, the most important opportunity for public comment is now. The most important opportunity to provide input is before DOE presents its proposal to EPA. The FCAB will work with DOE to get a Revised Feasibility Study schedule to all CAB members and to streamline the process as much as possible. We want to look at all the options and understand the process for decision making. The October, November, and December Remediation Committee meetings will be devoted to working on the Revised Feasibility Study. DOE noted that they will be available to meet with stakeholders to discuss any issues and conduct any workshops that are necessary.

7. Stewardship Seminar

The FCAB reviewed the materials for the October SSAB Stewardship Conference. Lisa Crawford expressed serious concern that these meetings continue to be scheduled on a weekday schedule. The FCAB has repeatedly asked that these events be scheduled to allow those who are most interested to be able to attend without impacting their work schedules. Lisa will contact DOE-HQ to voice this concern again, and Tom Wagner will be asked to address it at the Chairs meeting.

Doug Sarno noted that while the FCAB has been working on stewardship issues in general, we have not used that term. Stewardship is an umbrella word that basically covers all requirements post remediation. Stewardship is the most important thing at Fernald because if it fails then all remediation efforts will have failed. The stewardship conference will focus on education, sharing information and dealing with big picture items. We do not expect to be developing any detailed statements; only very big picture issues.

The conference will include a tour of the Oak Ridge site. The conference itself will be run similarly to the previous SSAB conferences using both plenary and breakout sessions. There will also be a public meeting on stewardship the morning after the conference sponsored by DOE-HQ as part of the PEIS lawsuit settlement.

Discussion papers supporting the conference were distributed and members asked to read them prior to the next Stewardship Committee meeting on October 13. All members were encouraged to attend the Stewardship Committee meeting to assist in preparing for the Stewardship conference.

Susan Brechbill noted that stewardship is her top priority, and she would like Fernald to be a model for stewardship for the rest of the complex.

8. Public Comment

Bierer opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

6

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 James M. Owendoff, Principal DAS (EM-2)
 Director of Site Operations (EM-3)
 Elisabeth G. Feldt, Chief of Staff (EM-4)

Idaho Site Manager
 Ohio Site Manager
 Office of River Protection Manager
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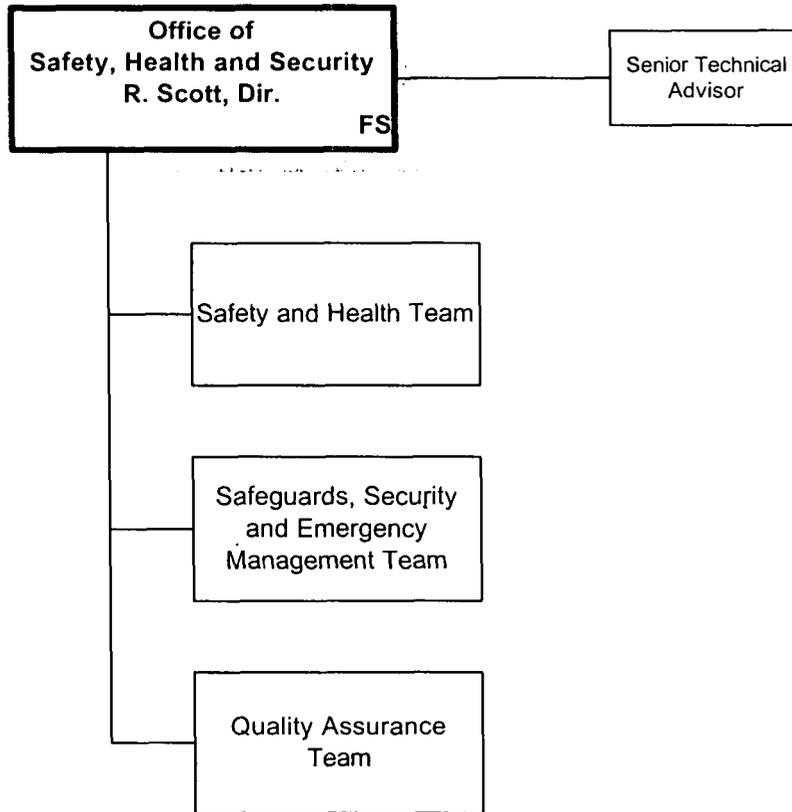
(A) - Acting (positions currently being advertised)
 (P) - Positions will be advertised

SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

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Office of Safety, Health and Security, EM-5



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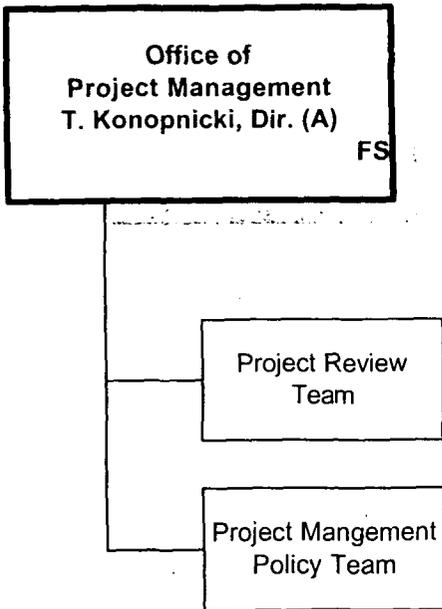
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September 28, 1999

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-- 2599

10

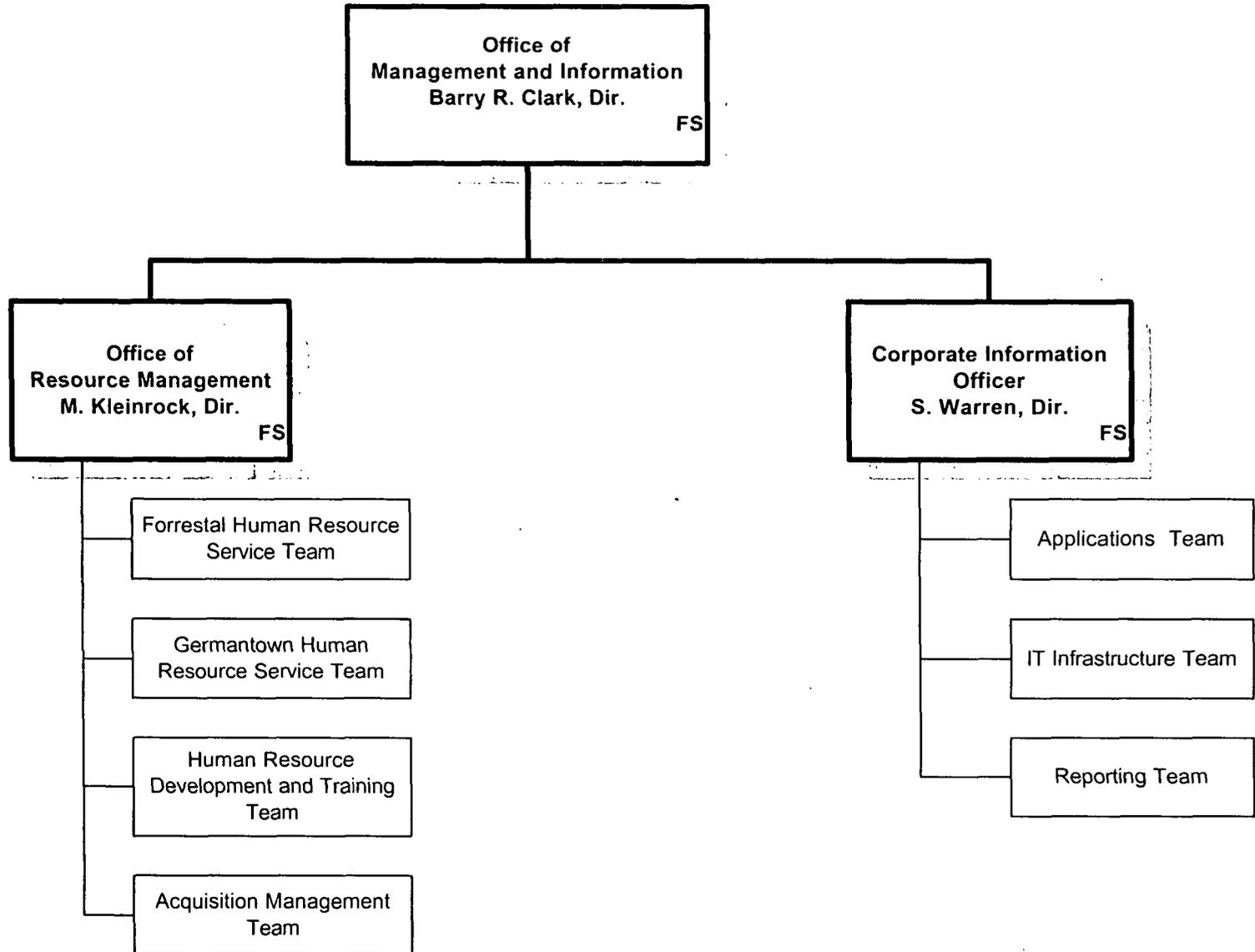


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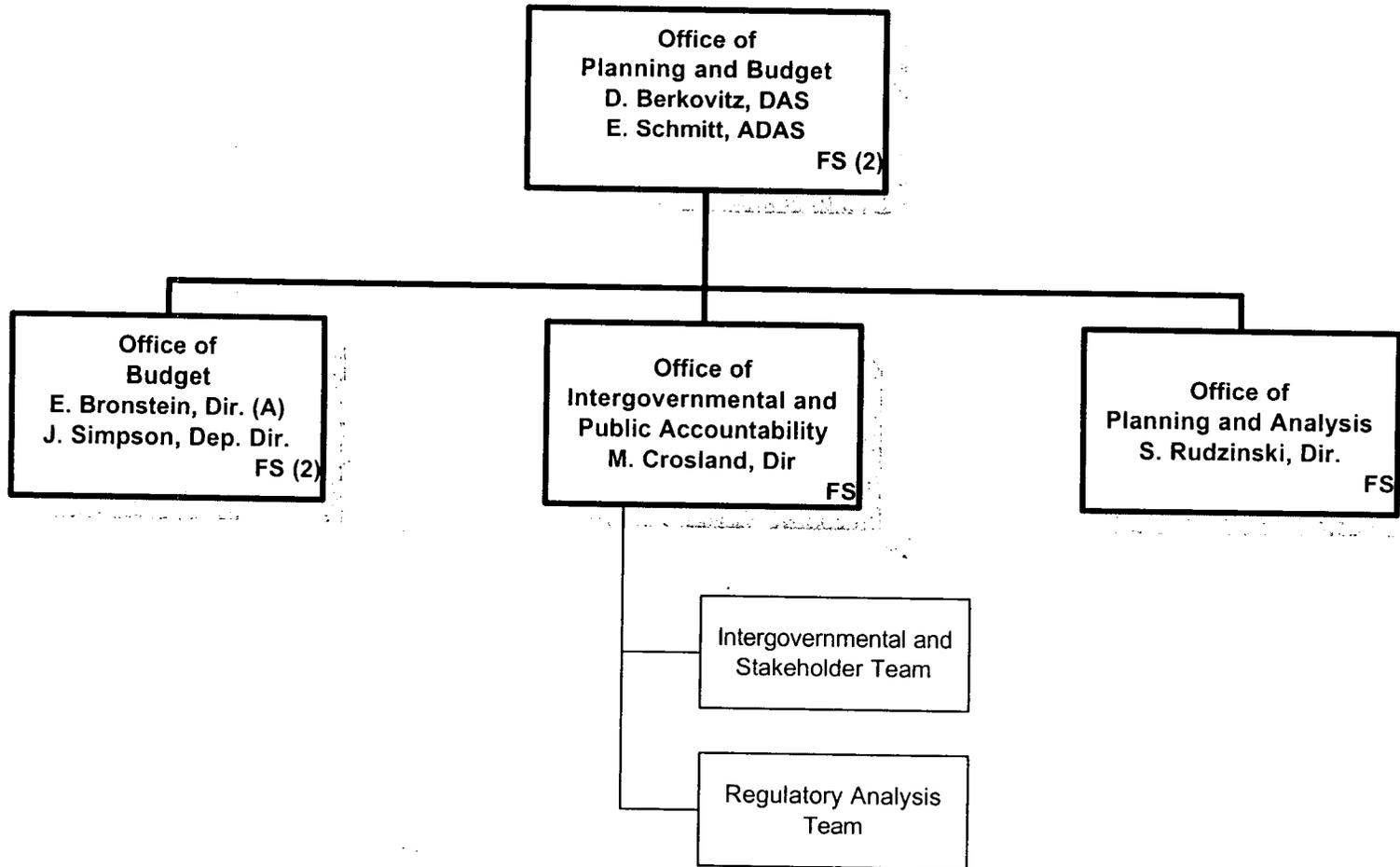
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September 28, 1999

Office of Planning and Budget, EM-10

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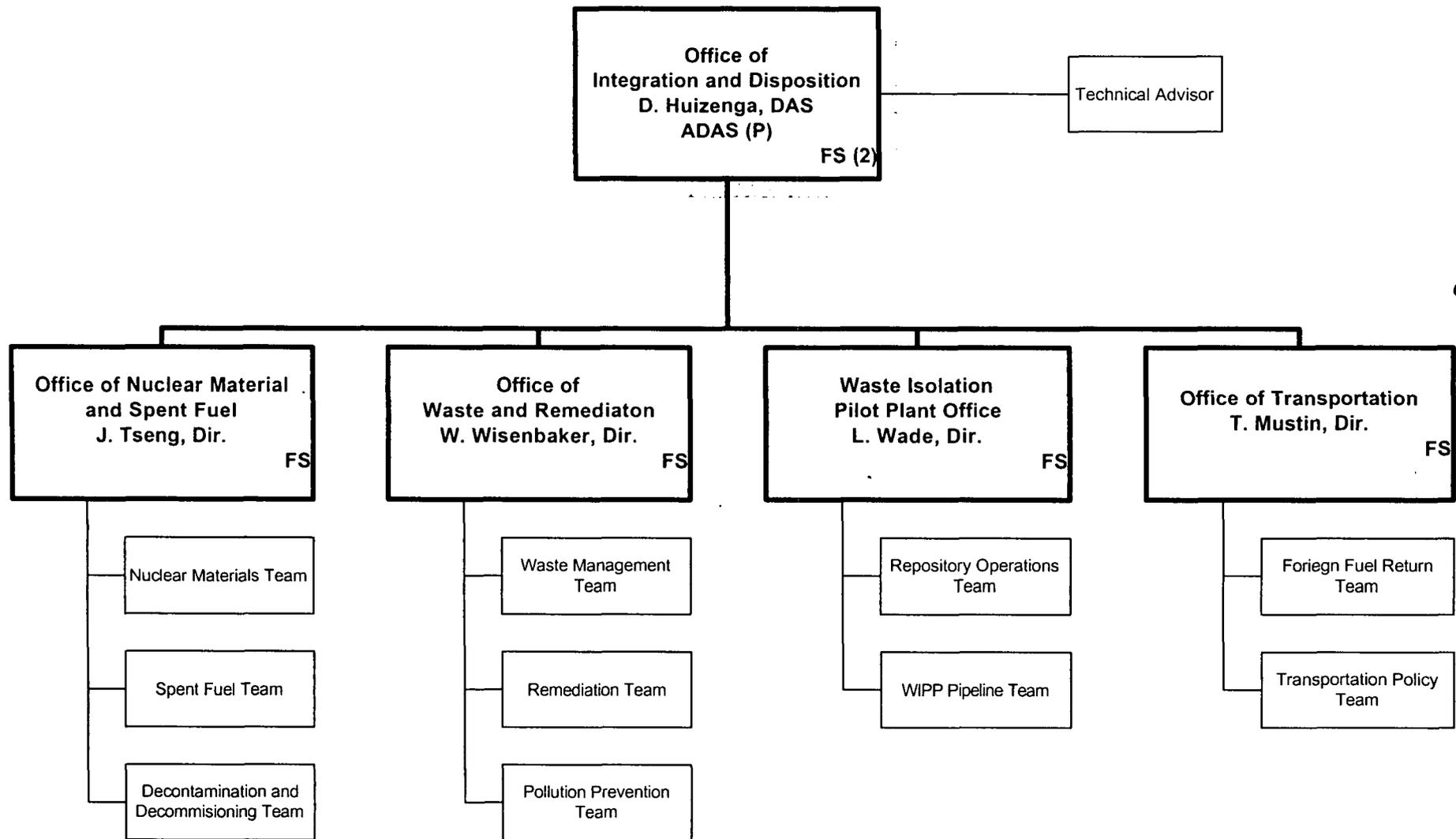
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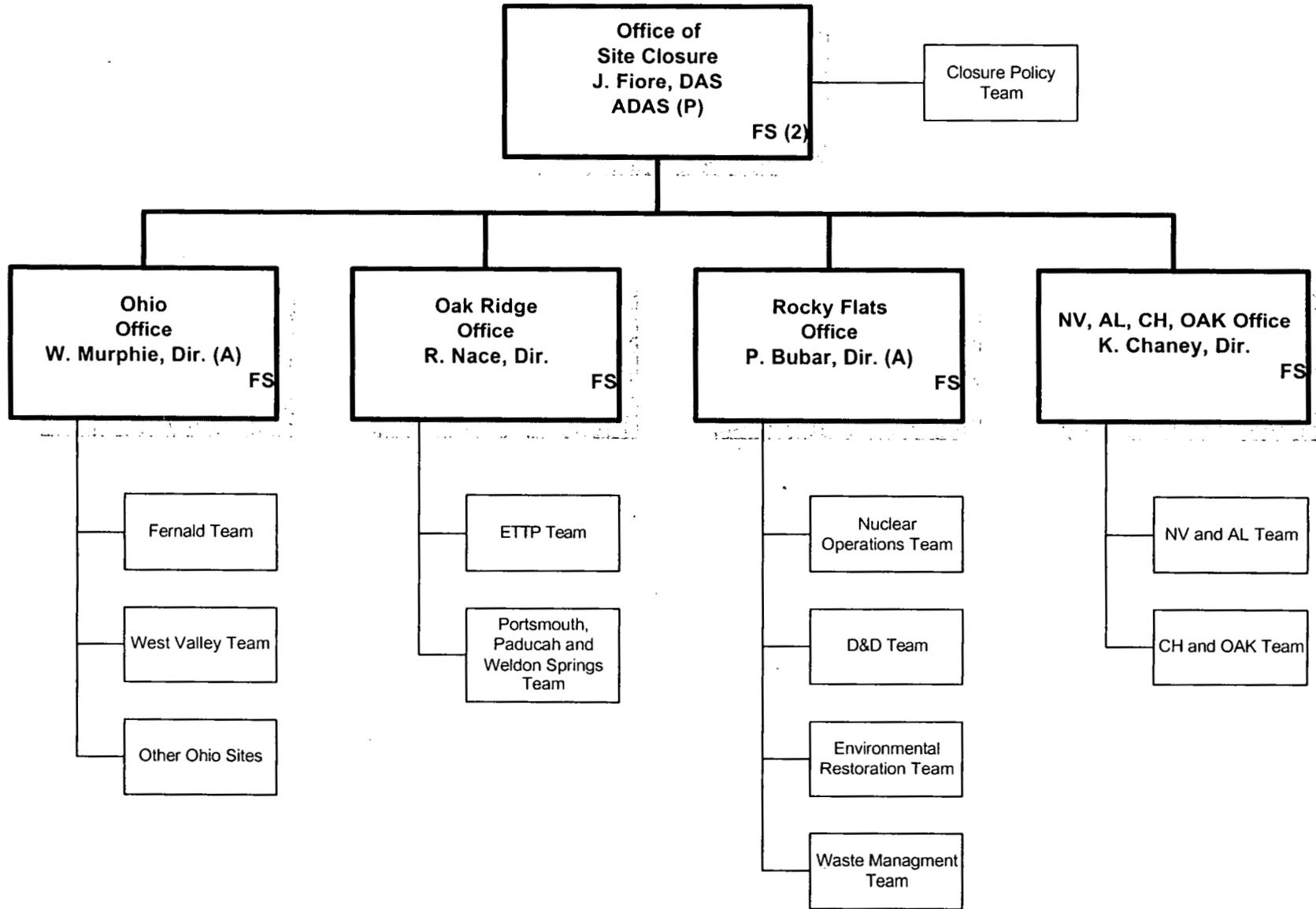
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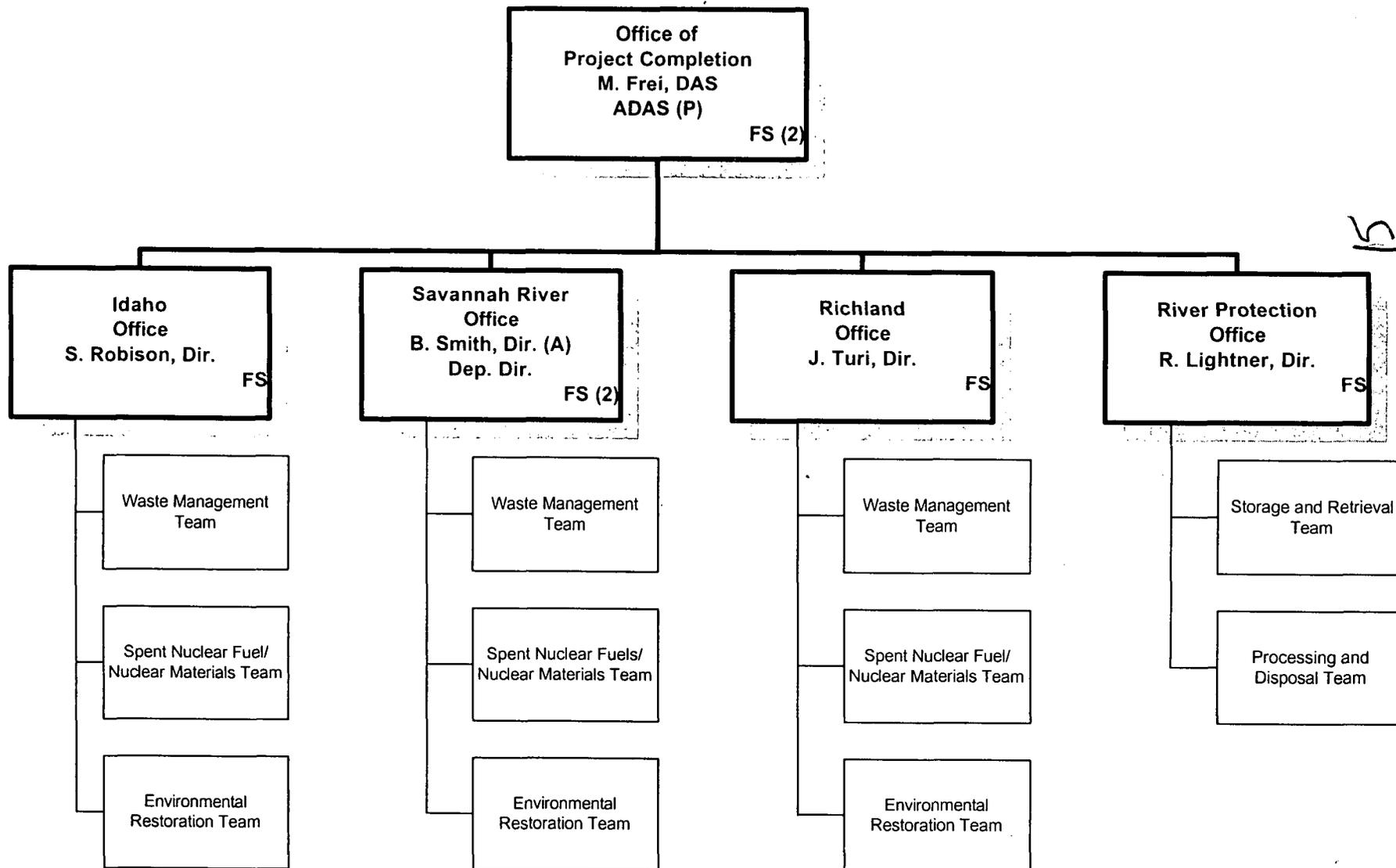


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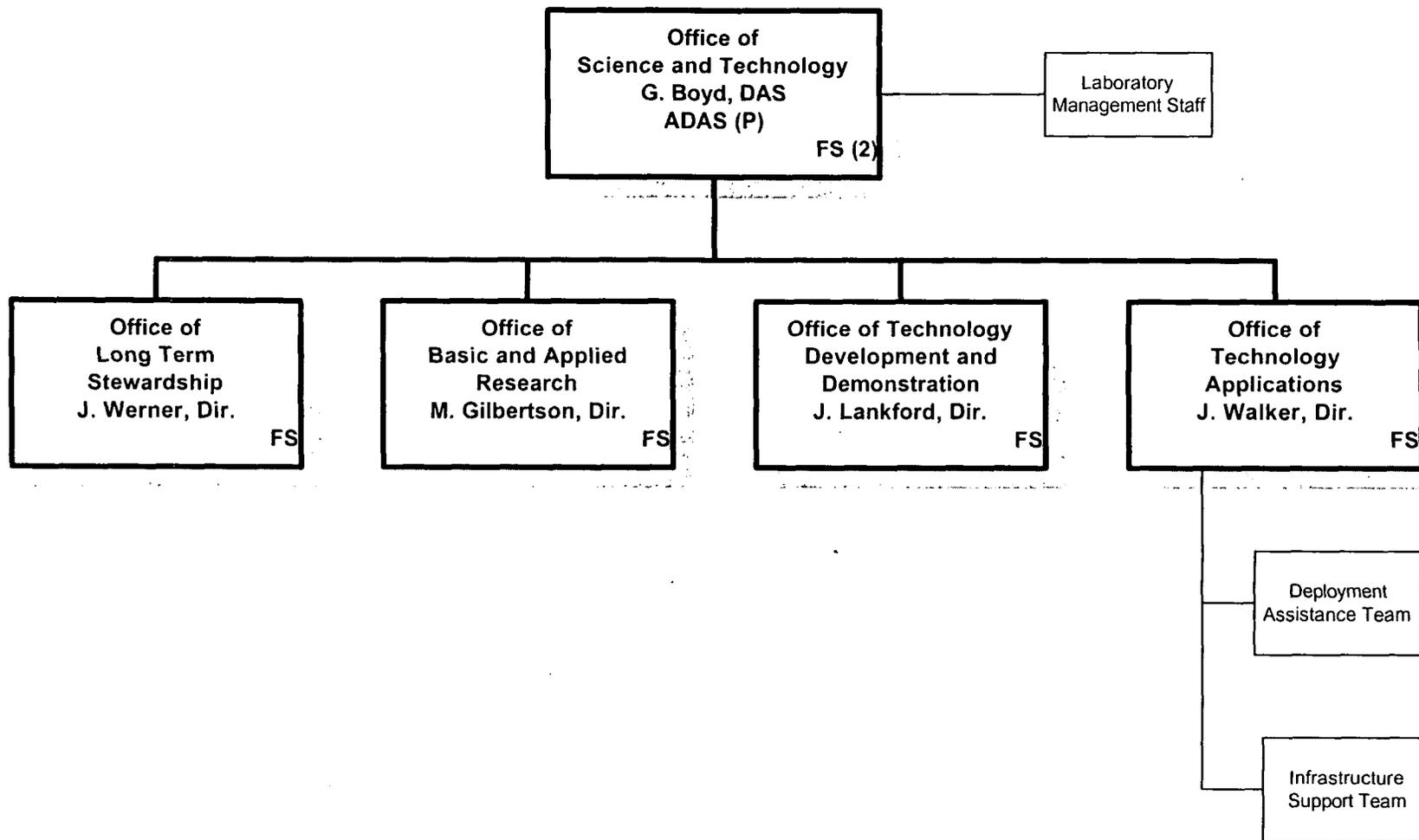
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September 28, 1999

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Office of Science and Technology, EM-50



16

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