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MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC USE OF THE FEMP

ADDENDUM D TO THE NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION PLAN

FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT
FERNALD, OHIO



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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Figure 1 Master Plan for Public Use of the FEMP

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EA	Environmental Assessment
FEMP	Fernald Environmental Management Project
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OSDF	On-Site Disposal Facility
PEIC	Public Environmental Information Center

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) plan for the public use of the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) after remediation and restoration activities are complete. The Federal Government has committed to continued Federal ownership of the 1050-acre FEMP. As discussed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for final land use at the FEMP (DOE 1999), DOE has agreed that public use of the FEMP will be permitted at the conclusion of remediation and restoration activities. This plan proposes limited public use of the FEMP in the form of pedestrian walking and biking trails equipped with strategically located observation areas and interpretive signs. It is possible that certain areas could become available to the public before the end of remediation and restoration activities (similar to the Ecological Restoration Park that is currently available for public use) if determined appropriate by DOE. Based on public input on this plan, DOE will prepare a FEMP Institutional Control Plan as outlined in the Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision (DOE 1996). The Institutional Control Plan will provide detail regarding legal and administrative measures (e.g., deed restrictions) to ensure that the final land-use DOE is proposing for the FEMP does not become compromised in the future.

This plan has been prepared as an addendum to the Natural Resource Restoration Plan, but is considered a living document that will be revised based on public input or the availability of new information. It is not anticipated that restrictions to the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF) area (Section 3.0) or the list of prohibited actions (Section 4.0) will change in the future for any reason. However, it is possible that the locations of parking areas and trails (Section 2.0) may change in the future based on public input. Minor changes in the locations of trails will not trigger a revision of this document.

Other uses of the FEMP, such as a museum, educational center, or economic development area are considered possibilities by DOE in the future, but decisions regarding those uses have not been made at this time. This plan has been written considering all input that DOE has received from stakeholders to date. If in the future DOE believes that economic development or the establishment of a museum or educational facility is appropriate, DOE will provide public notice and issue a revision of this plan for public review as part of the process to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

2.0 SITE ACCESS

There will be three FEMP locations providing access to parking areas and walking trails at the conclusion of remediation and restoration activities. Site access will be available through the existing South Access Road off of Willey Road, the existing North Access Road off of State Route 126, and at the Ecological Restoration Park off of Paddys Run Road (Figure 1). The existing South Access Road will be maintained off of Willey Road and will provide access to a parking area located in the vicinity of the current employee parking lots. The existing North Access Road will be maintained and will provide driving access to a parking area off of State Route 126, where the current gravel parking lot is located across from the Wetland Project area. The third access point will be at the current location of the Ecological Restoration Park off of Paddys Run Road. The current parking area at the Ecological Restoration Park will be maintained and access to site perimeter trails will be possible for walking traffic and bike traffic.

From the three access points discussed above, a series of trails will be constructed through individual restoration projects. Trails for walking and biking will provide easy access to and/or viewing of completed remediation and restoration projects (Figure 1). Along the trails, visitors will be provided with information on the cultural, industrial and natural history of the site. Trails for hiking and boardwalks will provide access to more remote and physically demanding areas. Portable restrooms are planned for the southern and northern parking lots.

The only other vehicle access to the site will be a gravel road that will provide access to the OSDF for inspections and monitoring. This road will be connected to the public parking area in the southern portion of the site and connected to State Route 126 in the north, via a portion of the existing North Access Road. Access to the OSDF will be controlled at the southern and northern end by gates that will be locked to prevent unauthorized access.

Perimeter fencing will be maintained around the FEMP so that access to the site occurs only at designated locations. Signs will also be maintained at access points and on perimeter fencing that post

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restrictions for access and use of the FEMP. There will be no active security presence at the FEMP. 1
Any police patrols that take place and responses to criminal activities will be carried out by local 2
authorities. DOE personnel or designated personnel representing DOE will conduct routine patrols of 3
trails to inspect for safety concerns and ensure that prohibited actions are not occurring. 4

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3.0 ACCESS RESTRICTIONS TO OSDF AREA

The will be no access to the OSDF except for authorized personnel conducting inspections and monitoring as outlined in the Post-Closure Care and Inspection Plan for the OSDF (DOE 1997). Access gates will be located at the northern and southern ends of the OSDF. A perimeter fence will be maintained around the OSDF, along with signs that prohibit access and ensure the OSDF is secure. Further details on access controls, required inspections and monitoring around the OSDF can be found in the Post-Closure Care and Inspection Plan for the OSDF which is available at the Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC).

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4.0 PROHIBITED ACTIONS

The following activities will not be permitted on the FEMP once the site becomes available for public use:

- No public hunting or fishing of any kind will be permitted on the FEMP property
- No camping or nighttime activities will be permitted on the FEMP
- No picking or removal of plants by unauthorized personnel will be permitted
- No swimming or wading in creeks, ponds or wetlands will be permitted
- No motorized vehicles (e.g., 4 x 4's, motorcycles) are permitted on trails
- No hiking or biking off of designated trails will be permitted
- No soil excavation will be permitted on the FEMP for any reason by unauthorized personnel.

As discussed in Section 2.0, signs posting these restrictions will be displayed at all access point to the FEMP. Physical barriers will be installed around parking lots to eliminate motorized vehicle traffic on site trails to the degree practicable. Similar barriers are currently in place at the Ecological Restoration Park.

5.0 MAINTENANCE OF SITE

OSDF maintenance is outside the scope of this plan and is addressed in the Post-Closure Care and Inspection Plan for the OSDF (DOE 1997).

All trails, roads and parking areas will be maintained to ensure they are in a safe condition for the types of activities they are intended to support. Resurfacing and patching of all paved roads and patching/mulching of unpaved trails will be carried out on an ongoing basis. Trails will be routinely patrolled to inspect for safety concerns (e.g., erosion, degradation or blockage), ensure prohibited actions are not occurring and assist visitors in need of information or help.

In general, mowing will not be carried out on the majority of the site as a routine maintenance item. Occasional mowing may be carried out in restored prairies as a management tool. Mowing will be carried out on a regular basis along perimeter areas adjacent to access points to the site, along access roadways and on the perimeter of parking areas for safety purposes.

Occasional maintenance may be required in some drainage ditches and basins. Drainage channels and basins will be monitored quarterly to ensure that excessive erosion or sedimentation is not occurring. If necessary, repairs will be made to drainage channels and basins to maintain appropriate drainage patterns at the FEMP.

Restored areas will be designed to require very little maintenance and no intensive routine maintenance is anticipated to be needed. However, it is possible that some areas could require the removal or control of invasive plant species if they become established to a point that they pose a threat to restored areas. Burning of some prairie areas may occur as a management tool until the prairie is established. Storm damage or vandalism could result in the need for maintenance or replacement of plant stock.

REFERENCES

U. S. Department of Energy, 1996, "Record of Decision for Remedial Actions at Operable Unit 5," Final, Fernald Environmental Management Project, DOE, Fernald Area Office, Cincinnati, Ohio.

U. S. Department of Energy, 1997, "Post-Closure Care and Inspection Plan On-Site Disposal Facility," Revision 1, Fernald Environmental Management Project, DOE, Fernald Area Office, Cincinnati, Ohio.

U. S. Department of Energy, 1999, "Environmental Assessment for Proposed Final Land Use at the Fernald Environmental Management Project," Final, DOE, Fernald Area Office, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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