

Come to the 2nd Future of Fernald Workshop

2977

THE FUTURE
OF FERNALD



The End is Just the Beginning

Wednesday

May 24, 2000

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Crosby Senior Center, 8910 Willey Road

Since the U.S. Government bought 1050 acres of farmland off Willey Road in Fernald, Ohio in 1951, this property has been a symbol of the Cold War effort. For nearly 40 years, the site produced uranium metals for nuclear weapons, in the process polluting the soil and water throughout the property. For the last decade, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has been working to remediate this pollution and is fast approaching the point where the property can be used by the Fernald community for some public good.

On May 24, a Future of Fernald Workshop is being sponsored by four citizens groups working to bring about the safe remediation of Fernald and a positive future for area residents.

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
513-648-6478

Fernald Community Reuse Organization
513-527-3150

Fernald Living History, Inc.
513-245-0989

Fernald Residents for Environment, Safety, and Health
513-738-1659

Please Join Us in Creating a Positive Future for Fernald

The Future of Fernald Workshops are designed to provide citizens a direct voice in determining the public activities that will be developed on the Fernald site following the remediation. The first workshop was held in April 1999 to introduce future public use issues to the Fernald community. The May 2000 workshop will provide a variety of dialogues to identify those potential future activities at Fernald that are most appealing to the Fernald community.

To achieve a positive future for Fernald requires the development of a shared vision by all affected communities and the government agencies who are managing the restoration of the site. The Department of Energy recognizes this and has asked for direct and detailed input from citizens. The workshop sponsors are conducting an effort to provide this input to DOE and are looking for participation by all interested individuals. DOE is listening and we hope to work together to return the Fernald site to an asset for all citizens. Please join us on May 24.



What Has Happened So Far?

In September 1986, the State of Ohio sued the DOE for natural resource injuries at the Fernald site. As part of the process to resolve DOE's natural resource liabilities, a panel of Natural Resource Trustees were appointed to determine the extent of damage and appropriate reparations. The Trustees include representatives from the State of Ohio, the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior. The Trustees began their meetings in October 1993 and held a public workshop in April 1994. Then, in September 1996, the Trustees outlined a plan which would provide for on-site restoration of natural resources. This plan was detailed in a 1998 Draft Final Restoration Plan. In parallel, DOE issued the Final Environmental Assessment for Proposed Land Use at the Fernald Site.

Remediation activities have been going on at the Fernald Site for several years now and the site is changing every day as rapid progress is being made. Thousands of tons of low level waste and nuclear materials have been shipped off the site to date. Many of the former buildings have been torn down and the on-site disposal facility is taking shape. Within this decade, over 80% of the site will be dedicated to ecological restoration.

What Has Already Been Decided?

Based on the work of the Trustees and input from numerous stakeholders, the following decisions have been made about the future of Fernald and are recorded in legal decision documents:

- 23 acres have been identified for potential future community development
- 123 acres are required by the on-site disposal facility
- 904 acres are designated for ecological restoration
- The Fernald site is being cleaned to allow for recreational uses; no residential or agricultural uses will be allowed on the Fernald property
- The Fernald property will remain under permanent Federal Government ownership
- The Federal government will retain responsibility for all health and safety issues at the site related to the on site disposal facility and any remaining levels of contamination

What Still Needs to Be Decided?

Though the general future use of the land at the Fernald site has been decided, the specific activities that will be allowed and features that will be built on the property have not. There are many ideas for how the Fernald site can be made an asset to the surrounding community. The Future of Fernald Workshops are designed to get broad-based public input into determining the ideas that are best for the community and should be pursued. Many ideas have already been identified by various publics and are summarized on the following page.

Why Should You Get Involved Now?

For fifteen years, the local community has been actively involved in making the remediation decisions at Fernald. Most of those decisions are now complete and being implemented. It is now time to get involved in what is going to happen at the site following remediation. If the community is to create something positive for the future of the Fernald site, these decisions need to be made while there is time to incorporate these plans into site remediation activities and seek the needed funding. That time is now. The further remediation progresses, the more expensive such projects will become and the more difficult it will be to procure needed funding. Strong and broad-based community support for future activities is the surest way to help create a positive future at Fernald.

What if You are Unable to Attend the May Workshop?

Call one of the sponsoring organizations to let them know that you are interested. They will provide you with any additional information that is developed and keep you informed about additional opportunities to become involved.



What Possible Future Activities are Being Considered?

The first Future of Fernald Workshop was held in April 1999. That meeting and the many public meetings held in relation to site restoration have resulted in many interesting and exciting ideas being brought forward for consideration. These ideas have centered around several major themes:

Environmental Education

The restoration activities at Fernald will result in a 900 acre greenspace with an emphasis on native plants and animals. The opportunities for education and research are rich and varied.

Cold War and Fernald History

There are many artifacts and pieces of site information that should be preserved for continued public access. The Public Reading Room has hundreds of documents for use by the community. The Fernald Living History project will produce hundreds of tapes that chronicle the events and individuals that shaped the Fernald experience. There is a strong feeling in the community that the history of Fernald should be available to future generations. All of these activities would require some sort of physical presence on the Fernald property.

Native American Burials and Education

In 1996, the Fernald site provided a major resource to Native Americans by providing land for the re-interment of Native American remains that were disturbed in the construction of the area water line. This activity was so well received that there is tremendous interest in providing additional land for numerous other remains that are currently in storage throughout the State of Ohio. This provides additional opportunities for education about Native American history in this region.

Recreation

The finished site will have a wide variety of woods and fields for hiking, biking, and other nature activities. No powered vehicles will be allowed, but there is an opportunity for walking trails.

Community Development

23 acres of the site have been reserved by the DOE for potential community development. This portion of the site is the only area that will not be dedicated to ecological restoration or the on-site disposal facility. Potential development ideas range from municipal uses and community facilities to economic development.

All of these activities are possible uses of the Fernald Site. There may be many others. Following the May workshop, the workshop sponsors will take all of the input received and develop a draft vision for how the public's desires for Fernald can be realized. Later in the summer, the sponsors will host an additional workshop to get feedback on this vision. Then, based on all of this information, the sponsors will develop a detailed set of recommendations for submission to the DOE in mid-September.

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Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box 538704
Cincinnati, OH 45253

4