



2979

FCAB UPDATE

Week of May 12, 2000

(Last update was dated April 17, 2000)

MEETING SCHEDULE

FUTURE OF FERNALD WORKSHOP
Wednesday, May 24, 2000, 6:30 p.m.

Crosby Township Senior Center on Willey Road

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft minutes of 3/18/00 meeting, please comment by May 26, 2000
- Future of Fernald Fact Sheet
- Postcard announcing availability of March 2000 Paths to Closure Report
- Updated member contact information
- News clippings

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please note the timing of the Future of Fernald Workshop. The regular CAB meeting in May is cancelled and all members are expected to participate in the workshop.

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

E-Mail: DJSarno@theperspectivesgroup.com

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Draft Minutes from the March 18, 2000 Meeting

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:30 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2000, in the Large Laboratory Conference Room on the Fernald Site, Hamilton, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and was open to the public.

Members Present

Jim Bierer
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin Clawson
Jack Craig
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn
Ken Moore
Robert Tabor
Fawn Thompson
Thomas Wagner

Members Absent

French Bell (excused)
Lou Doll
Mike Keyes (excused)
Jane Harper (excused)
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell (excused)
Gene Willeke (excused)

Designated Federal Official

Gary Stegner

Phoenix Environmental Staff

Douglas Sarno

Fluor Fernald Staff

Tisha Patton

Approximately 20 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public, the media, and representatives from Department of Energy and Fluor Fernald.

1. Call to Order

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Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Remarks and Announcements

Bierer asked if there were any announcements. He mentioned that Secretary Richardson distributed an e-mail letter regarding the startup of the new Nuclear Security Agency at DOE. Lisa Crawford requested a copy of Richardson's e-mail and a final copy of the report from the committee that was working on this issue.

Susan Brechbill noted that the Ohio Field office is seeking funding from Headquarters to conduct a number of pilot programs for long term stewardship technologies. A needs assessment is being conducted and the plan is to select technologies for funding by mid May. This fall, DOE will conduct a workshop to identify technology and look at new processes and to determine where we can go in the future. The technology grant is expected to be about \$250,000. This is going to be a cooperative effort between DOE and stakeholders. The Stewardship Committee will be taking an active role. Fluor has developed a memo of the technologies that they are considering using. Doug Sarno requested that all available information be presented at the April Stewardship Committee Meeting.

Susan Brechbill announced that Jack Craig has been promoted to a deputy position in the Ohio Field Office and emphasized that he will continue in his role at Fernald.

Bierer discussed the draft RFP for the site management contract and noted that the section for public participation is an appropriate part of the RFP. Jack Craig stated that there is not a definitive schedule for the RFP, but DOE was hoping for a contract award prior to September. Lisa Crawford asked whether the Fluor contract would be extended until after November. Jack Craig said that DOE had no plans to extend the contract at this time. Pam Dunn expressed concern regarding what appeared to be unrealistic schedule milestones in the RFP. Jack Craig noted that the RFP included many incentives for early completion but that the final schedules will be negotiated after the award, based on what is realistic. Jack Craig noted that selection will not be based solely on cost. Susan Brechbill recommended that people look at Sections B and M of the RFP to better understand these issues.

3. Report on Recent Meetings

Tom Wagner provided a brief overview of the SSAB Chairs meeting in February in Idaho Falls. The meeting included presentations on DOE activities including the new EM organization and a review of the DOE EM budget. The SSAB Chairs decided to develop a common interest statement and a set of common values to help identify common issues among the boards. This will be a statement that the Chairs & Vice Chairs of SSABs will endorse. Ultimate endorsement by the full boards will be up to each individual board. Doug Sarno asked if FCAB wanted to spend the time and effort required to make this statement of value representative of the FCAB. The issue was referred to the Remediation Committee for discussion. Tom Wagner will continue to manage the response.

Doug Sarno and Fawn Thompson discussed the recent meeting of the Transportation External Coordination Working Group Meeting in Las Vegas in February. This meeting followed a different format than the previous meeting in Philadelphia. The new format used topic Groups exclusively and Fernald was not an official member of any of the Topic Groups. As a result, they spent their time in the audience and were not able to participate. Both Doug and Fawn found it to be a frustrating experience and believe that stakeholders need to be a more integral part of this process.

Doug Sarno and Tom Schneider attended a meeting on institutional controls in San Francisco consisting of DOE, DOD, stakeholders and other groups. Overall, it was a very positive meeting. It was learned that in general, the Department of the Interior does not want to take any land with contamination issues. They do not have a sufficient budget to pay for additional cleanups at this time. There will be a follow-up meeting in Washington later this summer, and it is recommended that the Stewardship Committee send 1 to 2 people to the meeting.

4. 2001 Budget

Jack Craig noted that by September, DOE should know how much of the budget request will be granted. Based on what was sent in the budget proposal, there could be a significant shortfall. This will result in site delays in soil excavation and disposal cell operation, depending on the final funding level. Questions were asked about how this shortfall, a likely future baseline of \$290 million, and future inflation will continue to impact the schedule after 2001. Doug Sarno asked how the Defense Closure Fund status was helping the site. Craig noted that DOE was in the process of conducting analyses and should have additional information available shortly. The Board asked what actions could be taken. It was decided that the Remediation Committee would meet in May to discuss the budget impacts on excavation and cells. The Board will draft a Letter to the Ohio Delegation to discuss the impact of the 2001 budget and the ability to meet site deadlines for remediation.

5. Silos Decision Update

The U.S. EPA review board met to discuss the Silos 1 and 2 decision. No issues were identified and approval is expected in April. Immediately following approval, a public comment period will begin and public meetings will be held at Fernald and in Nevada.

6. Plans for Public Access Decisions

Doug Sarno discussed the activities that are being planned regarding future public access to the site following remediation. DOE has asked the Stewardship Committee to lead an effort to get broad-based public input on this issue. DOE will hold a roundtable meeting on April 11, 2000 to kick off the process. The goal of the meeting is to get issues on table and figure out how to have a good public meeting. The meeting will be sponsored by the FCAB, FRESH, the CRO, and the Living History Project in May. Doug stressed that the FCAB will need to help get people there. Lisa noted that a press release and letter needs to be done to get the information out to the public on this



Announcing the Availability of the March 2000 Status Report on *Paths to Closure* 2979

This status report updates the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) program life-cycle cost and schedule estimates for completing cleanup, which EM last provided in the 1998 *Paths to Closure* report. EM is issuing this status report now to discuss recent trends in its life-cycle cost and schedule estimates and to introduce additional analyses that offer new insights into the long-term scope of the program. This status report is based on life-cycle cost and schedule data that EM collected in 1999. The estimated schedules for completing environmental management activities (not including long-term stewardship) have been adjusted to be consistent with the FY 2001 budget request. This document and supporting documentation are available on the EM Web site for viewing/downloading at:

www.em.doe.gov/closure/

This document is available by request through the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-7 EM DATA (1-800-736-3282) between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST.

Visit the EM web site at **www.em.doe.gov** for additional information related to the EM program.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
1000 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

DOE-E0104/1

Come to the 2nd Future of Fernald Workshop

OF FERNALD

THE FUTURE



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.

**THE FUTURE
OF FERNALD**



The End is Just the Beginning

Please Attend the Second Future of Fernald Workshop
Wednesday, May 24, 2000, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Crosby Senior Center, 8910 Willey Road

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
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