



FCAB UPDATE

Week of February 2, 2001

(Last update was dated January 19, 2000)

MEETING SCHEDULE

Stewardship Committee Meeting <i>(combined February/March meeting)</i> <u>Thursday, March 1, 2001, 6:30 p.m.</u>	Services Building Conference Room
Full FCAB Meeting (date change) <u>Saturday, March 10, 2001, 8:30 a.m.</u>	Services Building Conference Room
DOE Cleanup Progress Briefing <u>Tuesday, March 13, 2001, 6:30 p.m.</u>	Services Building Conference Room

ATTACHMENTS

- Updated FCAB Calendar, Contact Info, and Bios as of 2/2/01
- Final summary of Stewardship Committee Meeting on November 15, 2000
- Final minutes of Full FCAB Meeting on November 18, 2000
- Preliminary Agenda for Stewardship Committee Meeting on March 1, 2001
- Preliminary Agenda for Full FCAB Meeting on March 10, 2001
- DNFSB Staff Report on Fire Protection Program-FEMP
- DOE and FCAB Letters to CDC on Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee
- Newsclips
 - Abraham confirmation a breeze
 - DOE issues report to Congress on LTS of nuclear weapons complex
 - DOE solicits comments on revisions to its Public Participation Policy regarding improving relations between DOE facilities and its host communities

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THERE IS NO STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING IN FEBRUARY. THE NEXT STEWARDSHIP MEETING IS MARCH 1, 2001.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Doug Sarno or Lois Yasutis, Phoenix Environmental Corporation
 Phone: 513-648-6478 or 703-971-0058 Fax: 513-648-3629 or 703-971-0006
 E-Mail: djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com
lyasutis@theperspectivesgroup.com

FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD CALENDAR 2001



Time and Location of Meetings (unless otherwise noted):

DOE Public Briefing Meetings, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., Services Building Conference Room
 Stewardship Cmte Meetings, Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Services Building Conference Room
 Full FCAB Meetings, Saturdays, 8:30 a.m., Services Building Conference Room

Current as of 2/02/01

JANUARY 2001

08 Stewardship Cmte Meeting (*Monday*)
 09 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 13 Full FCAB Meeting

FEBRUARY 2001

05 Full FCAB Meeting (*Monday, 6:00 p.m.*)
 No Stewardship Committee Meeting
 13 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing

MARCH 2001

01 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 10 Full FCAB Meeting
 13 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing

APRIL 2001

10 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 12 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 14 Full FCAB Meeting (*tentative*)

MAY 2001

08 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 10 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 12 Full FCAB Meeting

JUNE 2001

12 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 14 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 16 Full FCAB Meeting

JULY 2001

10 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 12 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 14 Full FCAB Meeting

AUGUST 2001

NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 2001

11 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 13 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 15 Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
 Retreat (*tentative*)

OCTOBER 2001

09 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 11 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 13 Full FCAB Meeting

NOVEMBER 2001

13 DOE Monthly Progress Briefing
 15 Stewardship Committee Meeting
 17 Full FCAB Meeting

DECEMBER 2001

NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED



Contact Information

3494

Members

James Bierer, FCAB Chair
Ross Middle School
3371 Hamilton-Cleves Road
Hamilton, OH 45013
513-863-1251 (*office*)
513-863-0066 (*fax*)
513-896-1488 (*home*)
513-896-7317 (*home fax*)
E-mail: jcbierer@msn.com

Sandy Butterfield
4535 Morgan Ross Road
Hamilton, OH 45013
513-738-3310 (*home*)

Marvin Clawson
586 Charlberth Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013
513-867-9900 (*home*)

Lisa Crawford
10206 Crosby Road
Harrison, OH 45030
513-738-8055 (*fax*)
513-738-1688 (*home*)
E-mail: lecrawford@earthlink.net (*home*)

Steve Depoe
Dept. of Communications
University of Cincinnati
P.O. Box 210184
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0184
513-556-4459 (*office*)
513-556-0899 (*fax*)
E-mail: depoesp@email.uc.edu (*office*)

Lou Doll
6595 Bridgetown Road
Cincinnati, OH 45248
513-648-3723 (*office*)
513-648-5247 (*fax*)
513-574-7748 (*home*)

Pam Dunn
7781 New Haven Road
Harrison, OH 45030
513-738-2293 (*home and fax*)
513-738-0676 (*fax*)
E-mail: pamdunn@earthlink.net (*home*)

Jane Harper
9456 Dick Road
Harrison, OH 45030
513-738-1781 (*office*)
E-mail: ljharp@earthlink.net (*home*)

Robert G. Tabor
214 Citation Circle
Harrison, OH 45030
513-648-5077 (*office*)
513-648-5527 (*fax*)
513-367-1177 (*home*)

Fawn Thompson
2841 Hoff Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45226
404-562-3917 (*work phone*)
678-516-7005 (*cell phone*)
Email: fawnt@earthlink.net (*home*)

Thomas Wagner
1086 W. Galbraith Road
Cincinnati, OH 45231
513-522-3618 (*home*)
513-556-3408 (*fax*)
E-mail: wagnerte@email.uc.edu (*office*)

Gene Willeke
Miami University
Institute of Environmental Sciences
102 Boyd Hall
Oxford, OH 45056
513-529-5811 (*office*)
513-529-5814 (*fax*)
E-mail: willekge@muohio.edu (*office*)

Contact Information (cont.)

Ex-Officio Members

French Bell

Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road NE
Mail Stop E-56
Atlanta, GA 30333
404-639-6020 (office)
404-639-6075 (fax)
E-mail: lfb0@cdc.gov

Stephen H. McCracken

U.S. DOE – Fernald Site Office
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705
513-648-3101 (office)
513-648-3071 (fax)
E-mail: stephen.mccracken@fernald.gov

Gene Jablonowski

U.S. EPA Region V
(SRF -5J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-4591 (office)
312-353-8426 (fax)
E-mail: jablonowski.eugene@epamail.epa.gov

Graham Mitchell

Ohio EPA
Southwest District Office
401 East Fifth Street
Dayton, OH 45402-2911
937-285-6018 (office)
937-285-6249 (fax)
E-mail: graham.mitchell@epa.state.oh.us

Citizens Advisory Board Office

(located in Trailer 38 at Fernald Site)
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 538704, MS 76
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704
513-648-4958(phone)
513-648-4955(fax)

Support Staff

Phoenix Environmental Corporation
Doug Sarno, Technical Support
Crystal Sarno, Administration/Graphics
Lois Yasutis, Administration
6186 Old Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310
513-648-6478 (local Cincinnati)

513-648-3629 (local Cincinnati fax)

703-971-0030 (Alexandria, VA)

703-971-0006 (Alexandria fax)

E-mail: djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com
cmsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com
lyasutis@theperspectivesgroup.com

Fluor Fernald, Inc. Contact

Tisha Patton

Fluor Fernald, Inc.
P.O. Box 538704, MS 76
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704
513-648-5277 (office)
513-648-4955 (fax)
E-mail: tisha.patton@fernald.gov

DOE Contacts

Susan Brechbill

Director
US DOE – Ohio Field Office
P.O. Box 3020
Miamisburg, OH 45343-3020
937-865-3977 (office)
937-865-3426 (fax)
E-mail: susan.brechbill@ohio.doe.gov

Ken Morgan

Public Affairs Director
US DOE- Ohio Field Office
P.O. Box 3020
Miamisburg, OH 45343-3020
937-865-3968 (office)
937-865-4397(fax)
E-mail: ken.morgan@ohio.doe.gov

Gary Stegner

Public Affairs Officer
US DOE – Fernald Site Office
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705
513-648-3153 (office)
513-648-3073 (fax)
E-mail: gary.stegner@fernald.gov



MEMBERS

James C. Bierer: A 7th and 8th grade science teacher in the Ross Local School District, which is located near the Fernald site. He was involved in DOE's Community Leaders Network and has helped develop education outreach programs for Fernald. He serves on the Fernald Site Technology Coordination Group (STCG) and Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

Sandy Butterfield: A homemaker, who has lived adjacent to the Fernald Site for 35 years. She was a member of the Environmental and Health Committee for Feed Material Production Center (FEMP), which was a precursor to the FCAB. She is also a member of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH) and of the Fernald Living History Project.

Marvin Clawson: A long-time area resident whose family owns property near the Fernald site. He is a retired farmer and toolmaker.

Lisa Crawford: President of the citizens group, Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH), and a long-time activist. She is employed as the volunteer coordinator for a state hospital, Summit Behavioral Healthcare.

Stephen P. Depoe: A resident of Colerain Township who lives about seven miles from the Fernald site. He is an active member of FRESH and Fernald Living History, Inc. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Communication, and serves as Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Communication at the University of Cincinnati. Additionally, he is the Director of the Center for Environmental Communication Studies.

Louis Doll: Site representative of the Greater Cincinnati Building Trades Council. He is a member of the Citizens Resuse Organization and Fernald Health Effect Subcommittee. He has worked at the Fernald plant for 16 years.

Pamela Dunn: An auditor with the State of Ohio, who works primarily in the greater Cincinnati area. She also is the treasurer of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH). She received her BBA from the University of Cincinnati.

Jane Harper: A lifelong resident of Crosby Township. She has taught at Crosby Elementary School for almost 30 years and is currently serving her third term as a Crosby Township Trustee.

Robert G. Tabor: Labor/management Relations Liaison for the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council (FATLC), one of the primary union organizations representing wage workers at the Fernald site. He attended Purdue University and Cincinnati University. In 1992, he completed the DOE/Westinghouse School of Environmental Excellence. He also is employed as a millwright at the Fernald site.

Fawn Thompson: A Traffic Specialist with the Ohio Department of Transportation. She has a background in scientific research, transportation engineering and transportation planning.

Thomas E. Wagner: A Professor Emeritus of Planning and Urban Studies at the University of Cincinnati. His areas of specialty include dispute resolution and social planning. He has a doctorate in education. He serves as the Vice Chair of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

Gene Willeke: A civic engineer, he is Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences at Miami University and Professor of Geography, he received his doctorate from Stanford University and undergraduate degrees from Ohio Northern University.

Ex Officio Members

L. French Bell: ATSDR lead for the Fernald site

Stephen McCracken: Site Manager, DOE-Fernald Environmental Management Project

Gene Jablonowski: Project Manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Graham Mitchell: Chief of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Federal Facilities Oversight (OFFO)



FULL BOARD MEETING

Services Building Conference Room

Saturday, November 18, 2000

MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:35 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, November 18, 2000, at the Fernald Site Services Building in Hamilton, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and was open to the public.

Members Present	French Bell Jim Bierer Sandy Butterfield Marvin Clawson Lisa Crawford Steve Depoe Lou Doll Pam Dunn Gene Jablonowski Jane Harper Graham Mitchell Robert Tabor Thomas Wagner
Members Absent	Fawn Thompson Mike Keyes Gene Willeke
Phoenix Environmental Staff	Douglas Sarno Patti Kidd
Designated Federal Official	Johnny Reising

Approximately 10 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public, the media, and representatives from the Department of Energy and Fluor Fernald.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Remarks and Announcements

The FCAB received a letter acknowledging its Stewardship recommendations and an update on progress at the site. Graham Mitchell led a discussion about damage to trees on site that is being caused by deer. A plastic protective covering has been used on the trees, but the damage is continuing. Since tree replacement is a financial burden, other methods are being considered such as deer population monitoring and control. Members voiced some concerns about hunting as a control method. No specific actions are to be immediately taken other than monitoring the situation.

DOE Headquarters has approved moving forward on the reinterment of Native American Remains.

The cattle grazing lease will be renewed; however, acreage will be reduced from 60 acres to 37 acres. If additional land is needed for Native American reinterment, grazing can be eliminated upon 45 days notice to the lessee.

3. Report on SSAB Stewardship Workshop

Pam Dunn led a discussion on the draft recommendations on long-term stewardship that were developed at the workshop. The purpose of the recommendations are to ensure that long-term stewardship for contaminated sites is a major focus of DOE. Each SSAB is being asked to endorse all of the recommendations. The recommendations are categorized by funding, roles and responsibilities, timing of stewardship, information management, and public involvement. After discussion of possible improvements, it was decided to endorse the recommendations as written.

Jim Bierer moved that the recommendations be endorsed and notification sent to the other boards. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Update on Contract and Budget Issues

A new support contract for the Fernald site will be authorized and signed on Monday, November 20, 2000. There will be a six month period to reestablish the baseline and to plan for site closure. There will be a briefing of the new contract at the January meeting and updates at each meeting thereafter for six months.

On October 27, 2000 the budget was issued for fiscal year 2001 and the first allotment has already been issued. The budget results in a \$23 million shortfall for Fernald. There will be a rebaselining to accommodate the shortfall and to keep all projects moving forward. The FCAB will be kept up to date regarding the schedule impacts of this shortfall.

g

5. WPRAP Update and Discussion

Dave Lojek of DOE briefed the FCAB on the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project. The overview included key remediation dates, material flow, project successes and achievements, current excavation status, and radiological airborne issues and status.

Approximately 1,000,000 tons of low-level radioactive and contaminated subsoils will be excavated. Approximately 300,000 tons of moisture will be removed from the waste resulting in approximately 626,500 tons of materials to be transported offsite for disposal. It was noted that the moisture content of materials being shipped to Envirocare has been consistently higher than estimated. While within acceptable limits for disposal, this higher moisture content results in more weight of material and higher disposal costs. The FCAB asked to be kept informed of efforts to manage this issue and any resulting impacts on the project.

To date, 100% of the contract quantity for operational year one was met, and 90% of the contract for operational year two was met. All EPA enforceable milestones have been met: 1,680 railcars have been loaded, and 29 unit trains have been shipped. The project is on track for operational year three. There have been 1,100 days without a lost-time accident and one year without an OSHA recordable event. The project has received the IT Group Presidential Award, the IT Group Quarterly Award, and the Fluor Tri-Star Award.

Currently, excavation in Pit 1 is 30% complete, Pit 2 excavation will start in Spring 2001, Pit 3 is 30% complete, Pit 4 will start in Summer 2001, and Pit 5 test excavations were performed with full excavation to start in Spring 2001.

A map of air sampling locations was presented and the air-monitoring system was explained. In certain areas where airborne contamination is elevated, 50,000 lapel air samplers have also been used to study air contamination. Airborne contaminants were detected in an area not previously monitored showing high levels of Thorium 230. A detailed plan was developed to identify the cause of this contamination. Goals are to determine sources and potential sources, administrative and engineering controls necessary to abate the sources, and the effectiveness of the current monitoring program. Testing is underway and will be completed in four to five weeks. Normal operations will not proceed until testing is complete. The FCAB asked to be kept informed of this issue.

6. Silos Update and Discussion

Discussion with the current contractor is ongoing but it has not produced anything of substance. Within the next two weeks, a decision will be made whether or not to stay with the current contractor. If the current contractor decides to perform, there are obvious concerns about its ability. On the other hand, there are no current backup



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: November 15, 2000

Topics:

- Update on Site Stewardship Activities
- Native American Burials
- Stewardship Workplan

Attendees:

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Jim Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Pam Dunn
Bob Tabor

U.S. Department of Energy

Gary Stegner
Kathleen Nickel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Donna Bohannon

Fluor Fernald
Tisha Patton
Joe Schomaker
Eric Woods
Paul Pettit
Todd Trammel
Larry Stebbins

FRESH

Edwa Yocum
Carol Schroer

3494

Update on Site Stewardship Activities

Pam Dunn opened the meeting with an update on stewardship activities. There were two documents for the committee to review. The first was a national report on the long-term stewardship study required as part of the settlement agreement between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Resource Defense Council. The public comment period on the report ends November 30, 2000. This report is not a decision document but rather lays out the issues and hurdles surrounding long-term stewardship.

The second document for review was a draft long-term Stewardship Strategic Plan for the Fernald site. This draft captures where the site currently stands with regard to stewardship, incorporates the Vision Statement based on the Future of Fernald Workshop, and outlines intentions to continue with public involvement. Kathy Nickel asked for comments as soon as possible in order to complete a final version in a timely fashion.

Update on Native American Reinterments

Joe Schomaker reported receipt of a favorable comment letter from the DOE General Counsel. Joe said that DOE has pledged its help in obtaining any necessary support, including Congressional (i.e. legislation). The next step is to develop a working plan for the burials and markers. Following the Environmental Assessment (EA) model, the plan will then be made available for public comment. The final step is to get signatures from appropriate agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, DOE and the Federal Tribes. The burial site is currently "ready to go." Start up of actual burials could possibly begin as early as Fall 2001.

The committee discussed several issues affecting the work plan. Cost will depend on frequency and number of burials. Questions include: Should unidentifiable remains be included along with repatriated remains? How long before the site is full and what are options for expanding the site? The site has been funded up to this point but additional funding is needed to begin burials. All these issues must be considered and set out in the work plan and approved by the necessary parties.

Workshop Recommendations on Long-Term Stewardship

The draft recommendations from the SSAB Stewardship Workshop were discussed at length. The draft will be presented to the full board with the following suggestions:

- INFORMATION MANAGEMENT should address the ongoing "intergenerational transfer" of information to ensure the continuity of effective stewardship information.
- INFORMATION MANAGEMENT should address "operational information" from persons involved in the actual building, operating, and maintenance of a site.



Stewardship Workplan

The committee discussed creation of the Stewardship Workplan for 2001. The key issues were identified as Native American burials, natural resource and OSDF stewards, a conceptual public use plan, funding sources for a community center, providing information to the public, and more aggressive engagement of Congressional support. The conceptual use plan was identified as the number one priority for presentation to the full board in February 2001. There was discussion about recognizing "human" stewardship issues, such as impacts on workers and future generations. Rocky Flats was cited as an example of a site that has begun to consider "human" stewardship issues. Doug Sarno will use discussion points in developing the draft workplan.

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date is January 8, 2001.





STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
Services Building Conference Room

Thursday, March 1, 2001



Draft Agenda

6:30 p.m.	Call to Order
6:30–6:45 a.m.	Remarks and Announcements
6:45–7:15 p.m.	DOE Long Term Stewardship Strategic Plan
7:15–8:30 p.m.	Criteria and Conceptual Plan for Trails
8:30–8:45 p.m.	Public Comment
8:45 p.m.	Adjourn



FULL BOARD MEETING

Services Building Conference Room

Saturday, March 10, 2001

DRAFT AGENDA

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. | Continental Breakfast |
| 8:30 a.m. | Call to Order |
| 8:30–8:45 a.m. | Chair's Remarks and Ex Officio Announcements |
| 8:45–10:00 a.m. | Silo 3 Options Update and Discussion |
| 10:00–10:15 a.m. | Break |
| 10:15–11:30 a.m. | WPRAP Update |
| 11:30–12:15 p.m. | Rebaseling Update |
| 12:15 –12:30 p.m. | Public Comment |
| 12:30 p.m. | Adjourn and Lunch |
-

JAN 29 '01 11:38AM

NO. 017 P001/004

P.2

3494

John T. Conway, Chairman
 A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
 Joseph J. DiNunno
 John E. Mansfield
 Marie Hill Robertson

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004-8901
 (202) 694-7000



January 8, 2001

The Honorable Carolyn L. Huntoon
 Assistant Secretary for
 Environmental Management
 Department of Energy
 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20585-0113

Dear Dr. Huntoon:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) wishes to bring to your attention a fire safety issue at the Fernald Environmental Management Project. Members of the Board's staff recently visited Fernald to evaluate the Tension Support Structures (TSSs) used to store radioactive waste and special nuclear materials. The staff met with representatives of Fluor Fernald and the Department of Energy (DOE) Fernald Office to review the Fernald fire protection program as a whole and to discuss the fire hazards and safety analysis approach for the TSSs.

The staff's onsite review and analysis of Fernald documents led to two concerns detailed in the enclosed report. First, the Fire Hazards Analysis (FHA) for the TSSs is inadequate to support Fernald's Basis for Interim Operation and deficient when measured against DOE expectations for a nuclear facility FHA. Second, additional, cost-effective measures should be considered to further reduce the probability of fire in the TSSs and to ensure that a fire would be detected and extinguished as soon as possible.

The Board has been informed that the staff's findings are already being acted upon by the Fernald Office and the contractor. The Board's staff will conduct a follow-up review at a later date to confirm that the steps taken are adequate.

Sincerely,


 John T. Conway
 Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**Staff Issue Report**

November 9, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

COPIES: Board Members

FROM: W. M. Shields

SUBJECT: Fire Protection Program, Fernald Environmental Management Project

This report documents a review performed by the staff of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board). Staff members W. Shields and F. Bemdad met with personnel from the Department of Energy (DOE) and the site contractor, Fluor Fernald, on November 2, 2000, to assess the fire protection program at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). The specific purpose of the review was to examine fire safety for three Tension Support Structures (TSSs) used to store mixed waste and special nuclear materials.

Background. The TSSs are essentially large tents, consisting of a non flammable fabric stretched over a metal frame that is anchored to a concrete slab. Beginning in 1990, FEMP planned to use the TSSs to store Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) waste consisting of contaminated soil and debris collected during cleanup efforts. The tents would prevent runoff until these materials could be packaged and shipped to a disposal site. While this project was under way, DOE issued Order 5480.7A, *Fire Protection*, which would have required the installation of automatic suppression systems for the TSSs because their property value exceeded \$1 million. The FEMP contractor at the time, FERMC0, requested and received from DOE an exemption from this requirement. Thereafter, all the TSSs were built without automatic suppression or detection systems.

In 1995, FEMP personnel decided to begin storing drums containing nuclear materials, including some enriched uranium, in the TSSs. They concluded that storage of these materials was within the scope of the original DOE exemption from automatic suppression requirements. In 1999, the DOE Ohio Field Office raised the property value requirement for automatic fire suppression from \$1 million to \$10 million. As a result, the Fernald Area Office concluded that an exemption from the relevant DOE Order (now Order 420.1, *Facility Safety*) is not needed in any event. The continued validity of the exemption despite the change in mission has not been questioned by either the Ohio Field Office or the Fernald Area Office.

The staff's interest in this matter began with the review of an update to the fire hazard analysis (FHA) dated July 10, 2000. This update did not appear to adequately address the new hazards posed by storing special nuclear materials (e.g., the generation of hydrogen gas and the

presence of pyrophoric metals), or the significance of the lack of automatic fire detection and suppression capability given these hazards.

Issues

Fire Hazards Analysis. Fernald Plant 1 Area, which includes the TSSs, is a Hazard Category 2 nuclear facility. The Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) for Plant 1 Area includes the authorization basis for TSS facilities and several other buildings and activities in the area. Most of the radioactive hazardous material (more than 6 million pounds of enriched uranium) is contained in these three TSSs. The hazard and accident analyses are based on some bounding scenarios, and controls are identified to reduce the probability of events leading to significant consequences to the public and workers. In addition to the safety management programs, administrative controls are identified to limit the facility inventory and physical storage of the material. The radiation detection alarms (criticality alarms) and fire suppression equipment (portable fire extinguishers) are identified as equipment vital to safety. Hazardous activities are controlled through implementation of procedures that require inspection and special handling of drums because of their potential for generation and accumulation of hydrogen. The fire hazards external or internal to the drums were to be analyzed in the FHA.

The staff reviewed the FHA and found it inadequate to support BIO assumptions and deficient when measured against DOE expectations for an FHA for a nuclear facility. Guidance on the contents of an FHA is provided in Section 4 of the Implementation Guide to Order 420.1, and a model is given in the DOE Fire Protection Handbook, *Combined Fire Hazards Analysis and Fire Protection Facility Assessment for Building 9116 at Y-12*. Specific deficiencies include the following:

- The FHA improperly relies on the DOE exemption issued in 1993. When this exemption was issued, the TSSs were not nuclear facilities and were not intended to store special nuclear materials in substantial quantities. The need for automatic suppression or alternative fire safety measures should have been reconsidered, and a new exemption requested if appropriate when the storage mission of the TSSs was changed.
- The FHA states, "As defense-in-depth, Fluor Fernald is taking a conservative approach to further identify and analyze hazards associated with the handling, inspection, venting, moving, and storage of hydrogen-generating materials." The FHA identifies but does not analyze these hazards, though procedures have been implemented to protect workers handling and inspecting the drums. Reliance on a Hanford study to support a position that drum fires will not spread to adjacent drums needs to be explained and justified.
- There is no detailed consideration of ignition sources, combustible loading, limits on transient combustibles, and other administrative controls, other than a reference to the conditions of the 1993 DOE exemption. As noted, this exemption was premised on

storage of only non-nuclear materials in the TSSs and did not consider the hazards presented by storing drums of hydrogen-generating and pyrophoric metals.

- There is no discussion of the risk of fire during long periods when the TSSs are unoccupied. Consideration of this risk is important because of the lack of any automatic detection/alarm devices.
- The recommendations of the FHA lack specificity.

Detection of Fires When TSSs are Unoccupied. Because the TSSs lack automatic suppression and detection, any fire starting inside while the structure is unoccupied will remain undetected for some time. Ignition sources are few and combustible loading is low, so the probability of a significant fire involving multiple drums (eventually extinguished by fire department action) is low. This scenario is nonetheless credible and needs to be analyzed as such in the FHA. A multiple-drum fire would generate personnel exposures during and after the fire, require a significant cleanup/decontamination effort, delay site closure, and lead to a major concern that safety measures at the site during cleanup are not adequate.

For these reasons, the staff believes additional, cost-effective measures should be considered to further reduce the probability of fire and ensure that a fire in the TSSs when unoccupied is detected as soon as possible. Measures that merit consideration include the following:

- Having backshift security patrols walk through the buildings rather than around them.
- Checking the buildings after an electrical storm.
- Adding an end-of-workshift check to ensure that propane-powered vehicles have been moved out, all transient combustibles have been properly stored or removed, and all electrical appliances have been unplugged or shut off at the breaker.
- Installing remote-alarm smoke detectors at the roof level to detect smoldering fires during unoccupied periods.

3494



Department of Energy

**Ohio Field Office
Fernald Area Office
P. O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705
(513) 648-3155**



JAN 29 2001

**Mr. Mike Sage
Deputy Director, NCEH
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333**

DOE-0268-01

Dear Mr. Sage:

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE FERNALD HEALTH EFFECTS SUBCOMMITTEE

I am writing to inquire on the current status of and future plans for the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee (FHES). Although the Department of Energy at Fernald has no direct involvement with the FHES, many of our stakeholders have expressed their concerns regarding the subcommittee's status.

Our stakeholders feel the FHES has played a valuable educational role and has served as an effective forum for disseminating information and discussing health related topics of interest to the Fernald community. They are concerned that the dissolution of the FHES will eliminate an organization that the stakeholders regard as an irreplaceable public involvement forum for discussing issues of critical concern to the community.

We appreciate your prompt attention and response to this matter.

Sincerely,


Steven H. McCracken
Director

cc
G. Peterson, EH-62
H. Stockwell, EH-62
W. Best, OH/OCS
G. Gorsuch, OH/OCS



February 1, 2001

Chair
James C. Bierer

Vice Chair
Thomas E. Wagner

Members
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Stephen P. Depoe
Louis Doll
Pamela Durn
Jane Harper
Robert G. Tabor
Fawn Thompson
Gene E. Willeke

Ex Officio Members
L. French Bell
Gene Jablonowski
Stephen H. McCracken
Graham Mitchell

Support Staff
Phoenix Environmental
Douglas J. Sarno
Crystal M. Sarno
703-971-0030
703-971-0006 Fax
PhnxEnvir@aol.com

Mr. Mike Donnelly
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Environmental Health
1600 Clifton Road, NE
MS, E-39
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

On September 18, 2000, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board wrote to you in support of the work of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee (copy enclosed). Also in September, many stakeholders participated in a public meeting on the future of the Subcommittee. The meeting clearly indicated that the community is extremely concerned about current and future health issues and desires the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee continue this important work.

We are extremely concerned that no one in the community has received any information since September 2000. Many stakeholders have spent countless hours of work on the Subcommittee and deserve a response. We ask that you reopen the lines of communication with the Fernald community. Timely decisions must be made to ensure that the continued health and safety of the community and the Fernald workers is not ignored.

The members of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

James C. Bierer
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Mike Sage, Deputy Director, NCEH (w/encl)
Martha Crosland, EM-22 (w/o encl)
Stephen McCracken, DOE-Fernald Site Office (w/encl)
Susan Brechbill, DOE-Ohio Field Office (w/o encl)
FCAB Members (w/o encl)
SSAB Chairs (w/o encl)

20

3494



Environment



Bush Energy Pick Rocks as California Blackouts Roll

By Brian Hansen

WASHINGTON, DC, January 18, 2001 (ENS) - President-elect George W. Bush's nominee for Energy Secretary sailed smoothly through his Senate confirmation hearing today, despite the fact that he once advocated abolishing the very department that he is now poised to lead.

Bush's nominee, former U.S. Senator Spencer Abraham, faced almost no opposition of any kind from his former Senate colleagues on a day when a series of rolling blackouts swept across the energy starved state of California for the second day.

Energy Secretary designate Spencer Abraham (Photo courtesy Office of the Senator)

Abraham, a long time Republican Party activist who two months ago lost his bid to be reelected as a U.S. Senator from Michigan, told the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee that "a number of new developments have occurred" since he co-sponsored a measure in 1999 that would have done away with the Energy Department (DOE).



"I assure the Committee that I no longer support [that] legislation and its various components, such as privatization of the federal power marketing administrations," said Abraham, who is expected to easily win Senate confirmation to become the nation's Energy Secretary.

Not one Senator on either side of the dais asked Abraham to explain how or when he came to change his views regarding S. 896, which if enacted would have brought about the "complete abolition of the Department of Energy." The bill, which was not acted upon after being introduced in April of 1999, would have transferred many DOE operations to other federal departments and agencies.



New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman (Photo courtesy Office of the Senator)

Jeff Bingaman, a Democrat from New Mexico, was the only Senator who even made reference to Abraham's previous efforts to shut down the department that he will now almost certainly lead. Bingaman, in his opening statement, said that Abraham has "seen the light," and has "come to understand how much the Department of Energy does for our energy security, our national security, our economy, and our scientific and technological prowess."

Bingaman said that he would not ask Abraham about his about-face on the Energy Department again because the Bush administration nominee had "already addressed it."

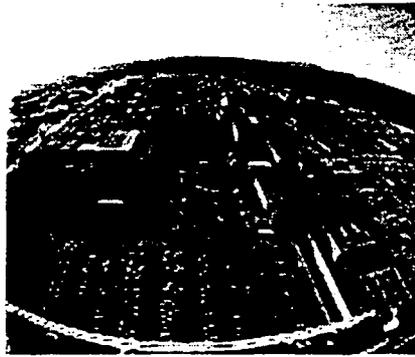
In his own opening remarks to the committee, Abraham laid out a series of broad but vaguely defined policy goals that he would work to enact as the nation's Energy Secretary.

Abraham began with the topic of national security, which stems from the DOE's responsibilities for certifying that the nation's nuclear arsenal is safe, secure and reliable. Abraham testified that "nothing I do will be higher on my priority list than the management of our nuclear stockpile.

The Bush cabinet nominee also addressed the issue of security at the DOE's national laboratories, a subject that sparked fervent debate on Capitol Hill after some top secret nuclear weapons computer codes went missing from the

21

department's Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.



Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico (Photo courtesy DOE)

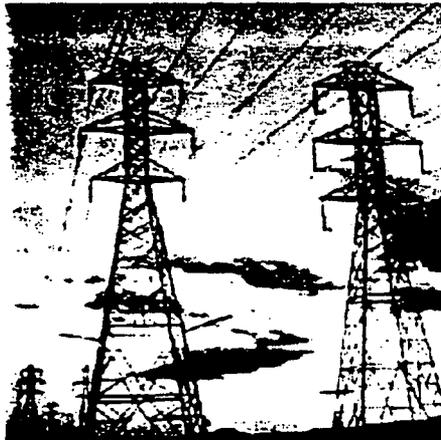
Abraham said that "this too, will be a very high priority of mine." He pledged to bolster security at the laboratories, but not in a way that would compromise the civil rights or dignity of the "highly skilled and patriotic employees" who work there.

On a related topic, Abraham spoke briefly of his plans to clean up the DOE's Cold War era nuclear weapons facilities, such as the Rocky Flats plant in Colorado and the Hanford reservation in Washington state. Abraham called the task the "world's

largest cleanup program," adding that he was frustrated with the "lack of progress" in that area.

"These problems were not created overnight and certainly we are not going to dispense with them quickly or easily," Abraham said. "But we can do a better job of accelerating cleanup and closure of those sites that are surplus to DOE's needs."

In the area of science and technology, Abraham said that he would "continue to move forward" with innovative programs designed to improve the nation's "economic competitiveness." He cited the burgeoning interest in fuel cell vehicles as an example of how technological innovations can improve upon existing industries, and he said he would work as secretary to forge strong partnerships with industry and academia.



Millions of miles of powerlines across the United States keep the lights turned on. (Photo courtesy National Renewable Energy Lab)

But it was in the area of national energy policy that Abraham generated the most questions and comments from his Senate inquisitors. Abraham broached that subject by saying that he was "very concerned with the recent developments in California," a reference to the rolling blackouts that were imposed in that state on Wednesday. The blackouts, which have affected more than half a million people, are the outcome of a multi-faceted energy dilemma that has pushed the state's two largest utility companies to the brink of bankruptcy.

Abraham said that the California blackouts - as well as the skyrocketing cost of heating oil in Northeast - underscored for him the importance of formulating a comprehensive national energy policy.

"President-elect Bush and I are deeply committed to developing an energy policy that includes increasing domestic production of energy in an environmentally responsible manner," said Abraham. The would-be Energy Secretary said that the policy would entail "increasing our use of renewable energy, decreasing our reliance on imported foreign oil, and developing new technologies that conserve fossil fuels and reduce energy related pollution."

Abraham had no trouble convincing the Republicans on the panel that the nation should significantly increase its production of oil and natural gas. In a puerile sounding remark that nevertheless summarized the gist of the Republican position on the matter, Oregon Senator Gordon Smith said, "Just because we love our birds and fish and trees doesn't mean that we should sit in the dark and freeze."

"That's your challenge, Spence - we want the lights on," Smith told Abraham. "You've got to produce."

Smith's point was echoed by Idaho Republican Larry Craig, who warned Abraham that "We do not conserve our way out of this [energy crisis] - we produce our way out."

Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski (Photo courtesy Office of the Senator)

That strategy was articulated in detail by Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski, a Republican who will reassume control



22

of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee when Vice President-elect Dick Cheney is sworn into office on Saturday. Since January 3, the Democrats have chaired all committees in the evenly divided Senate, because of the presence of outgoing Democratic Vice President Al Gore.



Murkowski warned Abraham that an "energy crisis is upon us with full force." The Alaska Republican noted that natural gas prices are four times higher than they were last year, resulting in tremendous hardships for tens of millions of Americans.

Crude oil prices are again heading upward, noted Murkowski, who said that the nation's dependence on foreign oil imports is "threatening our national security."

"Supply is not keeping pace with demand," remarked Murkowski, who told Abraham that he "better have some answers" for ameliorating the crisis after the Bush administration assumes power on Saturday.

Murkowski called on Abraham to work with other federal agencies - such as the Interior Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - in solving the problem. Murkowski has complained that under the Clinton administration, the Interior Department has been overzealous in prohibiting oil and gas exploration on federal lands.

That point was echoed by another Republican on the panel, New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici. Domenici said that the Clinton administration has "locked up" the nation's public lands so that they cannot be tapped to solve the energy crisis, and he asked for Abraham's commitment to find ways around those barriers.



Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Photo courtesy Office of the Senator)

Colorado Republican Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a native American, went further, asking Abraham to explore opening up Indian reservations to oil and gas development. Campbell, who noted that it costs him a fortune to drive a truck that gets less than six miles to the gallon, said that such an initiative should be undertaken "for the good of the nation."

The extraction policies that were emphasized by the Republicans during Abraham's confirmation hearing were very troubling for Dr. Brent Blackwelder, president of the U.S. branch of the international environmental group Friends of the Earth. Blackwelder, who submitted written testimony to the committee, sat in the audience and at times sighed audibly as the Republicans continued their drumbeat for more and more domestic energy production.

"I would make the observation that the Senators yelling the loudest about an energy crisis and foreign oil dependency are precisely the ones who have done the most to block higher automobile fuel economy standards, new conservation technologies, and the development of renewables," Blackwelder told ENS during a break in the hearing.

"Some blame goes on the Clinton administration, of course, but the culpability, fundamentally, lies with them," he said.

Dr. Brent Blackwelder (Photo courtesy Friends of the Earth)

Blackwelder said that in listening to Abraham's testimony, he heard "absolutely no evidence" that the Energy Secretary designee had "any comprehensive grasp or vision for energy policy."

Asked why he thought Abraham had been nominated in the first place, Blackwelder said, "I think it simply had to do with a political payoff."

Many environmentalists on Capitol Hill have made such an observation, noting Abraham's fundraising activities on behalf of the Republican Party.



Asked about the Energy Department's likely collaboration with the Interior Department in developing a national energy policy, Blackwelder said, "It appears right now that there will be an all-out assault on the public lands, and to open them up to oil and gas drilling, as well as other forms of commercial exploitation."

In addition to Abraham, other Bush cabinet nominees - Interior Secretary designate Gale Norton and Attorney General John Ashcroft - both spell trouble for environmentalists, Blackwelder said.

"The lineup across the board - from Ashcroft to Abraham to Norton - is one that is going to present the biggest rollback in environmental protection in two decades," Blackwelder said.



North Dakota Senator Byron Dorgan (Photo courtesy Office of the Senator)

Some Democrats on the Senate panel did ask Abraham about his views regarding conservation measures, as well as the use of renewable energy sources. Senator Byron Dorgan, a Democrat from North Dakota, queried the Bush nominee about his support for wind power and biomass technologies.

"I will continue to support the [DOE's] commitments in that area," Abraham said. "We've really got to have a balanced approach."

Dorgan also asked Abraham if he sided with the "scientific consensus" that global warming is a real problem caused by human activities.

Abraham would not commit to an answer, but said that he would work hard to address the issue of greenhouse gas production.

Asked by Dorgan if his energy policy vision entailed improving fuel economy standards for automobiles, Abraham said that "miles per gallon is not the only factor" in the equation. Abraham called for the production of more "hybrid" vehicles that run on rechargeable fuel cells.

"The market is driving this faster than the government ever could," Abraham said.

The Senate is expected to report back on the outcome of Abraham's confirmation hearing within a week.

[Click Here for Related Stories.](#)

© Environment News Service (ENS) 2001. All Rights Reserved.



[Environmental Press Releases](#)

Free ENS Daily News Feed by Email

[Email the Environment Editor](#)

Get your personalized news [here](#).

Copyright © 2000 Lycos, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Lycos™ is a registered trademark of Carnegie Mellon University.
[Our Privacy Vow](#) [Terms and Conditions](#) [Standard Advertising Terms and Conditions](#)

24



Energy Department Issues Report to Congress on Long-Term Stewardship of Nuclear Weapons Complex

The Department of Energy (DOE) issues today a Report to Congress containing the most comprehensive analysis to date of its existing and anticipated long-term stewardship obligations at DOE sites. The report, which fulfills a Congressional requirement, identifies the long-term stewardship activities anticipated by the department at as many as 128 sites by the year 2006. DOE already performs long-term stewardship activities at 34 sites that have been cleaned up and closed.

"The report provides a plan for ensuring the safety of DOE sites long after the cleanup has been completed," said Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson. "It also serves as a foundation for determining the science and technology requirements for meeting our long-term stewardship obligations at DOE sites."

While the primary focus of the report covers the period from now through the year 2006, the report provides a preliminary glimpse of what DOE's long-term stewardship obligations may be up to the year 2070.

Long-term stewardship includes monitoring, maintenance, record keeping and other activities necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment from hazards that may remain after cleanup, stabilization, or disposal of waste. The estimated scope, cost and schedule of those activities is summarized in the two volume report.

To date most of the department's efforts have been focused on the cleanup and closure of sites. This report not only clarifies post-cleanup long-term stewardship responsibilities but also informs the public of the department's near term planning and decision making.

The Report to Congress: Long-Term Stewardship is available on the Internet at <http://www.em.doe.gov/>, and through DOE's Center for Environmental Management Information, 470 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Suite 7112, Washington, DC 20024, or by calling 1-800-7-EM-DATA (1-800-736-3282).

Media Contact: Doline Hatchett, 202/586-5806

Release No. R-01-025

Release Date: January 19, 2001

[Back to Previous Page](#)>

January 15, 2001
Weapons Complex Monitor
Page 15
"At Fernald.....Reuse Organization Receives Funding"

AT FERNALD REUSE ORGANIZATION RECEIVES FUNDING

Fernald's Community Reuse Organization (CRO) has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Energy Dept.'s Office of Worker and Community Transition to expand implementation of the organization's Community Transition Plan. The plan is designed to create hundreds of new jobs for Fernald workers during the next several years through the establishment of a revolving loan program, regional partnerships, entrepreneurial assistance, and collaboration in the development of a small-business incubator program. The \$200,000 grant will be the second grant made by the Worker and Community Transition office to the Fernald

group, following a \$325,000 grant from the office last year.

CRO officials said in a statement released by the Fernald site they have been actively seeking funding assistance and has received a great deal of support from Rep. Rob Portman (R-Ohio). "Congressman Portman and his staff understand what we are trying to achieve," declared CRO Chairman Randy Welker. "The individuals that are working to clean up the Fernald site are the same individuals who will be looking for work once the site is closed and we need to make every effort to ensure that they leave employed."

Friday, January 26, 2001

[Federal Register: January 26, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 18)]
[Notices]
[Page 7898]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr26ja01-23]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Revised Public Participation Policy Guidance

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability and solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) today makes available, and is soliciting public comments on, proposed revisions to its Public Participation Policy internal directive (DOE P 1210.1, issued July 29, 1994). The proposed revisions are intended to clarify and update the policy guidance in the directive and to expand it to incorporate findings and recommendations of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's Openness Advisory Panel on improving relations between DOE facilities and their host communities. Under DOE's Directives System, all documents must be reviewed periodically for currency and appropriateness. This policy is not intended to affect requirements imposed by law, regulation, or contractual agreement; neither does it expand or limit any rights available to the public under current law.

DATES: The public comment period will extend to April 30, 2001. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be provided by mail to: U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, Office of Public Affairs and Information, P.O. Box 98518--Attn: DOE PPP Comments, Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518.

by fax to (702) 295-0154--Attn: DOE PPP Comments
or electronically to: DOEPPP_it@nv.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the Proposed Revised Public Participation and Community Relations Policy are available on DOE's World Wide Web Site at http://www.energy.gov, under "Headlines." Copies may also be obtained by writing or calling: The Center for Environmental Management Information, P.O. Box 23769, Washington, DC 20026, Telephone: 1-800-736-3282 (in Washington, DC: 202-863-5084).

For further information on the purpose and substance of DOE's Public Participation and Community Relations Policy, please write or call: Ms. Elizabeth A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs (CI-1), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: 202-586-7328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

DOE issued its Public Participation Policy (DOE P 1210.1) on July 29, 1994. The Policy was in the form of an internal directive that provided policy guidance for DOE officials. Under DOE's Directives System, all documents must be reviewed periodically for currency and appropriateness.

A Task Force of DOE headquarters program and field site managers actively involved in public participation activities was convened to review the policy. The Task Force proposed revisions to clarify and update the policy to reflect current practices and the lessons of six years' experience with public participation.

At about the same time, the Openness Advisory Panel of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board undertook a review of DOE's relationships with the communities surrounding its laboratories and facilities to assess how DOE is perceived as a neighbor, what it is doing well, and what it could do better. The Panel's initial review focused on Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, both in California, and on the Fernald Plant, in Ohio. On November 17, 2000 the Openness Advisory Panel issued its report, titled Relations between DOE Facilities and their Host Communities: A Pilot Review, which presented Findings and Recommendations on improving community relations. As keys to success, the Openness Advisory Panel identified full, open, timely, two-way communication, the building of positive personal relationships, and accountability on the part of DOE managers. The importance of these elements has been reaffirmed and strengthened in the proposed revisions.

Proposed Revised Policy

Under the proposed revised Public Participation and Community Relations Policy, public participation would be defined as open, ongoing two-way communication, both formal and informal, between DOE and its stakeholders concerning DOE's missions and activities. The Policy would recognize that effective public participation is at the core of good community relations, which are essential for DOE facilities to achieve their missions. Under this Policy, DOE would actively seek, consider, and incorporate or otherwise respond in a timely manner to the views of its stakeholders and affected communities in making its decisions. This Policy would function as a framework within which all DOE programs, including programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration, would operate.

The proposed Public Participation and Community Relations Policy is being released for public comment prior to DOE's decision to approve any of the recommended changes.

Issued in Washington D.C., January 16, 2001.

Linda Lingle,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

[FR Doc. 01-2370 Filed 1-25-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P