



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jack Craig, USDOE FEMP
 CC: Task Force Members
 Natural Resource Trustees
 FROM: Jim Bierer, committee chair
 DATE: February 19, 1997
 RE: Informal Recommendations on Natural Resource Restoration

The Natural and Cultural Resources Committee met with representatives of DOE, USEPA, OEPA, and FDF to discuss progress on the draft Natural Resource Impact Assessment and the draft Natural Resource Restoration Plan. As part of this discussion the committee identified two areas where we believe DOE attention is required.

1. There are a great many activities going on at the FEMP which are beginning to change its physical configuration and appearance. In the course of asking questions about these activities, it became apparent that the Task Force was not completely aware of the nature of all of these activities. Almost certainly, area residents are even less informed. We recommend that DOE begin preparing an ongoing series of concise and informative fact sheets to keep citizens informed of site activities, particularly those that are visible from outside the site. Using pictures and describing how these activities relate to expected remediation at the site will help to keep everyone informed. The committee would be happy to discuss this matter further and assist in any way we can.
2. Within the Natural Resource Restoration Plan there are a number of proposals for early action to begin site contouring and resource restoration with the aim of minimizing the visual impact of site activities from local roadways and surrounding properties. These sorts of activities are consistent with previous Task Force recommendations regarding natural resource restoration, contouring, and planting in the buffer zone surrounding the on-site disposal facility. We fully endorse this approach and hope that the relatively small amount of resources required will be appropriated for these activities.

The Natural and Cultural Resources Committee is continuing to review and analyze information as it becomes available and anticipates sending a full slate of recommendations regarding natural resource restoration plans to DOE sometime in 1997. In the meantime, we feel it is useful to identify issues as they come to our attention to ensure that DOE can incorporate stakeholder issues into its plans to the maximum extent possible. Thank you for the opportunity to present these views to you. Please feel free to contact me or Doug Sarno should you have any questions about these informal recommendations.