FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

3712

FCAB UPDATE

Week of June 4, 2001

(Last update was dated April 30, 2001)

MEETING SCHEDULE

DOE Cleanup Progress Briefing Tuesday, June 12, 2001, 6:30 p.m.	**Services Building Conference Room**
Stewardship Committee Meeting Thursday, June 14, 2001, 6:30 p.m.	**Services Building Conference Room**
Full FCAB Meeting Saturday, June 16, 2001, 8:30 a.m.	**Services Building Conference Room**

ATTACHMENTS

- 5/12/01 Stewardship Committee Agenda
- 6/16/01 Full CAB Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes of the 4/19/01 FCAB meeting
- Draft Minutes of the 5/12/01 FCAB meeting
- Proposal for the Fernald Site Multi-Use Educational Facility Feasibility and Design Competition
- News Clippings

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GO TO WWW.FERNALDCAB.ORG

The FCAB website is now available! The site houses FCAB background, recommendations, calendars, and other information. We will continue to improve and update the site, please let Doug know of any information you think would be useful to add.

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

FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
Services Building Conference Room

Thursday, June 14, 2001

AGENDA

Opening Remarks: Pam Dunn

Design Competition and Feasibility Study
- Overview of proposal
- Next steps

Feasibility of On Site Construction of Facilities
- Status and options
- Next steps

Possible Site Visits
- The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago
- The Edge of Appalachia Park
- Others?

Committee members:
Please see attached information on the two centers that have been recommended for possible visits.

Stewardship committee

-- Peggy Norbert Nature Museum Overview --

http://www.chias.org/

Exhibits at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum share a common philosophy--that people learn best by questioning, sharing, discussing, and doing. Each exhibit presents a host of intriguing situations that challenge visitors to connect with science and the natural world. Temporary exhibits enhance the Nature Museum's offerings.

Permanent Exhibits at the Nature Museum:

*Judy Istock Butterfly Haven

Visit the Butterfly Haven beginning Sunday May 6, 2001 and check out all that's new! We're adding plants and trees, special lighting, pathway enhancements, and introducing wonderful new butterfly species! In addition to the beautiful Midwest and North American selection, you'll see exotic blue Morphos--butterflies with 6-inch wingspans--from Central and South America, and Rice Paper butterflies--large, white creatures, related to Monarchs--from Asia. Don't miss these and other new international species. Be sure and flutter by the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum again and again! Read the April 20 press release.

The Judy Istock Butterfly Haven includes a 28-foot tall greenhouse aflutter with live butterflies! Visit over 500 butterflies representing over a dozen species native to the Midwest. Adjacent to the greenhouse are interactive graphics that encourage visitors to learn about the lifecycles, migration, and behavior of one of nature's most magical creatures. In addition, the Museum is home to the only breeding lab of its kind in North America.

*City Science

Gain a whole new perspective on nature when you tour this 3,000 square foot, 2-story house. The infrastructure has been peeled away so you can meet the creatures that inhabit every city home.You will understand how every time you flip a switch or turn up the heat in your house, you are tapping into processes being conducted hundreds or even thousands of miles away. City Science provides an opportunity to investigate the relationships that link urban living to the natural world.

*Ameritech Environmental Central

Be one of the first to experience this new interactive exhibit. In Environmental Central, grapple with tough environmental issues such as drought. Using the latest environmental data, and through group discussion facilitated by Museum staff, try to sort out a way to address one of today's large-scale environmental issues. Get a glimpse of the complexities involved in environmental decision-making and understand how our decisions impact the future of our region's people and environment.

*C. Paul Johnson Family Water Lab

Enter the C. Paul Johnson Family Charitable Foundation Water Lab through a flowing wall of water alive with microbial images. Once in Water Lab, an interactive model of an urban river system demonstrates how human impact shapes our waterways. A giant stream table allows you to engineer your own river system, and we've built a water chemistry lab so that you can study the composition of water sampled from around the area.

*Wilderness Walk

Over the past 150 years, the ecology of the Midwest has been radically altered by human settlement. While in the mid-1800's most of Illinois was prairie, today only tiny remnants remain. Hundreds of square miles of woodland have long since been converted to farms, towns, and cities. These ecosystems provided habitat for hundreds of species of animals and plants. Where are they now?
Children's Gallery

Where can a four-year-old dig under the prairie, or swim into a beaver lodge and not get soaked? In the Children's Gallery-a kid friendly area designed specially for children three to eight. 1,300 square feet of safe-space provide a place where young visitors can explore two native environments: a wetland and a prairie. Underground and aboveground exhibits take kids though a world of scientific fun.

*Outdoor Exhibit

Outdoors we've planted the grounds around the museum with plant communities that used to dominate the Midwestern landscape. Be sure to visit the prairie wildflowers growing near Fullerton Parkway and the butterfly garden along the south edge of the North Pond.

The Edge of Appalachia
(This writeup came from the web site fermatainc.com)

Ohio is better known for its electoral votes than its natural resources. An ill-defined, amorphous shape clinging to the lower shores of Lake Erie, Ohio evokes vacant cities and industrial might of a bygone era. Ohio is as progressive as rust.

In truth, this unflattering portrait of Ohio is as accurate as the Texas depicted in the television series "Dallas." A demure state, Ohio is shy about revealing her beauty. Ohio is a state that must be explored...scrutinized...uncovered...revealed.

In late December, at the invitation of Adams County, PACT, Inc. and The Nature Conservancy, Fermata visited the southeastern corner of Ohio in a region known as the "Little Smokies" or "The Edge of Appalachia." The county seat — West Union — is about an hour's drive east of Cincinnati. The southern boundary of the county is the Ohio River, and the eastern edge marks the beginning (or end) of the Appalachian range.

Diverting from Adams County for a moment, we are interested in how the United States is almost completely oriented from east to west. The western edge of the Appalachians is known as the "Toe Hills." The eastern border of the Rockies is known as the "Front Range" (why not the "back" range?). European settlement in much of the southwest originated in Mexico, yet we still ascribe to Horace Greely's adage: Do not lounge in the cities! There is room and health in the country, away from the crowds of idlers and imbeciles. Go west, before you are fitted for no life but that of the factory.

Ohio testifies to the power of Greely's sentiment. Following settlement of the Atlantic coast, and the initial push across the Appalachians into Kentucky, Ohio represented the "West." The Ohio River is formed in Pittsburgh by the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers and travels about 980 miles to Cairo, Illinois, and the Mississippi River (compliantly flowing from east to west). Therefore the Ohio offered a thoroughfare for Greely's men eager to escape the "crowds of idlers and imbeciles." Adams County is a product of this movement, and its history is inextricably linked to the westward migration of settlers from the Atlantic states. Adams County, we soon learned, cannot be understood without first understanding the River.

So too must one understand the Native Americans that once populated this region. Nothing could serve as a more fitting (or powerful) monument to their presence than Serpent Mound State Memorial. This quarter-mile long effigy looks like an immense uncoiling snake. Archeologists continue to argue about who may have constructed the viper, but the consensus appears to be that the Fort Ancient Indians, who lived in Ohio between 900 and 1550 AD, should be credited with the work.

Virtually nowhere can you travel in Adams County without being confronted by its pre-European past. Burial mounds pock the landscape, and farmers continue to uncover shards and arrowheads when they plow their fields in the spring. Many Adams County residents have gathered sizable collections of artifacts, yet few are accessible to the public. Adams County keeps its secrets well.

In fact, the interpretation at Serpent Mound State Memorial is a sad example of this minimalist approach. One (as in ONE) interpretive sign attempts to explain this world-renowned site, and on the day of our visit the small museum, shuttered and locked tight, offered no answers to our many questions. For example, we wondered just who is Serpent Mound a memorial to? For an archeological site depicted in textbooks throughout the world, one would expect more than just a token effort at explaining its significance.

Yet we found the same to be true a few days later when we visited Fort Hill, another product of a mound building culture situated a few miles to the north in bordering Highland County. According to the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) web site, "Fort Hill State Memorial is a nature preserve containing one of the best preserved Indian hilltop enclosures in North America. The Hopewell Indians (100 B.C.- A.D. 500) constructed the 1 1/2 mile long earthwork hilltop enclosure as well as at least two ceremonial buildings and probably a village in the Brush creek Valley." Yet without access to a computer and the Internet, we were left with a closed museum (not reopening until Memorial Day), one interpretive sign that attempted a cursory description of the site and one hand-painted sign, mounted askew, that announced the "Fort Wall." Interestingly, according to the one interpretive sign at the beginning of the trail, the structure, once thought to be a fort, is now believed to have served a social, religious or ceremonial purpose.

As we wandered the Edge of Appalachia, we were continuously confronted with an exasperating absence of a story to fill the space between the covers (even though on one day we were accompanied by local historian Dr. Stan Brown). The human history of Adams County (the natural history will follow) is a curious (and sumptuous) potage of Serpent Mound, Zane's Trace, tobacco farmers, riverboats, stone farmhouses, covered bridges, the Amish, Shaker baskets and a resilience that has kept humankind on this land for uncountable generations. Yet history by its very nature (the past) is static, and demands a raconteur to come alive. The dead do not speak for themselves. The Edge of Appalachia, on this score, is silent.

Fortunately, we prefer a clean slate for developing our tourism strategies than one marred by failed attempts. The Edge of Appalachia represents potential unrealized. Manchester awaits restoration. Serpent Mound awaits interpretation. Zane's Trace awaits demarcation. The artists and artisans in the region await discovery.

More importantly, the world of travel awaits the Edge of Appalachia. Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus are urban centers teeming with Ohioans eager to reconnect with the elements of humanity that are sacrificed in the city. The Edge of Appalachia offers refuge to these travelers eager to escape the sharp edges of the city.

The two (the traveler and the destination) must first be introduced. Adams County and the Edge of Appalachia must send invitations to their guests. Tidy up around the house, and turn on the porch light. The basics of tourism do not differ so greatly from the basics of neighborliness. In fact, the word that comes to mind is "hospitality." The Edge of Appalachia does not suffer from a lack of resources (historical, cultural or natural). The Edge of Appalachia lacks a plan for letting the world know it exists.

FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

FULL BOARD MEETING
Services Building Conference Room

Saturday June 16, 2001

DRAFT AGENDA

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Call to Order
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Chair's Remarks and Ex Officio Announcements
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Update on Rebaselining and Supplement Appropriation
10:00– 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 – 10:45	Overview of Design Competition and Feasibility Study
10:45 - 11:30 a.m.	Overview of Site Facility Needs and Potential for Integration With Stewardship
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	New Member Recruitment Status
11:45 –12:00 p.m.	Public Comment
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn for Lunch

FULL BOARD MEETING
Services Building Conference Room

Thursday, April 19, 2001

MINUTES (DRAFT)

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) met from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2001, at the DOE Fernald Site in Hamilton, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in the Federal Register and in a postcard mailing sent to local key stakeholders.

Members Present	French Bell Jim Bierer Sandy Butterfield Marvin Clawson Lisa Crawford Lou Doll Pam Dunn Gene Jablonowski Jane Harper Steve McCracken Graham Mitchell Robert Tabor Thomas Wagner Gene Willeke
Members Absent	Steve Depoe Fawn Thompson
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 local community, and representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) and Fluor Fernald (Fluor).

1. Call to Order

Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. General Remarks and Announcements

The minutes of the February and March Board meetings were approved. Jim asked CAB members to read the summary of CAT report #20 on rebaselining issues. Jim noted the Fernald site occurrence report of an accidental wastewater release into Paddy's Run and noted that the FCAB will be receiving these reports and monitoring them on a regular basis. These issues will not be discussed at the board meetings unless they are significant enough to warrant FCAB action.

The SSAB Chairs held a conference call and unanimously support sending a letter to Secretary Abraham on funding issues. A new draft is available and the Board is asked to take action. After review, the Board voted unanimously to support the letter as written. Jim noted that some boards are sending individual letters expressing similar support because Hanford may have some trouble getting this letter approved in a timely fashion. The Board expressed the desire to send copies of the final letter to other individuals to ensure widespread knowledge of the issues. The board also would like to request that the Hanford CAB include a full distribution list. It is very important that this letter be completed by May 3 so that it can be presented at the Congressional cleanup briefing on that date.

Jim distributed copies of letters from the Secretary of Energy to several Governors asking for coordination. It was noted that a lot of these arrangements are already in place. It was also noted that any reviews or committees that are put together should include stakeholders.

Jim noted that Laverne Mayfield from AFL-CIO is still interested in the FCAB. She could not make this meeting, but will try to make future meetings. Lisa Blair is also still interested in participating, she is a student recommended by Gene Willeke and will try to come to a future meeting. Jim is still hoping to connect with Commissioner Portune. Support was expressed to keep Fawn Thompson involved with the CAB and seek ways to ensure her participation.

There is a long-term stewardship workshop in Grand Junction Colorado planned for the end of July and the next SSAB Chairs meeting will be held in Santa Fe at the end of August. There will be an SSAB workshop on groundwater, November 8 –10 at Savannah River.

3. Ex-Officio Announcements

Graham Mitchell noted that Fernald and other Ohio sites were all facing budget issues in the latest budget. All three ex-officio deferred comments until the discussion on

rebaselining. Gary Stegner noted that there was going to be a site tour on May 8 for anyone interested.

4. Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee

The FCAB did receive a response from Mike Donnelly of Centers for Disease Control which referred to a contractor report evaluating all five health effects subcommittees around the DOE complex. The report was fairly inconclusive and did not provide any real direction with regard to the future of the Fernald committee. Concern was expressed that the letter and report did not address the issues that are important to the Fernald community. It was noted that members of the committee had not gotten any additional information from the CDC. The Board decided to send another letter to reiterate the concerns of the FCAB that the need for the Health Effects Subcommittee still exists, that the contractor report does not help to move the issue forward ,and that we hope to see some action in the near future. Jim noted that until we get closure from the CDC, we cannot move forward on exploring other alternatives.

5. Waste Pits

Dave Lojek, DOE, provided an overview of activities on the waste pits project. 35 Unit trains with over 2,000 rail cars have been sent to Envirocare to date with three more scheduled before the end of May. Pit 1 is 60% complete, Pit 2 is 15% complete, Pit 3 is 50% complete and Pits 4 and 5 will start later this year. Integration with other on site materials has also begun with 300 barrels from waste management accepted so far.

There is an increased tonnage of approximately 125,000 tons due to higher moisture content than projected in the design. This will have both financial and scheduling impacts. Currently, funding is the primary limitation for processing, there is extra capacity though not enough to make up for the forecasted increase in volume. Railcar turnaround is the secondary limitation in increasing speed of the project. To date, the dryers have only been in operation about 25% of the time. With the newer pits that are to be excavated, the dryers will need to up as much as 80% of the time. The site is still working on the elevated radiological airborne levels. Operations have been studied individually to understand their contribution to the problem. The feed to the dryers will be controlled and an air handling system is being put into place at the pug mill to pull airborne contamination away. Once the system is in place, the limits on radiological feed rate can be removed. The workers break room and supervisor trailers were relocated. All potential impacts have been to worker health, and have not had impact outside the project.

Gene Willeke noted that the FCAB concern has always been for the workers and is concerned about these issues as work moves to the more hazardous silos projects. Lojek noted that there have been issues with issuance of wrong respirators, presence of workers in the wrong areas, and that these issues are being addressed. It was questioned what level of independent oversight existed to ensure worker safety. Lojek noted that HQ has become interested in the health issues and are looking at the

problems. Dennis Carr noted that the radiological control organization within Fluor is independent of the project. There is also an independent safety review organization that reports directly to the President and a facility representative organization that oversees the projects independently. These groups also look at the plans for future projects in the operational readiness review process.

Jim Bierer asked about the approach to excavate Pit 5 and limiting airborne contamination and reducing standing water. Lojek noted that the water helps to limit airborne contamination and that the pit will be uncovered in a step-wise fashion to keep it as safe as possible. There are also plans to blend the dryer materials from other pits to achieve the needed moisture content.

Lisa asked about the level of communication of the results of monitoring. Dennis Carr noted that there is a great deal of data collected every day and it is a massive effort to collect and analyze the data which are reported weekly and discussed at safety briefings.

6. Uranium Water Remediation Levels

Dennis Carr noted that in February, EPA revised its primary drinking water standards and published final standards for Uranium. The result was an increase from the interim standard of 20 ppb to a final standard of 30 ppb. The OU5 Record of Decision used the interim standard as a "to be considered" target for cleanup of the aquifer, discharge to the Great Miami River, the waste acceptance criteria in the disposal facility, and cleanup standards in the production area where more mobile forms of Uranium exists. In the responsiveness summary to the ROD, it was noted that upon promulgation of a final standard, these numbers would be reconsidered. The site has sent a letter to USEPA to request the adoption of the 300 ppb drinking water standard for the cleanup target of the Great Miami Aquifer and the new performance-based requirement for discharges to the Great Miami River. An explanation of significant differences would be developed and presented to EPA in the next few weeks for final action this summer. No changes are proposed for the WAC in the disposal facility or soil cleanup.

Pam Dunn questioned whether the responsiveness summary was considered part of the legal record. There was no formal answer, but USEPA offered to find out. The ROD does indicate that the number was a proposed level, and there will be an ESD to make any change to the ROD a formal decision. Pam also asked how the change in Uranium levels impact the ability to capture all of the other contaminants. It was noted that Uranium was the target contaminant for soils and that there are other contaminants of concern in the soils, but that groundwater contamination is almost exclusively uranium. There is no change to the soil cleanup levels. Lisa asked what kind of money might be saved through this change. It was reported that the site would save roughly $7 to $10 million for each year that the pumping operation was no longer needed. The change will reduce the size of the plume from as large as 220 acres to a maximum of 180 acres.

Gene Willeke expressed support for the change, noting that there was no significant change in risk. It was noted that cost is not an issue for the change, the change is brought about by a change in regulation by EPA. Lisa expressed concern that the CAB and Fernald community were not kept informed of the pending change so that it was never put on the CAB's agenda. The CAB did hear about the issue in January for the first time and asked to be involved. The CAB was assured that they would be involved and yet did not hear anything until after a letter was already sent to EPA. It was noted that much better communication is needed in similar matters. The CAB will look at the issue further during the public comment period for the ESD.

7. Rebaselining

Steve McCracken provided an overview of the activities to date. The validated baseline needs to be in place by the end of September. Things certainly can change over the coming months. The process started with signing the contract with Fluor in November. Over the past months, Fluor has developed options and gotten input from all parties, while DOE has waited to see what people thought before taking a position. DOE did charter an independent evaluation of Fluor's scenarios to see if cost assumptions were legitimate, particularly with scenarios 3 and 6. Fluor projected a 21 month acceleration and savings of $450 million by suspending soils operations for a few years. A lot of concerns have been raised by both regulators and stakeholders as to how these scenarios will impact the hard work and decisions that have occurred at the site. The independent team validated that the scope of each of the scenarios were the same and that the schedule differences were logical, however there were inconsistencies in the application of labor and overhead between the scenarios. As a result, the review team concluded that the 21 month schedule acceleration is defensible, but that the cost difference while still significant would likely be less than the $450 million projected by Fluor.

It is DOE's intent to support Fluor's proposal to slow down soil excavation and on site disposal as they believe this is the best opportunity to achieve overall success. Initially Scenario 6 indicated a four year suspension of soils activities, current estimates show it may be as few as two years, but this is still under review. The FCAB evaluation pointed out that during years 2002 and 2003 where soils will be slowed down, most of the silos money is targeted for accelerated waste retrieval, so that it does not appear that the need for silos funding will really jeopardize the reopening of the disposal facility. Doug asked for elaboration on the shortened length of time for soils slowdown. Dennis Carr replied that concerns about too much work being pushed to the out years resulted in a review of the process and spreading the soils work out over a longer period. Steve noted that the key to getting soils work done is ensuring that the buildings are out of the way in time.

Gene Willeke asked whether approaches such as phosphate amendment were being considered to help to prevent leaching of uranium into groundwater. Steve added that it is essential to keep excavations open for as short a period as possible to protect

groundwater. No open excavations exist now. However, under Scenario 6 excavations would be open for a cumulative period of about 36 quarters, while under Scenario 3 excavations would be open for a cumulative period of about 47 quarters. Steve noted that the faster we are able to do the work, the less risk of contamination to the aquifer.

Gene Jablonowski said that EPA does not consider a few hundred million dollars of potential savings in the out years to be a significant enough amount of money to be making these drastic decisions. EPA also does not believe there is HQ awareness or buy-in to the forward funding concepts. DOE as a whole never asked for adequate funding and that is the ultimate problem. The $290 million did not come from anyone associated with the project. The system in place to request funding has never worked properly. DOE should have asked Congress for adequate funding, that is a critical aspect of the consent agreement. Lisa asked what EPA could do. Gene responded that EPA cannot take action until after a milestone is missed or work is stopped. EPA also feels that $290 million is still a lot of money and there must be other options than to stop work on key projects.

Lisa noted that there is a concern in the community that conducting the interim closure of the on site disposal facility with a "permanent" closure, increases the risk that it will never open again. She wondered whether there is a way to get some sort of written guarantee that the OSDF will be reopened. The community has given a lot over the years and compromised on a lot of things that they did not want to do. Graham noted that it comes down to funding, down the road, it is likely that more funding will be needed by the silos in future years and the concern is that when it comes time to open the cell, the money will not be available. Doug noted that the FCAB position is that while the FCAB does not want to shut down the OSDF, there is the need to face the reality of funding. Rather than provide an open-ended opportunity for closure of the OSDF, we need to search for an opportunity to make real progress, but if it does not work then the OSDF opens up anyway. A pre-determined endpoint of the soils slowdown is needed. Lisa said it is a challenge to Fluor to make this process work.

Graham suggested that everyone should continue to push on the budget. Members of the FCAB agreed that this was important, however, it is still necessary to move forward with the funding that is in hand. Jim Bierer reiterated the FCAB's challenge to continue to look for increased efficiencies to make the most of the money that is available. Graham asked for the CAB to provide some clarification and direction on their recommendations.

The FCAB decided to write a letter to reiterate some of its key recommendations and request that DOE explore some way of ensuring that the suspension of soils and the OSDF is only for a defined period of time. The CAB wants to find a way to get back to a spirit of collaboration that has always been the hallmark of work at Fernald.

8. Recommendations on Trails and Education Center

The board was asked to provide comments by April 27 on the criteria recommendations for trails and the education center, after which the recommendations will be finalized and sent to DOE. It was noted that there had been a great deal of input to the recommendations.

9. Public Comment

Jim Bierer opened the floor to public comment. There were none.

10. Adjournment

Jim Bierer adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the April 19, 2001, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

James Bierer, Chair Date
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Gary Stegner, Public Affairs Officer Date
U.S. Department of Energy
Deputy Designated Federal Official

FULL BOARD MEETING
Services Building Conference Room

Saturday, May 12, 2001

MINUTES (DRAFT)

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) met from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2001, at the DOE Fernald Site in Hamilton, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in the Federal Register and in a postcard mailing sent to local key stakeholders.

Members Present	French Bell Jim Bierer Sandy Butterfield Marvin Clawson Lisa Crawford Lou Doll Pam Dunn Gene Jablonowski Jane Harper Graham Mitchell Robert Tabor Thomas Wagner
Members Absent	Steve Depoe Steve McCracken Fawn Thompson Gene Willeke
Designated Federal Official	Gary Stegner
Phoenix Environmental Staff	Douglas Sarno
Fluor Fernald Staff	Tisha Patton

Approximately 15 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the local community, and representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE), Fluor Fernald, and the Critical Analysis Team (CAT).

1. Call to Order

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

2. General Remarks and Announcements

Jim Bierer reported that the FCAB recommendations on trails and the education center were delivered to DOE and a new letter was sent to the CDC on the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee. A tour and meeting with Commissioner Todd Portune was established for May 15. Jim and Lisa will meet with him and discuss potential involvement with the FCAB. Lisa Blair is still interested in membership and will come to future meetings. Jim noted that there is no update on the SSAB Chairs letter, but he thought it was still moving forward.

3. Ex-Officio Announcements

Glenn Griffiths sat in for Steve McCracken. He noted that 2,500 people came to the 50th anniversary celebration at Fernald and there was a lot of exposure for the site on television and in the newspapers. Everyone was very pleased with how the day turned out. The news of what is happening at the site is reaching a lot of people. Lisa suggested that a packet of information and news reports be sent to the Congressional delegation. Pam questioned why no representative from the Ohio Field Office attends the FCAB meetings. If Susan Brechbill is unable to attend, the FCAB would like to see Jack Craig. Glenn said he would pass the message along.

Graham Mitchell noted that there is still opportunity to improve the budget situation and we need to keep the pressure on to restore Fernald's funding. Lisa noted that she went to the Congressional workshop on the DOE cleanup program, and met with a number of DOE officials. Rep. Doc Hastings said that work was underway to restore DOE's funding. There are very few specifics and it is not clear how Fernald might fare. There was concern expressed because DOE never requested the budget Fernald actually needs, so there is a perception that Fernald was fully funded. Lisa has recommended that stakeholders be involved in the DOE top to bottom review and has sent DOE a list of potential candidates. There was concern expressed that a number of reviews have already been done and many groups are already in place so DOE should not recreate the wheel. It was noted that while the EM budget has remained relatively steady over the years, it has accepted a great many programs from other DOE departments without getting additional funding. For example, the EM program is now winterizing the Portsmouth plant with EM funds.

French Bell reported that a single staff at HHS operates three different advisory groups and move at a fairly slow pace with meetings only every six months or so. The staff rotates its attention to the different committees, and that is why it takes longer to get a response. It also takes several years to get through the budget process and request the needed funding from DOE, so the resources need to be projected well in advance. Lisa

got feedback from senior officials within HHS that the Fernald subcommittee is finished. It was noted that the FCAB can accept that, but needs a formal response to that effect so that the community can move forward. The lack of communication with committee members themselves over the past year is unconscionable. It was noted that there is a Health Effects Subcommittee Chairs meeting next week and there is little knowledge about this.

4. Rebaselining Update and Discussion

Doug Sarno noted that the FCAB sent a followup letter to clarify its concerns and to request that DOE and the regulators explore a closed end assurance on the slowdown of the soils project. Dennis Carr said that Fluor is producing a series of deliverables to DOE. They have completed a narrative statement of the services to be delivered on each project on the site. They are completing a manpower estimate for each project and construction estimates for discrete tasks. Then the entire baseline will be rolled up and balanced against the $290 million budget. Toward the end of May the full product will be delivered to the DOE. Hundreds of people across the site are involved in this process. Internally, all of the groups on site will meet to look at the manpower profiles to understand the expectations across 114 labor categories through the completion of the site. Johnny Reising said that DOE has an internal review team to organize DOE's review process. There will be a series of comment and response activities throughout the process, DOE hopes to have these all complete at the site level by October 1 so that a baseline is in place to do the job.

Graham noted that the FCAB's proposal for a defined endpoint is on the table, but they do not expect to look at such ideas until it is clear that DOE will miss a milestone, then they will begin negotiations for possible solutions.

Dennis Carr noted that the forward funding idea is moving forward and Fluor is in negotiation with a contractor on the process. Results are expected by the end of May.

5. Stewardship

Pam reported that Dave Geiser from DOE HQ attended the stewardship committee meeting and was supportive of the idea for an education center at Fernald following remediation. There is an opportunity to compete for some grants from HQ to do stewardship-related projects. Fernald is preparing a proposal on data management. Each field office can submit up to three proposals. There is a very short time frame. There is a total of $8 million in funding for the stewardship office. $4 million is kept at HQ, $4 million was sent to Idaho. HQ has decided to set aside $1.5 million of the money to go to sites to fund interesting projects. Doug Sarno suggested that a design competition would help to get a conceptual model of the education center and create ties to the education community. It would provide visibility for the center and a visual icon to use in generating excitement and funding. Pam said that the FCAB would also

like to submit a proposal to conduct a feasibility study for the education center. The proposal needs to be complete by May 22. Tom Wagner noted that this type of competition is often used to get a conceptual design that can be used to promote and pursue the project, although the final design may end up looking quite a bit different. Ohio State recently did a similar competition and got major design firms competing. The competition would include the integration of the other activities envisioned on site such as the trails and Native American burials. The competition should be completed within the next year to have a conceptual design in place as soon as possible.

Dennis Carr reported that the Health and Safety building is slated to be torn down by the end of the year. This requires new facilities for a number of employees and most important a medical facility to be replaced on site. The question was posed as to whether a new facility could be built on site that would serve site needs for now and then the needs of the education center after remediation. Johnny Reising noted that the timing of this is very important because the site has immediate needs and plans for construction.

Gene Jablonowski noted that the plans for the education center sound a lot like the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museumin Chicago which operates the same way and brings in education groups and hosts events. It might be worth looking at as an example.

By unanimous decision, it was decided that the FCAB would support a proposal for both a feasibility study and design competition for the education center. The two projects could be done in parallel. DOE should take the lead on the feasibility study of meeting the near term needs of the site and transitioning to the long-term stewardship needs, the complications of building during the active remediation process, and the criteria the FCAB has proposed. The design competition will be viewed as an extension of the Future of Fernald process. The question was asked whether this had to be located on the 23 acres. It was noted that the feasibility study needs to take all issues into account and determine what makes the most sense. Doug and Tom Wagner will develop the concept for the design competition and provide the pieces to DOE to put the overall proposal together.

6. Direct Rail to NTS

Jim Sattler provided an update on the demonstration project to evaluate direct rail to NTS. Over 110 truck shipments have gone to NTS this year with another 150 planned. Inter-modal shipments are still being considered for this material, now with a direct loading of material on the Fernald site. A lot has been learned and a lot still needs to be learned. Legacy wastes will be put into sealand containers and loaded onto rail cars at the site and transferred to trucks at a facility in Cisco, Utah for the rest of the trip to NTS. The truck route will go on Interstate 70 to U.S. 50 and not over the Hoover Dam. There is no opposition expected from Nevada as the materials are not being transferred from rail to truck there. Concern was raised about issues of waste storage on the Goshute Reservation and whether these shipments would go near that site, and it was

reported that they would not. The shipping will rely on the railroad tracking system for updates on railcar location, then Qualcomm will be used to track trucks. The railcars will be loaded on site then brought to the site gate still on the Fernald property where they will be picked up by CSX. This is not unit train service so it will take ten days to get from the site to Cisco. The demonstration project may begin as soon as late May or early June. The site will evaluate full life-cycle costs as to whether to pursue this mode of transportation in the future. The site is also exploring the possibility of using sealand containers as reusable containers and using containers from the shipping company as reusable containers. The site will also explore whether shipments can be done in conjunction with the unit trains from the Waste Pits and what options might exist for transporting silos material.

7. Silo 3

Fluor has been reviewing the Silo 3 design to determine what can be kept and what needs to be redone. The project is being rescoped with regard to retrieval, packaging and shipping of the material from the silo and making the best use of existing on site resources. Plans are to explore use of larger packages that can be sent by rail on the unit trains using real time shipment without a lot of interim storage on site. This creates more room on the interim storage pad which will now be the location of the treatment facility to provide the project with more room to operate.

A scale model was presented to demonstrate how material would be excavated from the silo. Plans are to cut a hole in the side of the silo and use commercially available robotic construction equipment to directly excavate the material in its dry state. Evaluation is being given to a wide variety of equipment that might be able to do the job within the project's constraints. Operations would be conducted using remote control, cameras and negative pressure to limit worker exposure and provide safe ventilation. Excavation would be conducted at a relatively slow rate which will be tied to rate of treatment and transfer. A number of questions were asked about the safety of the process and the structural integrity of the silos. The silos were designed for a lot of hydrostatic pressure and there is very little pressure on the walls at this time, so it is expected that there is plenty of strength to handle this approach. A question was asked about the creation of airborne contaminants. There will not be any workers inside the silo or near the excavation. A detailed design has yet to be done for the containment but a great deal of attention will be paid to this.

The CAT was asked about their opinions about this approach. They reminded the CAB that none of the past failures were due to technology, but to management or design. Conceptually this approach makes sense, it is important to keep it simple, but the most difficult issues have yet to be fully designed and there needs to be a lot of attention made to these details as the design moves forward. The CAT has been brought into the process at a very early stage and the CAT will be offering lots of detailed advice.

DOE noted that Fluor had provided enough information to make the decision to move forward with this simplified approach to retrieval. In the next few weeks DOE will make the decision to move forward and then Fluor will start to put together a much more detailed design. The FCAB asked to be kept up to date on the design and key decisions.

A question was raise with regard to the status of the accelerated waste retrieval project. It was noted that this was now a legal and contractual process and the site was hopeful that an arrangement will be reached shortly to allow Fluor to get back into the field. Members of the FCAB expressed support for a quick resolution so that progress can resume.

8. Use of Lawsuit Funds

The question was raised as to whether it made sense to explore disbursement of funds from the lawsuit for the education center, if indeed funds would be available beyond those being distributed to the medical monitoring program or the class. Several individuals believed there was no room in the wording of the lawsuit for this sort of project and that it would not be fair to the class. There was little support for the idea and it was abandoned.

9. Public Comment

Jim Bierer opened the floor to public comment. There were none.

10. Adjournment

Jim Bierer adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the May 12, 2001, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

_____

James Bierer, Chair Date
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

_____

Gary Stegner, Public Affairs Officer Date
U.S. Department of Energy
Deputy Designated Federal Official

Long-Term Stewardship Pilot Project Proposal

FERNALD SITE MULTI-USE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY AND DESIGN COMPETITION

Submitted to:
Office of Long-Term Stewardship
Department of Energy

Submitted by:
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
in conjunction with the
U.S. Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project

May 15, 2001

1.0 Impact and Benefits

1.1 Problem Identification and Need

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) is an Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board serving the Fernald Environmental Management Project, a 1,050-acre Department of Energy (DOE) site approximately 17 miles northwest of Cincinnati, Ohio. The FCAB was chartered by DOE in 1993 and tasked with providing guidance and recommendations to DOE and the regulators in four basic areas: remediation levels; waste disposition; prioritization of work; and final land use. The FCAB produced its first major set of recommendations on these issues in mid-1995, and since that time has continued to provide DOE and the regulators with informed public guidance on remediation progress, funding issues, and ultimate land use.

The FCAB, and most specifically the FCAB Stewardship Committee, has remained intensely interested in final land use issues. Fernald's final land use decision devotes 123 acres to the On-Site Disposal Facility, 904 acres to natural resource restoration and 23 acres for future community use. However, the level of public access to the site after cleanup and the public use amenities/facilities that will be available are still being determined.

To that end, the FCAB instituted the Future of Fernald process, a stakeholder-led effort that has been exploring issues surrounding the appropriate use of the Fernald site post-cleanup. Three large stakeholder workshops have been conducted since 1999 under the auspices of the FCAB, the Fernald Community Reuse Organization, Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health, and Fernald Living History, Inc. As a result of these workshops, a **Community Vision for the Future of Fernald** was developed in the fall of 2000 (see Attachment 1). This vision statement identifies Fernald as a "regional destination for educating this and future generations about the rich and varied history of Fernald ... that serves the ongoing information needs of area residents, education needs of local academic institutions, and reinterment of Native American remains." This vision has received consensus support from area stakeholders and the regulators at the Fernald site. In order to implement this vision, Fernald stakeholders would like to determine the feasibility of an educational facility located on the Fernald site. The Fernald CAB recently provided recommendations to DOE that outline desired criteria for such a facility (see Attachment 2).

This proposal is submitted as an avenue to accomplish two tasks: to evaluate the feasibility of locating a multi-use educational facility on the Fernald site, and to sponsor a competition for conceptual design for such a facility in cooperation with local and regional university schools of planning and architecture.

1.2. Objectives

The objectives of this pilot project proposal are:

a) To evaluate the feasibility of locating a multi-use educational facility on the Fernald site.
b) Through this evaluation, to compare relative benefits of constructing a new facility at or near completion of site closure vs. erecting a facility in the near term for project administrative needs that can retrofitted for educational center use at a later date.
c) To host a competition for the conceptual design of the facility in cooperation with local and regional universities.
d) To promote, encourage and maintain stakeholder and regulator involvement throughout the process.

1.3. Benefits and Impacts

The Future of Fernald process has clearly shown that there is strong local public and regulator support for a multi-use educational facility at Fernald. A feasibility study, especially one that compares near-term construction and long-term reuse vs. longer-term new construction, is essential. The stakeholders, DOE and the site closure contractor, Fluor Fernald, Inc., need to have the information necessary to make the best possible decision regarding this facility. A design competition, which builds on the knowledge gained in the feasibility study, will serve not only to enhance the overall visibility of the site, but also will provide a visual touchstone for the site and the stakeholders to use in pursuing additional funding and support for the facility.

2.0 Implementation Plan

2.1. Scope

The proposed feasibility study will investigate the siting of a multi-use educational facility on the Fernald site. The FCAB has already, as an outgrowth of the Future of Fernald process, made a recommendation to DOE and the regulators containing suggested criteria for such a facility. Criteria include:

- Adequate spaces for both large and small group learning;
- Auditorium-style space;
- Environmental research and groundwater education facilities;
- Housing of and access to environmental monitoring results;
- Facilities for storage and viewing of Fernald Living History tapes;
- Space to house Fernald's historical and remediation records;
- Native American exhibits, displays, etc., including information on Native American reburials on site;
- Exhibits, displays, etc., regarding Fernald prior to the Cold War, its role during the Cold War, and technical processes used at Fernald;
- Space for examples of tools, equipment and other items used at Fernald; and
- Space for photo/video documentation of site history.

The proposed study will evaluate siting of an educational facility that can meet these criteria, and in addition, will examine whether the most feasible approach is construction of a building in the near term to meet current administrative needs at the site that can subsequently be retrofitted to serve as an educational facility upon the completion of remediation.

The siting feasibility study will then be used to provide direction for a college- and university-level design competition intended to identify potential approaches to achieving the stakeholder criteria for the proposed educational facility.

2.2. Task/Issue Descriptions and Technical Approach

2.2.1. Siting Feasibility Issue Descriptions

There is an immediate need to understand the cost and implementability issues regarding the siting of a multi-use educational facility at Fernald. Examples of such issues to be addressed and answered during the course of the siting feasibility study are:

- The most suitable locations within available areas of the site for construction of an education facility;
- The details that must be considered in order to achieve full integration of the facility with the trails and educational components envisioned for the site;
- The timing of design and construction and the ability to integrate construction activities and siting of the facility with site remediation, in particular with regard to access, waste/material transport and natural resource restoration.;
- The feasibility of constructing a building or buildings to meet current site administration needs that could later be retrofitted to meet the needs of the education facility;
- The associated siting considerations for construction of an education facility, such as roadway access, parking, utilities, and permitting, and ideas for making the facility and its ongoing use as environmentally-friendly as possible;
- Likely annual operating and maintenance costs for the facility;
- Recommendations on management and long-term care of the facility;
- The likely size and cost of constructing a facility that meets the criteria outlined by the FCAB, both from scratch and as a retrofit to an existing building; and
- The likely sources of funding that may be available to bring the project to completion.

2.2.2. Task Descriptions for Design Competition

The design competition will be open to local and regional college and university schools of architecture, planning, etc., and will build upon the results of the siting feasibility study. Specific tasks include:

- Develop rules/guidance for competition and criteria for award --- Stakeholders and regulators, through their involvement with the FCAB Stewardship Committee, will develop basic guidance for conduct of the competition; criteria for award will be finalized based on results of the siting feasibility study.
- Announce competition --- The FCAB will take the lead in sponsoring, promoting and marketing the design competition.
- Conduct site meeting for competition teams --- The FCAB, in conjunction with DOE and Fluor Fernald, will host a site meeting for competition teams, approximately six weeks after the competition announcement. This meeting will include a site tour and overall Fernald briefing, and will also provide an opportunity for competition teams to hear from local stakeholders.
- Identify committee of judges --- A panel made up of representatives from the Stewardship Committee (to be selected at a later date) will perform research to identify and contact committee judges.
- Conduct design show and make award --- The design show is intended to be an open public forum, both for exhibits of the work prepared by the competition teams, and for the actual team presentations to the judges. Although the judges will make the final award decisions, stakeholders will be welcome to provide comments and questions to the competition teams.

2.2.3. Technical Approach

The FCAB, the DOE, and the site contractor desire to work with an experienced, qualified organization with proven design and engineering capability to obtain the most useful and timely siting feasibility study possible. Armed with key output from the feasibility study, the FCAB will then work with local colleges and universities through the design competition to obtain an initial conceptual design that meets the stakeholder criteria for an educational facility on the Fernald site.

2.3. Definition of Products/Milestones

2.3.1. Siting Feasibility Study

The two most important aspects related to feasibility study products are interim status updating and stakeholder/regulator involvement. The feasibility study contractor chosen will be required to issue regular interim reports (frequency to be outlined in eventual Request for Proposal) and to make presentations in at least two Stewardship Committee meetings during the course of the study (examples being one meeting at the pre-design/approach development stage, and one at the preliminary design stage). A final report and presentation will also be required.

It will be important for the selected feasibility study contractor to take into account which areas of the site are currently available, with minimal preparation, for siting of an educational facility. The 23-acre area set aside for future community use is one such area. Locations of current utilities, parking lots, level

topography, etc., should be considered. The chosen contractor will not have to spend a great deal of time on siting infrastructure; this information is readily available. The greater focus should be on regional need, use and construction, management and maintenance.

2.3.2. Design Competition

See specific product/milestone dates in Section 2.4.2.

2.4. Schedule

2.4.1. Siting Feasibility Study

Prepare Request for Proposal	June 2002
Award Subcontract	July 2002
Initial Update to Stewardship Committee	July 2002
Interim Update to Stewardship Committee	September 2002
Feasibility Study Due	October 30, 2002

(As noted in Section 2.2.1, internal report milestone dates will be determined during Request for Proposal development.)

2.4.2. Design Competition

Develop competition rules and criteria for award	October 2001
Announce competition	December 2001
Fernald Site Meeting of Competition Teams	January 2002
Identify/Finalize Committee of Judges	January 2002
Hold Design Show and Competition	June 2002

2.5. Organizations to Be Involved

Fluor Fernald, Inc., with DOE oversight and FCAB guidance, will manage the educational facility siting feasibility study contractor. Input from the FCAB will be especially important during the Request for Proposal preparation stage. The design competition will be administered by the FCAB and its independent consultant service (The Perspectives Group), with minimal administrative support from DOE and Fluor Fernald, and will be developed cooperatively with local colleges and universities.

Local and regional colleges and universities could also be tapped as a resource for the siting feasibility study itself, through a focused procurement process.

2.6. Cost Estimates

2.6.1. Siting Feasibility Study

Fluor Fernald, Inc. Support/Materials	$10,000
The Perspectives Group	$ 5,000
(Independent consultant to FCAB)	
Feasibility Study Contractor	$75,000
Total Feasibility Study Cost	**$90,000**

2.6.2. Design Competition

First prize award	$10,000
Two second prizes ($2,500 each)	$ 5,000
Direct support to collegiate teams	$10,000
(Designed to assist with cost of materials)	
Administrative and marketing costs	$15,000
Travel and stipends for judges	$10,000
Total Design Competition Cost	**$50,000**

2.6.3. Total Proposal Cost $140,000

3.0 Urgency in Mission

Fernald stakeholders believe that in order to achieve their vision of Fernald, planning for an educational facility must begin now. Identification of needed funding and support will require time. Answers to basic questions regarding the feasibility of an on-site multi-use educational facility, and the best location(s) and timing for such a facility are essential to further planning. Additionally, construction of some or all of the components of the educational center in parallel with site remediation could defray much of the costs of facility construction, provided the feasibility study determines this approach to be in the site's best interest. This approach could also allow stakeholders to focus on raising the funds and support that will be needed to manage the facility following cleanup and DOE's departure from the site.

The proposed design competition would generate a variety of interesting and useful concepts for consideration in the final implementation of an educational facility. Holding this competition in cooperation with colleges and universities will further serve to bring representatives of higher education to Fernald to explore the potential for future educational opportunities at the site.

The Fernald site is well on its way to closure. Buildings are coming down, contaminated soil is being excavated and dispositioned, the aquifer is being cleaned up, and time to closure is relatively short. The FCAB, the DOE and the site contractor believe that planning for a multi-use educational facility at Fernald is of the utmost urgency, and are convinced that the elements of this proposal will assist the site and the stakeholders in realizing the Community Vision for the Future of Fernald in a safe, timely and cost-effective manner.

4.0 Leveraging and Partnering

The future use of the Fernald site was determined through a stakeholder-led collaborative process over a period of years. A consensus vision now exists for the future of Fernald that has the support of all of the key stakeholder groups, DOE, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. EPA. This accomplishment is in keeping with the strong history of collaborative decision-making at Fernald, and the next steps in this process will follow in this mode. All parties are in agreement about the need for the feasibility study and the many synergies and advantages that a design competition will create.

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June 2, 2001
The Cincinnati Post
page A8
"Fernald has more money for cleanup"

Fernald has more money for cleanup

Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - An additional $21 million will be available this year for cleanup activities at the old Fernald uranium processing plant in Hamilton County and the former Mound nuclear weapons plant in Miamisburg, the federal government has announced.

The extra money is included in the Defense Department's supplemental budget that was made public Friday.

The Department of Energy will decide how the money will be split between the two facilities, said Jim Morrell, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. Rob Portman, R-Terrace Park.

Besides the supplemental funds, the Bush administration is proposing spending $285 million on cleanup at Fernald next year. The funds are contained in President Bush's proposed budget, which still must be approved by Congress.

Fernald processed uranium for the government's nuclear weapons program from 1951 until July 1989. Cleanup of contamination at the site started in earnest in 1993 and is expected to continue through 2008.

Total cost of the cleanup is expected to top $3.7 billion.

May 14, 2001
DOE This Month
April 2001 Issue
Page 9
"Fernald site is a safety 'star'"

Fernald site is a safety 'star'

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environment, Safety, and Health (EH) recently awarded DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star status to Fluor Fernald, managing contractor of the Department's Fernald Environmental Management Project in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Voluntary Protection Program promotes safety and health excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management and government at DOE sites. Star status is the program's highest honor and is given in recognition of outstanding performance in safety and health.

"The Fernald Environmental Management Project has established such a strong safety culture that both management and employees clearly share the belief that all Fernald employees are both responsible and accountable for safety and health in the workplace," said Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Jr., former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Worker Health and Safety.

At right, DOE, Fluor Corporate, and site management representatives display the VPP Star Site flag, which was formally raised at the Fernald site on March 13, 2001. ◆

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ACTING CLEANUP CHIEF HUNTOON SAYS BUDGET WILL ALLOW WORK TO BE DONE

Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management Carolyn Huntoon told the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee last week the Administration's Fiscal Year 2002 $5.9 billion request for the Energy Dept.'s cleanup program will support the program's priorities and protect worker and public health and the environment, echoing Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham's comments to the subcommittee the previous week (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 12 No. 19). Huntoon declared the budget request, which is $400 million less than the final $6.3 billion appropriated by Congress for FY 2001, "supports critical safety programs for the protection of workers who carry out cleanup activities across the DOE complex...[and] supports our activities needed to address high risk wastes and nuclear materials to ensure they are safe and secure and that progress continues to reduce risks." Huntoon added the funding request: supports the 2006 closure schedules for Rocky Flats and Fernald; keeps the high-level waste treatment project at Hanford on track; funds the stabilization of plutonium and spent fuel at the Savannah River Site; ensures the clean up of the Weldon Spring, Mo., site; and allows for an increase in transuranic waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Huntoon voiced her support for Abraham's "top-to-bottom review" of the cleanup program, declaring that "while the budget addresses the major cleanup problems covered by compliance agreements and other essential requirements across the complex, Energy Secretary Abraham also has...challenged every program in the Department to become 5 to 10 percent more efficient, and the EM review will focus on meeting this challenge. Under this management review, the program will work to identify steps to strengthen project management, implement contracting strategies that help reduce costs and schedules, make greater use of new technologies, and sequence work more effectively."

acknowledged the review will include negotiations with state regulators and the Environmental Protection Agency on compliance agreements in place at weapons complex sites, as reported by *WC Monitor* (Vol. 12 Nos. 16&17). "In the early part of the assessment, we will be meeting with regulators from the various states hosting sites," Huntoon explained, adding that Department officials hope to meet with their counterparts in EPA state regulatory agencies during the next 30 days to determine which sites might fail to meet compliance commitments under the Administration's budget proposal. She noted, however, that some sites—including Hanford (*see related story*)—will not meet some obligatory milestones regardless of the FY 2002 funding level.

Subcommittee members were not appeased by Huntoon's assurances that the cleanup program will stay on track and remain in compliance under the proposed funding scenario. Rep. Chet Edwards (D-Tex.) ridiculed the Administration's decision to develop a program budget that relies on efficiencies that are yet to be discovered and on compliance agreement negotiations that have yet to take place. Other panel members, led by subcommittee Chairman Sonny Callahan (R-Ala), demanded Department officials provide itemized descriptions of exactly which compliance commitments might slip under the budget request and an assessment of how much additional money the EM program will need to ensure the sites do not miss milestones. "I need the finite number on what it will take to meet these compliance agreements," Rep. Zach Wamp (R-Tenn.) told Huntoon. "We need reform to take place [in EM], but we can't miss these compliance agreements while we wait."«

May 9, 2001
The Cincinnati Enquirer
"Fernald | Tours, ceremonies highlight atomic site anniversary"

Fernald | Tours, ceremonies highlight atomic site anniversary

Thousands of current and former Fernald workers attended the open house.

Photos by MICHAEL SNYDER/The Cincinnati Enquirer

Eileen Levy of Finneytown points out a historical photo to her husband, Lou, as they look through scenes of operations at the former Fernald uranium processing plant, where an open house Tuesday commemorated the 50th anniversary of the plant's opening.

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May 9, 2001
The Harrison Press
Page 1A
"Fernald's 50th Celebrated" --- Photograph

Fernald's 50th celebrated

Descendents and relatives of those who sold land to the U.S. government for construction of the Fernald uranium processing facility gather Tuesday, May 8, in the Cold War Garden at the Fernald site. The landowners were honored during a ceremony commemorating Fernald's 50th anniversary. Recognition was also given to former Fernald employees and members of the community. Clockwise, from left: Melvin Knollman, Norman Knollman, William Knollman, Brenda Kiracofe, Shirley Swadner and Marlon Fuchs. Staff(Emmick)photo

May 9, 2001
The Harrison Press
Page 2B
"Let's Celebrate Fernald" --- Editorial

Let's celebrate Fernald

From Here
Ollie Roehm

It was 50 years ago this week that the shovels hit the ground to build a uranium processing facility at Fernald. Anyone who lives around here knows the impact that facility has had on our lives.

The Fluor Daniel people had a big party on Tuesday to celebrate 50 years of Fernald. Rightly so. There's a lot to celebrate.

I'm serious here.

We can celebrate the patriotic spirit of the men and women who processed the materials for the weaponry to fight the Cold War.

Yes, it all seems like a big waste now. Communism failed, the Soviet Union imploded and the Cold War is frozen solid in time.

But in the late 1940s, things were different. The Soviets were winning the space race, putting missiles all over the place and saying things like, "We will bury you." Anyone who watched TV and saw Khrushchev pound his shoe on the table knows what I mean.

The people who refined uranium at Fernald were soldiers fighting the Cold War. They were exposed to deadly chemicals and radiation on a daily basis. Some died.

The secretive nature of bomb-building resulted in stringent security measures at the plant. The workers were told to keep their mouths shut and they did, because they were patriots.

Safety measures against radiation and other contaminants were virtually non-existent. The government told the workers they were safe and the workers believed it. Because they were patriots.

But, years later, we know these men and women were lied to and needlessly exposed to harm. We know residents living near the plant were deceived. Uranium clouds were released and wells were poisoned.

But when they poisoned Lisa Crawford's well, they poisoned the wrong one. And, oddly enough, that gives us another reason to celebrate Fernald's birthday.

We can celebrate the spirit of the men and women who bravely fought to halt production and clean up the site.

When Lisa Crawford found out that her family had been drinking water from a well contaminated with thorium, she got scared. One day in 1985 she came home and she saw a guy in a spacesuit climbing out of her well. The guy refused to answer any of her questions and scared turned to angry.

Lisa, an average housewife living a normal life, joined a burgeoning citizens group, Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH), and quickly became its president.

They filed a class action lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Energy and Lisa boldly appeared before Congress. The demure housewife eventually became a well-known activist whose face graced the covers of national magazines. She made regular trips to Washington and became friends with the likes of John Glenn and Al Gore.

Lisa, FRESH members, and many others bravely fought the government war machine and brought production to an end. To ice the cake, they helped forged a commitment to clean up the site.

When the cleanup began, the DOE tried to eliminate most of the Fernald

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"Let's Celebrate Fernald" -- Editorial

workforce and bring in a new set of workers. FRESH formed an alliance with Fernald workers and the jobs were saved.

I've heard, and still hear, people bad-mouth Lisa and FRESH. They say Lisa Crawford is an egomaniac who craves the spotlight. The say Fernald should never have been shut down and that production should still be taking place. What nonsense.

Lisa is a tough woman who has learned how to handle hostility and criticism and doesn't need me to defend her. But I will say this: It's impossible to measure what Lisa Crawford's savvy, determination, intelligence and love for her family and fellow man has done for us. This community should be proud and thankful that we have a person like her living here.

That said, I join with rest of the community in a salute to Fernald's 50th. Here's to the men and women who worked at the plant and here's to the people who shut the place down.

Happy birthday, Fernald. May your demise be swift and complete.

- *Ollie Roehm is editor of* The Harrison Press.

The Cincinnati Enquirer
"Fernald marks 50th anniversary – Ceremony points to cleanup effort"

Fernald marks 50th anniversary

Ceremony points to cleanup effort

By Randy McNutt
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CROSBY TOWNSHIP — The spring landscape is lush and green, revealing no hint of a dubious past. But surely its ghosts will ramble across the fertile fields today when the U.S. Department of Energy and its cleanup contractor, Fluor Fernald, commemorate the 50th anniversary of the former Fernald atomic site.

They will recognize the people who built Fernald's production facilities and are leading its cleanup, and preview a Fernald documentary. But some darker topics surely will emerge. After all, Fernald's history recalls the Cold War, family disruptions and the silent winds of radiation.

Remembering suits area residents, who have battled for decades to force a cleanup at the former uranium-processing plant that once produced materials for America's nuclear defense.

"The people who worked there did a service for their country," said Edwa Yocum, an area resident. "But if they had managed their wastes, we wouldn't have the problem that still exists today. Now, they're being held accountable."

The problem: radioactive waste left from the days when government regulations were much more lax. Although the government is cleaning up the site, neighbor's worry that federal financing for the program will end before the job can be completed in seven to nine years.

To compound the problem, some experts disagree over how effectively the site can be cleansed of radioactivity.

Ironically, the history of the Fernald plant is rooted in a nation's sense of self-preservation. When construction began at the 1,050-acre site in 1951, Fernald was a rural village in northern Hamilton County, near the Butler County line. The nuclear industry was in its infancy. Korea was the world's hot spot and the sworn enemies were the communists who had emerged in China and other countries.

Seeking to build a new uranium-weapons plant, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, predecessor of the Department of Energy (DOE), considered three sites: Terre Haute, Ind., Hamilton, Ohio, and Cincinnati. The agency liked the rural nature of the Cincinnati site, at Fernald, about 17 miles northwest of downtown — within driving distance for the region's skilled machinists. The site also offered a sufficient water supply and low land costs.

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Using eminent domain, the AEC took property from rural families, who had only 30 days to leave.

"Mom and dad strove and worked hard from the Depression to get what we had," said Marion Fuchs of Crosby Township. "We cried like babies when they took our land."

So secret was the plant that the AEC called it the Feed Materials Production Center. In May 1951, the agency broke ground. Within a year the AEC and its contractor, National Lead of Ohio, started production.

More farmhouses gave way to laboratories and manufacturing plants that resembled big grain elevators. The complex operated quietly — secretively — through the 1950s and 1960s, making high-purity uranium metal for nuclear weapons. Up to 3,000 people worked there during those years.

By the time of the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, the Feed Materials Production Plant had become a symbol of the East-West struggle.

Employees knew little if anything about what workers did in other parts of the site. But they did know they were doing patriotic work. Posters at the plant read: "Don't talk out of turn! You are a PRODUCTION SOLDIER ... America's First Line of Defense is *HERE.*"

"A lot of military people came to Fernald to work after World War II," said Homer Bruce, 72, of Bevis, who worked there for about 43 years. "They were dedicated. You felt like you were a part of a team. The plant was extremely important to U.S. security then.

Red scare abates

"The Cold War was a scary time. We knew we were doing something important. We had a real camaraderie at Fernald and I miss the place. Turnover was among the lowest of any employer in Hamilton and Butler counties."

But by the late 1970s, as the nation's Red hysteria gave way to a focused American determination, local people started asking an important question: What was happening behind the gates at Fernald?

In 1984, the DOE reported that failure of the site's dust collector caused the release of almost 300 pounds of enriched uranium oxide. Some wells near the plant were contaminated with uranium.

"Years of uranium metal production and on-site storage of waste and nuclear material left the soil, ground water and buildings contaminated," said Steve McCraken, site director for the U.S. Department of Energy. "Local residents, regulators and workers demanded an equal voice in cleanup decisions that affected the environment and their communities. Today, all parties work together on one clear goal: to safely complete the cleanup and restoration of the Fernald site."

The project is expected to cost more than $5 billion.

In time, the struggle moved from East versus West to local people versus the government. In 1984, neighbors formed Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH), to monitor the plant. Eventually, the group filed a class action lawsuit for emotional distress and damaged property values. The government settled in 1989.

Neighbors won $73 million, which includes medical testing. Fernald workers also sued and reached a $15 million settlement that contains a pledge of lifetime medical monitoring, but does not include paying for treatment.

Ms. Yocum, a FRESH member for 16 years, said the community has made it clear that the cleanup must be finished.

"We continue to have the health impact," she said. "If Congress cuts funding for the cleanup, we're in trouble. That's our main concern. We hope in the next 50 years that we can return the area to at least something on the order of what it used to be. I intend to be here until the job is finished. One problem is that it's hard to prove that residents were made sick by the plant."

Studies show that people who live near the plant have a higher risk for certain cancers. Lisa Crawford, FRESH's leader, said her family's well was contaminated by toxic emissions.

"In 1979, we rented an old farmhouse across from the site," she said. "In 1985, we found the well was contaminated. They (plant operators) didn't tell us and they knew about it. You can't do that to people. So we sued them. . . We're seeing light at the end of the tunnel."

Fluor confident

The plant closed in 1989. Cleanup began in 1991. Fluor's contract requires the firm to finish the job by the end of 2010, but spokeswoman Christy McMurry said the company still hopes to finish by 2008, the original completion date.

She said so much progress has been made already that the company is calling the anniversary "Fernald at 50: From Weapons to Wetlands."

Wetlands are a stark contrast to the guarded past — even the more recent past. Dr. David B. Fankhauser, a biologist and geneticist at Clermont College in Batavia and former consultant for FRESH, said the site's radioactive past will echo to eternity.

"There's no way any current politicians will clean it up," he said. "The ground water will continue to show elevated levels of radioactivity. They're taking away the worst of it now.

But how effective they will be depends on the speed with which they can remove the materials."

He said Fernald was one of the nation's largest waste dumps for radioactive materials. Much of it — in tens of thousands of barrels — was buried years ago.

Throughout the Cold War, workers in weapons plants absorbed fluorine, uranium, asbestos and other toxic materials — often unknowingly. Now, many suffer from leukemia or other cancers.

Yet thousands of people worked at Fernald for years without fear of contamination. "We had nuclear physicists and hygienists and experts working there," said Mr. Bruce, who worked in personnel, printing and other offices. "I thought, would they be here if they had tremendous fears?"

But area residents continue to worry — about ground water contamination, genetic damage and cancers. New studies show that health concerns for long-time neighbors include lung, kidney, bladder, prostate and skin cancers.

Today, work continues to clean up contaminated areas and return the land to its natural state as much as possible.

"It is the final chapter in this area's Cold War legacy," Fluor Fernald said in a prepared statement for the anniversary.

Yet Dr. Fankhauser is skeptical about using finality in the same sentence with Fernald.

"I will not believe it until I see no elevated radiation levels off-site," he said. "I'm afraid that this is the legacy: They have not removed all the waste. It (radiation) will continue, and will leach into the aquifer."

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Ceremony commemorating 50th anniversary of Fernald uranium-processing plant. The government will recognize people involved in the plant's production and cleanup missions.
- **Where:** 7400 Willey Road, near Ohio 128, south of Ross.
- **When:** 10 a.m. today. • **Speaker:** U.S. Rep. Rob Portman, R-Terrace Park.
- **Activities:** Tours of plant, free lunch and viewing of documentary, *First Link: A Story of Fernald.*

50 YEARS OF FERNALD

1950: Fernald, a rural village in northern Hamilton County, is considered as one of three sites for a new U.S. uranium-processing plant to support the defense program.

1951: Atomic Energy Commission breaks ground for the plant on 1,050 acres near the village.

1952: Limited production begins. National Lead of Ohio runs the plant.

1984: Neighbors form Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH) and begin to monitor the plant.

1984: FRESH files class-action suit against the government.

1985: National Lead leaves. Westinghouse named chief operator.

1988: The U.S. Department of Energy admits in a report that contamination at the Fernald uranium-processing plant is a health threat.

1989: Government settles out of court with residents, awarding $73 million.

1989: Production ends at Fernald plant. Government starts to clean up the site.

1992: A Fluor subsidiary, Fluor Daniel, starts managing the cleanup of the facility.

2001: For the plant's 50th anniversary, cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald announces new forests and wetlands developing on the property.

May 8, 2001
The Cincinnati Post, pages 1A and 8A
"Troubled Fernald marks its 50th Year"

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Troubled Fernald marks its 50th year

By Michael Collins
Post Washington Bureau

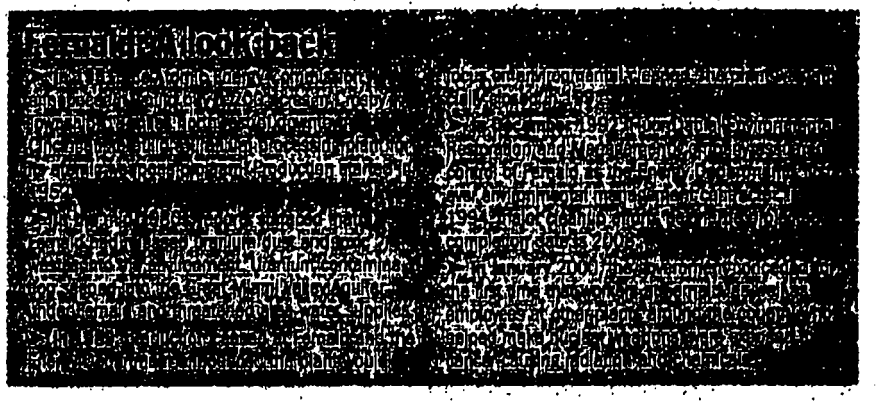
For Homer Bruce, today's celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the old Fernald uranium plant is a chance to pay tribute to the dedicated men and women who helped build up the nation's defense at the height of the Cold War.

For Lisa Crawford, it's a chance to recognize the hard work and persistence of neighbors who fought for years to force the government to clean up the contamination that Fernald left behind.

Five decades after the government broke ground for the uranium processing plant in northwest Hamilton County, Fernald is a place with lasting dual legacies: American patriotism. Environmental mess.

"I think it will probably be misunderstood by a lot of people that Fernald is only a problem – and it is today," said U.S. Rep. Rob Portman, R-Terrace Park and the keynote speaker at today's event.

See FERNALD on 8A



Fernald: Long legacy tainted

From 1A

But people also should remember Fernald's significant role in national security – a role that, unfortunately, was necessary given the times, Portman said. "The United States had to have cutting-edge weapons technology in order to ultimately prevail in the Cold War," he said.

Nearly 3,000 people are expected at today's ceremony, including current and former workers, officials with the U.S. Department of Energy and Fluor Fernald, the company hired by the government to clean up environmental contamination at the site.

Current efforts are focused on cleaning up the environmental contamination caused by the plant, which processed uranium for the government's nuclear weapons program from 1951 until July 1989.

In the mid-1980s, reports surfaced that for decades, the Atomic Energy Commission and its successor, the Department of Energy, released uranium dust and toxic wastes into the environment. Uranium contamination seeped into the Great Miami Valley Aquifer under Fernald and threatened area water supplies.

The cleanup, which began in earnest in 1993, is about 25 percent finished and should be completed around 2008, said Dennis Carr, executive project director at Fernald.

Workers are continuing to excavate uranium-processing residue from six in-ground pits at the site and are shipping the materials to a commercial disposal facility in Utah. The cleanup also includes the demolition of buildings on the property – about 93 of the 270 on site have been demolished so far – and replenishing contaminated water by pumping it from the Great Miami Aquifer, treating it and then discharging it into the Great Miami River.

By the time the cleanup is finished, the price tag is expected to total $3.7 billion.

Neighbors are satisfied with the way the cleanup efforts are going, said Ms. Crawford, president of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health.

Bruce, who worked at Fernald for nearly 43 years and held a number of jobs, including positions in the personnel and public relations departments, said it will be odd going back to the plant today since many of the buildings on the site are no longer standing.

But the ceremonies will give him a chance to catch up with old friends. It's the dedication of those workers that Bruce remembers most about his years at Fernald.

AT FERNALD ..... FLUOR FERNALD WANTS TO SELF-PERFORM SILO WORK

Negotiations between Foster Wheeler and Fluor Fernald on the former's $50 million subcontract to remove and store about 8,900 cubic yards of low-level uranium ore residues from two silos at the Energy Dept.'s Fernald site in Ohio apparently involve a desire by Fluor to self-perform the removal work once Foster Wheeler completes construction of the Accelerated Waste Removal system. At a briefing for Congressional staff last week, Fluor Fernald President John Bradburne reported Foster Wheeler has completed the system design and is about 30 percent of the way through construction. "We're transitioning into a self-performance mode" on the balance of the project, Bradburne said. He noted the company's new contract, signed in November (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 11 No. 46), allows the company to self-perform work "if that makes sense."

Foster Wheeler won the four-year Accelerated Waste Removal subcontract in February 1999 (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 10 No. 10), proposing to use a hydraulic retrieval process to move the residues from the silos into four 750,000-gallon steel tanks. The retrieval project was scheduled to be completed by Sept. 2003, but is seven months behind schedule and reportedly is also over budget. Fernald officials told *WC Monitor* last month Fluor Fernald and Foster Wheeler are in negotiations on a path forward for the project, but refused to elaborate (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 12 Nos. 16 & 17). Foster Wheeler officials had not returned phone calls by press time.

May 6, 2001
Journal-News
"Fernald To Commemorate 50th Anniversary With Open House"

3712

Fernald to commemorate 50th anniversary with open house

By Kristin McAllister

Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

The theme nails it: "From Weapons to Wetlands."

That's the name chosen to describe the changes taking place at the Fernald Environmental Management Project site, once a nuclear weapons complex of the Cold War, in Ross and Crosby townships.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of theformer uranium processing plant, the U.S. Department of Energy and Fernald cleanup contractor Fluor Fernald are inviting the public to join in a special ceremony on Tuesday.

Christy McMurry, a Fernald spokeswoman, said theceremony will pay homage to the thousands of men and women who were instrumental in Fernald's production and cleanup mission during the last five decades.

In addition to a look atFernald's past and present,officials will offer a glimpse into its future, including stewardship of the 1,050-acre site.

The tribute to Fernald is well worth attending, McMurry said.

"Because it's truly extraordinary -- where we were 50 years ago compared to today," she said. "We went from producing a portion of the atomic bomb to cleanup of the area and having an eco-park and wetlands. And having that in such a short time -- to have that big of a change in a 50 year period."

Guests will have theopportunity to preview the documentary, "First Link: A Story of Fernald," which takes a look at the site's history.

For some, Fernald serves as a nostalgic reminder of the glory days of patriotism, when employees there worked hard and long hours and were proud of their contribution to the defense of the United States.

Yet for others, it's a grave reminder of environmental contamination.

The main entrance to Fernald is at 7400 Willey Road. Guest arrivals begin at 10 a.m. The ceremony commences at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch, a site tour, preview of a documentary and the display of "Memoriesof Fernald."

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