



## FCAB UPDATE

*Week of March 31, 2003*

(Last update was February 4, 2003)

### MEETING SCHEDULE

**Stewardship Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, April 10, 2003 6:30 p.m.

Trailer T-1 On Site

**Site Tour**  
Saturday, April 12, 2003 8:30-11:45 a.m.

On Site

### ATTACHMENTS

- 3/15/03 Draft FCAB Meeting minutes
- 3/13/03 Stewardship Committee Meeting Summary
- 4/10/03 Stewardship Committee Meeting Draft Agenda
- Articles & News Clippings

### NOTES

The tour schedule will be as follows:

We will meet at the new area for Fluor central offices on the site at the silos side of the main parking lot, signs and guides will be available to direct folks.

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.  | Breakfast       |
| 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.  | General Meeting |
| 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.  | Review War Room |
| 9:45 - 11:30 a.m. | Site Tour       |

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Doug Sarno or David Bidwell at The Perspectives Group  
Phone: 513-648-6478 or 703-837-9269 Fax: 513-648-4141 or 703-837-9662  
E-Mail: [djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com](mailto:djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com) or [dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com](mailto:dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com)  
[www.fernaldcab.org](http://www.fernaldcab.org)



# FULL BOARD MEETING

## Crosby Township Senior Center

Saturday, March 15, 2003

## DRAFT MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory board met from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2003, at the Crosby Township Senior Center.

**Members Present:**

Kathryn Brown  
 Sandy Butterfield  
 Marvin Clawson  
 Carol Connel, for French Bell  
 Lou Doll  
 Pam Dunn  
 Jane Harper  
 Steve McCracken  
 Graham Mitchell  
 Robert Tabor  
 Tom Wagner  
 Gene Willeke

**Members Absent:**

Jim Bierer  
 Lisa Blair  
 Blain Burton  
 Lisa Crawford  
 Steve DePoe  
 Gene Jablonowski

**Designated Federal Official:**

Steve McCracken

**The Perspectives Group Staff:**

Douglas Sarno  
 David Bidwell

**Fluor Fernald Staff:**

Jamie Jameson  
 Sue Walpole

**Critical Analysis Team:**

Gail Bingham  
 Todd Martin  
 Bob Roal

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

**General Announcements**

Tom Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The Board approved the minutes from the February, 2003 meeting, with the changes sent to David Bidwell by Lisa Crawford.

Steve McCracken reminded the group that if the U.S. goes to war with Iraq, security will be tightened and access to the site may become more difficult for members of the public.

Steve announced that DOE has been renegotiating Fluor's contract, with a greater emphasis on incentives for meeting the 2006 deadline. He stated that the two sides are close to reaching an agreement. The new contract would result in a more complete site in December 2006, with most of the current water treatments structures and the rail yard removed. As the site nears closure, Fluor would be required to institute the most cost-effective alternative for completing the groundwater project, which could include utilizing part of the current Advanced Waste Water Treatment facility or a temporary packaging facility. Steve promised to provide the group with a summary of the modifications in the renegotiated contract. Board members stated that they do not support acceleration at the expense of safety, quality, or thoroughness of remediation. Bob Tabor noted that the number of safety professionals has been reduced at the site, while the pace of work has been accelerated. Doug Sarno explained that the Board has concerns about continued funding for the site if Fluor does not meet the 2006 closure deadline. Tom Wagner suggested that the Board review the new contract and then submit a letter that outlines its concerns to DOE.

Jamie Jameson reviewed current trends in safety at the site. He noted that the number of safety professionals working at a site would not guarantee a particular level of safety. Jamie explained that the Fluor Corporation holds him accountable for the safety record at the site, which was worse than the company average in 2002. He explained that there has been a good safety trend over the past few months, and that a team of experienced managers is evaluating safety issues related to upcoming work. He noted that this safety team will be headquartered at his new office and invited FCAB members to visit this office. Doug indicated that the group might visit the office during its tour, scheduled for April 12.

Pam Dunn asked Steve why the budget request for the FCAB was cut for FY04. Steve stated that the budget for the FCAB and the State of Ohio were cut. Gary Stegner reminded the Board that for the past few years the site had projected reducing the frequency of FCAB meetings to one every two months in FY04. Pam stated that more communication with stakeholders was needed due to the accelerated cleanup schedule. Steve suggested that the FCAB send a letter to DOE stating that it believes it is important for the Board to continue its monthly meeting schedule. Graham Mitchell stated that cost-recovery for the State is required per the Consent Agreement, and that the State is concerned about the budget cuts.

Carol Connel announced that the budget of ASTDR has been reduced dramatically, particularly for its DOE programs. The agency will merge with the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), which is a division of the Center for Disease Control. However, she stated that they plan to continue monitoring radon at Fernald, as work on the Silos Projects continues. She further stated that a final report of work conducted to date is expected by the end of the year.

Doug announced that the official name of the Fernald site has been changed to the Fernald Closure Project (FCP), and it will no longer be known as the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

**SSAB Chairs Meeting**

Doug reminded the Board that Pam Dunn and Tom Wagner would attend the annual SSAB chairs meeting, which will be held in Denver at the end of March and will be hosted by the Rocky Flats site. The meeting will focus on the inter-site transfer of waste. Graham noted that the main inter-site issues for Fernald are the uranium sent to Portsmouth and the PCB wastes that have been shipped to Oak Ridge. Of greater importance to the FCAB, however, is that Mike Owen and Dave Geiser will attend the meeting, to discuss the new Office of Legacy Management. Recommendations from the SSAB Workshop on transuranic waste will also be discussed; the FCAB will sign the recommendations only if all other sites agree to them.

Tom Wagner stated that an important issue to discuss at the Chairs meeting would be the overall level of support for public participation by DOE Headquarters. Bob Tabor stated that the current administration has inherited the benefits of good public participation conducted in the past, but does not show a great interest in continuing meaningful interactions with the public. Katie Brown noted that this might be a good topic to address with editorial boards of local papers.

**Silos Project Update**

Steve McCracken discussed the issue of where the site is able to dispose of materials from the silos. Until a year ago, the site planned to send silos wastes to the Nevada Test Site (NTS). At that time, Envirocare offered to take the silos waste, if DOE could reach an agreement with NRC to classify the materials as 11(e)2 waste. This would have allowed the site to ship silos waste via rail, which would reduce costs, be faster than shipping by truck, and reduce transportation risks. Steve explained that DOE and NRC have different definitions of 11(e)2 wastes; the NRC definition is based partly on the year of generation, rather than just the characteristics of the waste. For several reasons, DOE Headquarters has determined that it cannot legally sign a Memorandum of Agreement with NRC on this issue. This means that unless Envirocare or Fluor can reach an agreement with NRC, the waste will be sent to NTS. NTS would accept Silo 3 waste in soft-sided bags and bury the entire Sea-Land container in which they would be shipped. The site could still use rail to move the waste offsite, but it would have to be transferred to trucks before reaching NTS. Some FCAB members stated that resolution of this issue should involve Congressional representatives, since it could have a significant impact on the expense and schedule of the Silos Projects.

---

Ray stated that Envirocare would continue to pursue NRC approval to accept the Fernald silos waste. He also stated, however, that the Silos Team is working on detailed plans for all scenarios. Board members noted that inter-modal transportation was not found to be feasible in the past, due to the difficulty in securing a transfer station between Fernald and NTS. Ray noted that it is Fluor's responsibility to identify a transfer station, if inter-modal transport of waste is to be used. Ray explained that it would be more difficult to reach the 2006 closure goal for the site if the silos wastes are shipped from the site entirely by truck. Current estimates would require seventeen trucks to leave the site each day, once removal of silos waste begins. Ray stated that a decision on shipping should be made by Fall 2003, in order for the project to remain on schedule.

As promised at the February FCAB meeting, Ray provided Doug with a letter from the vender of the clarifier that will be used in the Silos 1 and 2 treatment process. Doug will

share that letter with the FCAB members. Ray explained that a normal clarifier is designed to meet 2500 foot pounds of torque, but the clarifier for the treatment process at Fernald is designed to handle 50,000 foot pounds of torque. Ray also showed pictures of the clarifier rake, which has been constructed by a vender.

Ray also updated the Board on the designs for the process that will be used to reduce the dispersability of Silo 3 wastes. Jacobs Engineering is working on designs for the nozzle system that will be used to spray a fixative on the materials during packaging. Ray showed the group a rough schematic drawing of the Silo 3 packaging process and how the spray nozzle would be integrated into the drop chute. He stated that a mockup of the system would be tested in Oak Ridge during Summer 2003. Bob Roal, a member of the Critical Analysis Team (CAT) suggested that the actual fixative be used in the mockup, because it is important to know that the system can handle the sticky substance. FCAB members asked that members of the CAT be present at this test. Ray stated that the CAT and members of the FCAB would be welcome to attend this test.

Ray further reported that a test cut had been begun in the wall of the empty Silo 4, as a demonstration for breaching the wall of Silo 3 for waste removal. The excavator will also be tested at Silo 4. David Bidwell asked if video could be taken of these activities and shared with the FCAB. Sue Walpole stated that less video is being taken at the site due to cutbacks in staff, but she would check the feasibility of videoing these activities.

Ray also noted that work schedules at the Silos project would shift to two ten-hour shifts in April. Lights used at the site will be visible to neighbors living adjacent to the site. He stated that schedules would be coordinated to make sure workers have a reasonable workweek and efficiency is maintained.

All three members of the CAT attended this meeting. They shared their concerns and perspectives regarding the Silos Project with the FCAB. Key points are listed below:

- Todd Martin reported that the CAT's position on the 11(e)2 designation has been that the site should pursue the option that would ensure quick removal of silos wastes from the site. The CAT is wary of putting too many resources towards pursuing the Envirocare option, which it views as an optimistic scenario.
- Todd stated that the CAT is concerned with the aggressiveness of the schedule for development of the Silo 3 waste packaging station, which is scheduled to be tested in June 2003.
- Past involvement of the CAT has followed a pattern of long periods of inactivity, followed by intensive periods of review. Todd stated that as final designs are completed and tests of systems begin, the CAT's involvement would become more frequent and consistent.
- Gail Bingham reported that based on past cost-performance reports, he has projected a \$48 million cost overrun for the Silos Projects. He also noted that the project would be difficult to complete by 2006, if performance does not improve.
- CAT members reported that some of the design packages they have received have not been as complete as they expected.
- The CAT has several concerns regarding the remote-controlled waste packaging station for Silo 3. The equipment that has been designed for the process does not appear to be very robust. The remote environment would make it difficult to repair the equipment, and requiring staff to make frequent repairs would compromise the safety benefits of using a remote system. The CAT stressed

that a test of this system must replicate the remote conditions under which it will be operated at the site. Todd noted that the initial test plan looks good.

4815

FCAB members concluded that improvement is needed in the communication between the CAT and the project staff. Todd noted that the CAT would be meeting with project staff the following week, and that communications issues are on the agenda. Todd also noted that the CAT and project staff had begun weekly conference calls. Doug asked that the CAT provide the FCAB with a report on these meetings and how communications will be improved.

The FCAB briefly discussed that the responsibility to meet the 2006 closure date rests with the site contractor, Fluor. Board members noted that the quality of work is more important to the public than meeting the project schedule. Members also noted that involvement of the public and CAT should not suffer in order to meet the schedule.

#### **DOE Commitments for Long-Term Stewardship**

Steve McCracken spoke to the group regarding current DOE commitments to long-term stewardship of the Fernald site. This presentation was intended to clear up questions that arose regarding the Comprehensive Stewardship Plan, submitted to DOE Headquarters at the end of January 2003.

Steve stressed that DOE has not abdicated any responsibility to maintain the integrity of the remedy at the site. He stated that DOE is required to monitor and maintain the on-site disposal facility (OSDF) and its buffer zone in perpetuity. This includes groundwater detection, cap integrity, and leachate management. DOE also has a perpetual responsibility to maintain institutional controls at the remainder of the site, including the maintenance of signs and other posted information and implementation of deed restrictions. Steve's presentation also noted that DOE must maintain fences at the property, but the FCAB stated that they do not want the entire property to be fenced. Steve stated that DOE must produce an Institutional Control plan and a Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance plan, which will provide details to the commitments outlined in the Comprehensive Stewardship Plan. Pam Dunn stated that the FCAB and other stakeholders should be involved in the development of these plans.

Graham Mitchell stated that DOE must also fulfill other requirements, such as the CERCLA 5-year reviews, but that these requirements would have a finite endpoint. Steve added that DOE must comply with the same requirements as other landowners, such as endangered species laws and wetland protections.

Steve further noted that DOE could meet its legal obligations through a cost-effective grade-to-drain approach, but DOE has committed to the restoration of the site. The site is being restored to forest and prairie, as agreed upon by the Natural Resource Trustees. DOE has also committed to work with stakeholders to accomplish other goals, including the construction of educational trails and other public use features and Native American reburials. However, DOE does not have the authority to maintain these aspects of the site perpetually. The potential NRD settlement is the tool that is available to DOE to ensure that the ecological restoration, Native American burial sites, and public education features are maintained over the long term.

Graham noted that the ecological restoration projects would provide DOE with some cost savings, such as not having to backfill deep excavations that would be used to create lakes. Graham also noted that prairie grasses were selected for the restoration of some areas at the site, because prairie grass can successfully grow in the poor soils that

FCBS  
will remain after remediation. The FCAB briefly discussed issues related to the management of prairie grasses; Pete Yerace, DOE representative to the Trustees, noted that greater public dialogue is needed regarding these issues. Steve noted that the duration of DOE's obligation to the restoration projects is the main obstacle to settling the NRD lawsuit.

**Public Comment**

Tom Wagner asked if there were any members of the public who wished to provide comments. No members of the public offered comment at this meeting.

**Other Issues**

Doug noted that he and David Bidwell received a copy of the draft proposed revision of the Silo 3 cleanup plan. A summary of the plan will be provided to the FCAB members as soon as possible.

Pam Dunn reported that the Stewardship Committee discussed the draft EPA guidance on institutional controls at its March 13 meeting and requested a copy of the earlier EPA guidance. David noted that the FCAB members were provided a summary of this draft guidance.

Doug reported that some members of the group had recently become aware of a draft Long-Term Stewardship Science and Technology Roadmap, which was produced by DOE Idaho. Comments on the draft were requested by April 15. The Stewardship Committee recommended that the FCAB send a letter asking for more time to review the document and submit comments. The FCAB agreed that a letter should be sent and that it should also ask for clarification on the role of the report.

David Bidwell stressed the importance of attending the April 10 Stewardship Committee, since representatives of the DOE Grand Junction Office and Office of Legacy Management would be available to answer questions.

Doug announced that invitations to the May 8 Natural Resource Damages roundtable were sent to the appropriate contacts. No responses had been received.

Doug also announced that Judith Bradbury's report on Site Specific Advisory Boards would be posted on the FCAB website. He suggested that this report could be a topic of discussion at a future FCAB meeting.

Tom reviewed the upcoming FCAB meeting schedule. The June FCAB meeting date has been changed to Thursday, June 12 and will begin at 6:30 p.m. The next FCAB meeting will be special tour of the site on Saturday, April 12.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



# MEETING SUMMARY

**Date:** March 13, 2003

4815

**Topics:**

- Recent Documents of Interest
- FCAB Coordination with other Closure Sites
- MUEF Feasibility Study

**Attendees:**

**Fernald Citizens Advisory Board**

Jim Bierer  
Marvin Clawson  
Lisa Crawford  
Steve DePoe  
Pam Dunn  
Bob Tabor

**FRESH**

Edwa Yocum  
Carol Schroer

**The Perspectives Group**

David Bidwell

**U.S. Department of Energy**

Gary Stegner

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**

Donna Bohannon

**Fluor Fernald**

Joe Shomaker  
Sue Walpole

**Others**

Jim Innis

**Recent Documents of Interest**

~~David welcomed the committee members to the meeting and explained that Doug Sarno was unable to attend, due to weather-related travel delays.~~

David quickly reviewed the executive summary of the draft *Long-Term Stewardship Science and Technology Roadmap*, developed by DOE Idaho for the Office of Long-Term Stewardship. David explained that he had just recently obtained a copy of the report and did not have time to review it carefully. Lisa Crawford stated that she was notified of the availability of the document by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. The draft was not sent directly to the FCAB. David noted that comments on the document would be accepted until April 15, 2003. The committee concluded that this was not adequate time for a careful review of the document and asked David to draft a letter to request that the comment period be extended. Members stated that the letter also should ask why the draft "roadmap" was not distributed directly to SSABs and why input from the public living near closure sites was not sought. Pam Dunn suggested that the letter ask how many other documents are being produced, about which the FCAB has not been notified.

David distributed a summary of the U.S. EPA draft guidance on Institutional Controls. Comments on this draft are due to EPA on April 19, 2003. David stated that this draft guidance serves more as a menu of what is possible in terms of Institutional Controls, rather than a specific prescription for how sites should plan or implement them. Pam Dunn noted that this guidance would replace an existing EPA guidance for Institutional Controls. She suggested that Gene Jablonowski be asked to compare the new guidance with the existing guidance, before the FCAB determines if it should provide comments. Gary Stegner stated that the Fernald site would submit comments on this draft.

David distributed a matrix outlining information needs for closure sites, which was developed by the DOE Grand Junction Office. He stated that a column that designates information that would be used by the public might be of particular interest to the committee members. David noted that this matrix is not a specific guidance for closure sites, but urged the committee members to review it prior to the April 10 Stewardship Committee meeting, because representatives from the Grand Junction Office and the new Office of Legacy Management will attend that meeting. Committee members suggested that copies of the FCAB's report, *Telling the Story of Fernald*, be available to these visitors at the next meeting.

**FCAB Coordination with other Closure Sites**

Gary stated that the Grand Junction Office is unlikely to host its meeting on long-term stewardship scheduled for June in Denver. Earlier this year, the FCAB indicated that it might organize an event for closure sites, in conjunction with Grand Junction's meeting. David asked if Stewardship Committee members were still interested in coordinating with the community members from other closure sites in the DOE Complex, such as Rocky Flats, Weldon Spring, and Mound. He noted that the Oak Ridge board has also shown an interest in stewardship issues. Committee members stated that a meeting for closure sites would be beneficial, but identified several issues that need to be resolved, including funding, a federal sponsor, and goals for the meeting. Pam Dunn offered to discuss the idea with representatives from Rocky Flats and Oak Ridge when she attends the Chairs meeting at the end of March. She will also suggest the idea to Mike Owen, interim manager of the Office of Legacy Management, who will attend the Chairs meeting. Pam also stated that she would discuss this idea at the annual meeting of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, which may include members of communities with smaller DOE sites. Jim Bierer stated that if crosscutting issues could be identified beforehand, the community members could discuss them via conference call or email.

**MUEF Feasibility Study**

David announced that he was still developing an estimated cost to study the feasibility of constructing a multi-use education facility (MUEF) at the Fernald site. He announced that he had recently spoken with representatives from COSI Studio in Columbus, Ohio. This division of the well-known science museum consults on outside museum and exhibit projects. They are developing a cost estimate for conducting a charrette focused on exhibits and education programs. David stated that COSI Studio could also help the committee estimate cost for construction, maintenance, and staffing of the MUEF.

Sue Walpole reviewed the Stewardship Toolbox materials related to education programs conducted at the site. She showed the committee some of the most popular curricula that were developed by the site. According to Sue and Joe Shomaker, the demand for these programs continues to outstrip their ability to provide them. Sue stated that area teachers have voiced a strong interest in science-based education programs. Bob Tabor stated that this information would be important in persuading elected officials to support the construction of a MUEF.

Pam Dunn asked how the cost of leasing office space in Springdale related to the cost of constructing a MUEF. She asserted that DOE could build the facility and use it for office space as remediation of the site nears completion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the T-1 trailer.



# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING T-1

Thursday, April 10, 2003

## DRAFT AGENDA

---

- 6:30 p.m.      Opening Remarks and Updates
- Coordination with other Closure Sites
  - Draft LTS Science and Technology Roadmap
  - Draft EPA Guidance on Institutional Controls
- 6:45 p.m.      Transition to Office of Legacy Management (Mike Owen)
- 7:15 p.m.      Access to Closure Site Records (Grand Junction Office)
- 8:00 p.m.      Adjourn
-

03/13/03

Pg B3

4815

# DOE lags in disposal of mixed wastes, report says

■ *Hanford has the largest backlog out of 7 sites in the nation*

By John Stang

Herald staff writer

The Department of Energy is using its mixed wastes incinerators inefficiently despite huge backlogs of those wastes at sites across the nation, including at Hanford, said a report released Wednesday.

DOE's two top mixed waste incinerators are at Oak Ridge, Tenn. One operated at 31 percent of capacity in 2002, and the other operated at 55 percent of capacity for the first nine months of 2002, the DOE inspector general's report said.

DOE has seven sites with a total backlog of 2.534 million pounds of mixed wastes, which are radioactive materials laced with dangerous chemicals.

Hanford has the largest backlog of the seven locations, with 790,000 pounds of mixed wastes waiting to be treated, the report said.

The report concludes that DOE site managers have looked for mixed waste solutions that are best for their individual sites, without any nationwide coordination.

The report also questioned why DOE is backing development of a new mixed waste treatment site in Utah to handle mixed wastes from Fernald, Ohio, while the Oak Ridge facilities are not being fully

used.

Fernald picked the Utah project because the contractor could give the Ohio wastes higher priority than any other facility, the report said.

Mixed waste treatment must be tailored to the contents of each barrel. Treatment options include incineration, glassification or neutralization.

Hanford has been using Allied Technology Group's northern Richland plant to neutralize mixed wastes that don't require incineration, said DOE spokeswoman Andrea Powell.

For years, ATG tried to start a mixed waste glassification facility, but that project is stalled by technical problems and ATG's Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Powell said Hanford sent its first shipment of mixed wastes to a Permafix facility in Tennessee last week. Permafix is one of the companies interested in buying ATG's Richland plant.

■ Reporter John Stang can be reached at 582-1517 or via e-mail at [jstang@tri-cityherald.com](mailto:jstang@tri-cityherald.com).

04/02/03

pg B1

4815

718A

### **Environmental groups to sue DOE over wastes**

Several Northwest environmental groups are expected to file a lawsuit in federal court today to stop the Department of Energy from sending transuranic wastes to Hanford.

Heart of America Northwest, Columbia Riverkeeper, two Sierra Club chapters and the Washington chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility are expected to file the suit.

It would be similar to a lawsuit that Washington state filed against DOE in federal court March 4. That lawsuit seeks to block a DOE plan to ship transuranic wastes to Hanford from various small DOE sites across the nation.

Under the DOE plan, the wastes would go to a Hanford facility that could check and repack those wastes. The wastes eventually would be trucked to a permanent underground storage site near Carlsbad, N.M.

**Oak Ridger**  
**Monday, March 31, 2003**

**Boyd: DOE ready to support historic preservation**

**by R. Cathey Daniels**  
**Oak Ridger staff**

Gerald Boyd, head of the local Department of Energy office, has pledged to support historic preservation on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

He has also pledged Bill Madia's support.

"Bill Madia and I have agreed to energize the Forestall Building on this subject," said Boyd. "Right now it's not real high on the radar screen (in Washington.)" The Forestall Building in Washington is headquarters for DOE.

Boyd addressed the Atomic Heritage Foundation committee Thursday at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge.

Madia, director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, concurred Monday.

"Oak Ridge's 60th anniversary offers a perfect opportunity to focus on how we preserve the unique history of our community," said Madia Monday. "I believe the city should provide a showcase for that story that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors for generations to come."

Boyd said, "DOE is probably a little late trying to come to grips with this S but DOE will put energy and effort into this in a way we've not done before."

He noted the agency is performing an "engineering analysis" on the K-25 site, which has been a lightning rod of controversy over how much of the former gaseous diffusion plant to preserve. The site is slated for take down and closure by 2008.

Boyd said that historic preservation efforts would work "in parallel" with accelerated cleanup priorities. He also said that the American Museum of Science and Energy would be a "centerpiece" of DOE's preservation plans.

---

"We are going to start working harder," said Boyd, who noted that he is unsure how Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham will react to preservation priorities in Oak Ridge.

"It's difficult to do a lot without the support of the secretary," said Boyd.

He also said that congressional support is important.

U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp, R-3rd District, said Thursday in response to a query, that he supports historic preservation, "as long as we keep pressure on the federal government to fund all our major missions."

He also noted that in tough budget times, such as the coming year, "it's harder than in previous years" to get funding "we're accustomed to."

He said funding for preservation initiatives would be on a "proposal by proposal" basis, with national security, science and research, cleanup and homeland security the first priorities.

The preservation committee plans to issue a report in April prioritizing preservation resources. The group plans to explore creating a national park site in Oak Ridge in conjunction with other DOE sites.

Cindy Kelly, president of the Atomic Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., said the group plans to move quickly so as not to hold up cleanup initiatives in Oak Ridge.

813A

**Washington Post**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2003**

## **Report: Energy Dept. Overruns Persist**

**By LARRY MARGASAK**  
**The Associated Press**

A nine-year reform effort has not lightened the burden of runaway contracting costs plaguing the Energy Department, congressional investigators say.

Relying on private companies for such pricey jobs as maintaining nuclear weapons, cleaning up radioactive sites and conducting scientific research has generated an \$18 billion bill each year for the agency, according to a General Accounting Office report obtained Wednesday by the Associated Press.

That price tag eats up most of the department's \$21 billion appropriation.

Department officials say they are trying to control contracting business. But they blame the Clinton administration for passing on the management problems, including major delays in completing the work.

The report cites little evidence that reforms started in 1994 have been successful. The agency has tried new contracting approaches, increased competition and payments based on performance.

Department spokesman Joe Davis said contracting officials have been ordered to develop plans by April 15 to correct the problems and were given this directive: "You will make these programs work."

The department inspector general and the GAO experts will work with the agency, Davis said.

The findings were to be presented Thursday to the House Government Reform Committee. Chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., said he recognized the extensive reform efforts, but concluded "results thus far are mixed at best and at worst, the department may not even know if its reform measures are working."

---

The department is the largest nonmilitary contracting agency in the federal government. Its 16,000 government workers are supplemented by more than 100,000 contract employees. The GAO has designated Energy Department contracting as one of programs most vulnerable to fraud, waste and abuse.

Among the problems found by investigators, including some findings reported previously:

-The estimated cost of the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California jumped from \$2.1 billion to \$3.3 billion

and the scheduled completion date had been extended six years to 2008. The facility is designed to simulate conditions created in nuclear explosions.

-The cleanup plan for uranium enrichment facilities in Paducah, Ky., contained assumptions and uncertainties that could significantly increase the cleanup time and add billions of dollars to the cost.

-The original projected cost for the Yucca Mountain, Nev., nuclear waste depository was \$6.3 billion, with an October 2001 date for submitting a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The latest estimate is \$8.4 billion cost and submission of the application in December 2004.

-Allegations of contractor fraud, waste and abuse at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, one of the primary locations for nuclear weapons research.

-A contract to prepare radioactive waste for disposal at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington state is 10 months behind schedule. While the estimated cost was \$4 billion only last May, the contractor is estimating the figure will rise by more than \$1 billion.

The congressional investigators based their conclusions in part on their evaluation of changes in cost and schedule for 16 major projects as of 2001. Comparing them with 25 projects evaluated in 1996, the GAO said, "We found no indication of improved performance."

The comparison indicated the problems may have worsened. Investigators discovered an increase in the proportion of projects experiencing cost increases of more than double initial estimates, or schedule delays of five years or more.

The criticism came from beyond Congress. Gregory Friedman, the Energy Department's inspector general, prepared his own list of runaway contracts for the House committee.

"Failure of the department to effectively manage certain aspects of its contract operations has led to excess expenditure of funds, use of taxpayer funds for purposes not intended, wasteful management practices and excessive project costs," he said.

Davis said he will introduce legislation to establish a training fund for federal employees who work on contracts, and set up an exchange program between government and private sector contracting experts.

813A

**Louisville Courier-Journal**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2003**

**Report: Energy Dept. contracting still poor**

The Energy Department's decadelong effort to improve contracting failed to curb excessive costs or poor performance on projects involving nuclear weapons, radioactive cleanups and research, congressional investigators reported.

The problems may have worsened since the effort began in 1994 to reform what is now an \$18 billion-a-year contracting business, the General Accounting Office found.

In a report obtained yesterday by The Associated Press, the investigators gave department officials credit for developing new contracting approaches, increasing competition and basing payments on performance. But they found little evidence that the changes have worked.

The findings are to be presented today at a hearing of the House Government Reform Committee. The committee chairman, Rep. Tom Davis, R Va., said he recognized the extensive reform efforts, but concluded "results thus far are mixed at best, and at worst the department may not even know if its reform measures are working."

Among the problems found by investigators: The cleanup plan for uranium-enrichment facilities in Paducah, Ky., contained assumptions and uncertainties that could significantly increase the cleanup time and add billions of dollars to the cost.

018A

March 3, 2003

Inside Energy

4815

Page 19

*"Roberson hints she will stay at DOE"***Roberson hints she will stay at DOE**

Despite speculation in Washington that she might be a candidate for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Energy Department's environmental management chief Wednesday suggested strongly that she plans to remain at the agency to continue work on reforms in the program. "I assure you I'm not leaving until I'm done," Jessie Roberson told the Energy Facility Contractors Group in Arlington, Va. "How can we possibly be done when the job is in front of us?"

Roberson and Under Secretary of Energy Robert Card have been rumored as possible contenders for two upcoming vacancies at NRC, including one resulting from Chairman Richard Meserve's departure on March 31.

Separately, Roberson said she is hopeful the Bush administration's \$7.2-billion request for the cleanup program in FY-04 will win approval in Congress. "We're gaining momentum and support, but clearly it depends on achieving what we said we were going to do," she said. "We're proposing a number of changes, which Congress will have to absorb. I think they will after they've been briefed."

February 2003  
DOE This Month  
Page 12

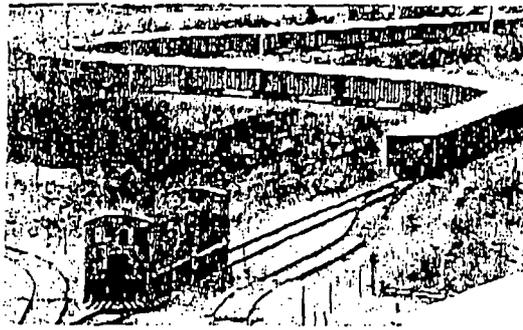
4815

*"Fernald rail operation on track to end in 2004"*

## Fernald rail operation on track to end in 2004

The Department of Energy's Fernald Environmental Management Project in Ohio is less than two years from completing the remediation and disposition of a 37-acre waste pit area that contains over one million tons of low-level radioactive waste. The Waste Pits Project is one of five remediation projects at the site.

The waste pit area contains six waste pits ranging in size from one to five acres and varying in depth from 10 to 40 feet, a burn pit, and clearwell. During uranium production operations, Fernald disposed of solid and liquid processing material and refining residues in the waste pits and incinerated materials, such as laboratory chemicals and refining residues, in the burn pit. The clearwell served as a settling basin for process water.



*The rail yard at the Fernald Environmental Management Project is the most extensive rail operation in the Department of Energy complex.*

Prior to initiating full-scale remediation of the waste pits, Fernald constructed an 11-track rail yard and procured 170 gondola railcars and three locomotives to safely move railcars on site and ship material offsite for disposal. As the waste

is excavated, cleanup workers haul it by truck to on-site remediation facilities, where the waste is processed and treated to remove excess moisture; load it into double-lined railcars with secure lids; and assemble the cars into a unit train for shipment to Envirocare, a licensed commercial disposal facility near Clive, Utah. Each train contains about 60 railcars that hold approximately 6,000 tons of waste.

Since the first train left the site in April 1999, Fernald has maintained a steady shipping cycle of one train every two to three weeks. In January 2003, Fernald workers shipped the 75th train of material to Envirocare. Fernald is on schedule to complete waste processing operations by the end of 2004. ♦

4815

February 2003

E I 8 DOE This Month

Page 8

*"Fernald reducing radon levels in waste silos"*

## Fernald reducing radon levels in waste silos



The Department of Energy's Fernald Environmental Management Project put into operation a new radon control system in December 2002 that is reducing the concentration of radon gas in two concrete waste storage silos by 95 percent. Radon concentrations were reduced from 20 million picocuries per liter to one million picocuries/liter within eight hours. The aging K-65 Silos contain 8,900 cubic yards of low-level, radium-bearing waste dating back to the 1950's.

The closed-loop Radon Control System, at left, stands about 40 yards from the earthen-bermed silos. Fans draw the radon-bearing air into the facility via a series of valves and piping connected to manways on top of the silos. The air is passed through activated carbon filters to remove radon gas and HEPA filters to remove any remaining particulate.

In June 2003, Fernald cleanup crews will begin installing waste retrieval equipment around the silos. Waste treatment and disposal operations are scheduled for completion in 2006. ♦

21