FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

FCAB UPDATE

Week of February 1, 1999

(Last Briefing was Dated December 21, 1998)

MEETINGS

FERNALD MONTHLY PROGRESS BRIEFING **Services Building Conference Room**
Tuesday, February 9,1999 • 6:30 pm

REMEDIATION COMMITEE **Administration Building First Floor**
Wednesday, February 10, 1999 •6:30 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE **Large Laboratory Conference Room**
Thursday, February 11, 1999 •6:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Minutes from the January16, 1999 Full CAB Meeting
- Draft Members Bios
- Draft Brochure for the Transportation Workshop
- 12/9/98 On-Site Committee Meeting Summary
- Al Alm article: "Accelerating DOE Cleanup"
- News Clippings

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please review the draft bios. Please give any changes or corrections to Gwen Doddy by February 12.
- Please review the draft minutes and give any changes or corrections to Gwen Doddy by February 12.
- Please review the draft brochure for the Transportation Workshop. Please give any comments by February 12.
- The 1999 DOE Site Specific Advisory Board Workshop on Waste Transportation will be held on May 20-23, 1999 at the Vernon Manor located in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Registration packets will be mailed to the SSABs the second week of February.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Doug Sarno or Gwen Doddy, Phoenix Environmental Corporation
Phone: 513-648-6478 or 703-971-0058 Fax: 513-648-3629 or 703-971-0006
E-Mail: [redacted]

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Draft Minutes from the January 16, 1999 Meeting

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:40 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, January 16, 1999, at the Large Laboratory Conference Room on the Fernald site. The meeting was advertised in local papers and was open to the public.

Members Present:	French Bell Jim Bierer Sandy Butterfield Marvin Clawson Jack Craig Gene Jablonowski Mike Keyes Ken Moore Graham Mitchell Robert Tabor Fawn Thompson Thomas Wagner Gene Willeke
Members Absent:	Lisa Crawford Pam Dunn Jane Harper Darryl Huff Dan McElroy Ray Wurzelbacher
Designated Federal Official:	Gary Stegner
Phoenix Environmental Staff:	Douglas Sarno Gwen Doddy
FDF Staff:	Tisha Patton Sue Walpole

Approximately 10 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE, Fluor Daniel Fernald, and the University of Cincinnati.

1. Call to Order

Chair Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

2. Announcements and New Business

Doug Sarno announced that he and Gene Willeke plan to attend the Transportation External Coordination Working Group Meeting on January 20–22, 1999. The DOE is hosting the meeting of a wide spectrum of groups which are impacted by DOE transportation, including non-profits, local governments, and emergency responders.

Jim Bierer announced that Nye County officials and NTS CAB members will visit Fernald on February 9, 1999. Several CAB members and local government officials will tour the site and review waste packaging and transportation programs. FCAB members are scheduled to dine with the visitors at 4:30 p.m.

The Silo 3 contract, estimated at $16 million, was awarded to Rocky Mountain Remediation Services. Rocky Mountain Remediation will chemically stabilize the waste and form bricks which will be placed on pallets, put in metal boxes, and shipped to the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

On December 28, 1998, the DOE HQ approved the waste declaration for 938 Metric Tons of Uranium at Fernald, which includes low-enriched residues such as incinerator ash, and depleted feed and product material.

3. FCAB Reorganization

The Steering Committee proposed a new organization for the FCAB, consisting of three committees: Remediation, Stewardship, and Steering. The Remediation Committee will be chaired by Gene Willeke and will cover the following issues: transportation, silos, waste pits, OSDF, D&D, and Nuclear Materials Disposition. The Stewardship Committee will be chaired by Pam Dunn and will cover the following issues: Fernald Living History Project, Native American issues, Historic Preservation, site archiving, Museum/Cultural Center, ecological restoration issues, stewardship planning and funding, and coordination with the "Natural Resources Working Group". The Remediation Committee will meet on Wednesday nights, the Stewardship Committee on Thursday nights. The Steering Committee will retain the same members and will meet occasionally to chart the direction of the FCAB. The Steering Committees members are: Jim Bierer, Lisa Crawford, Pam Dunn, Bob Tabor, Tom Wagner, and Gene Willeke.

Sarno suggested an annual evaluation of the structure of the FCAB. With two committees, workload and membership can be more evenly divided, and one meeting night established per month for each committee will allow members to know when meetings are scheduled throughout the year. The full board will oversee more issues, including overall progress monitoring, review of monitoring results, budget review, and advocate for Defense Closure funding. This will allow all members to stay informed. The Committees will be responsible for all issues within their scope to determine whether the full board or the committee should focus on a specific topic.

Jack Craig suggested that the Stewardship Committee work with the Natural Resource Trustees as the Trustees are now thinking about the future land use at Fernald.

The members of the Remediation Committee are Sandy Butterfield, Lisa Crawford, Darryl Huff, Dan McElroy, Fawn Thompson, Tom Wagner, Gene Willike, and Ray Wurzelbacher. The members of the Stewardship Committee are: Jim Bierer, Marvin Clawson, Mike Keyes, Ken Moore, and Bob Tabor.

Sarno emphasized the importance of attending all meetings; the attendance policy of the full board will apply to the committees. If a member cannot attend meetings he/she must call the office to let them know.

Bierer encouraged all the CAB members and the public to attend the DOE monthly progress briefings, which are held the second Tuesday of the month. Everyone is also welcome to attend both Committee meetings.

Sarno reviewed the 1999 Key Fernald Activities sheet which will be used to develop a work plan. This list is not an exhaustive list and individuals were encouraged to add items. Gene Willeke indicated that Silo 1 needs to be added to June's list.

Sarno also reviewed the new recommendation procedures. A new form will be used to better assist the tracking of recommendations. A standard recommendation form, with the recommendation number, date, type, and response requested date, will be attached to a letter from the Chair. The recommendations will continue to be summarized in chart format.

4. Fernald Waste Transportation Update

Craig updated the Board regarding transportation issues. The DOE Fernald is awaiting DOE HQ approval to restart shipment of waste. The Ohio Congressional Representatives and other elected officials are meeting with the DOE during the week of the 25th to discuss the progress of the site, specifically waste shipment. Craig had a conference call with the Nevada DOE (DOE-NV) concerning the truck route. The DOE-NV has told the DOE Fernald that they prefer that trucks discontinue driving through downtown Las Vegas. The DOE Fernald will select an alternate route, one which avoids Las Vegas, and will get bids from the carriers reflecting this new route. The most preferable route is through California; however, the stakeholders would need further involvement. The DOE Fernald expects the first shipment by the end of February.

The DOE will become more aggressive regarding intermodal transportation. DOE-NV prefers intermodal transportation because it avoids Las Vegas and Hoover Dam; a final decision is expected in October. Craig is encouraging the staff at Fernald to complete all necessary steps to start intermodal transportation by then if it is the selected mode.

5. Draft Transportation Workshop Agenda

Sarno announced that the Off-Site Committee discussed the core topics and agenda for the SSAB Transportation Workshop. The core topics include; 1) routing and mode (rail, truck, and intermodal); 2) packaging, safety, and risk assessment; 3) stakeholder involvement and risk communication; 4) notification and emergency response. Stakeholder involvement and risk communication's subtopic is public perception about the risk and presentation of information to the community. The FCAB is more informed regarding transportation issues than those SSABs who have not yet dealt with transportation issues. Through this workshop, the SSABs have the opportunity to raise awareness, and exchange ideas and views with other SSABs. Also from this workshop,

joint recommendations can be written regarding transportation, and these recommendations will be more powerful as they represent multiple SSABs.

The original workshop dates were Thursday, May 13 – Sunday May 16, 1999. Due to difficulties finding a hotel, additional dates are being evaluated. The workshop will likely be held at the Vernon Manor, located near downtown Cincinnati. The draft agenda is as follows:

Thursday 7:00 – 9:00 pm	Reception
Friday 8:00 – 12:00 noon	Tour of the Fernald site
Friday 1:00 – 6:00 pm	Welcome and overview Discussion of workshop goals Site introductions Panel presentations and Q&A on core topics Discuss conference approach and plan for breakouts
Saturday 8:00 – 10:00 am	Plenary discussion on core topics - Identify key stakeholder concerns on core topics
Saturday 10:00 – 12:00 noon	Breakout groups on core topics • Develop draft workshop statements on concerns • Identify one possible joint SSAB recommendation
Saturday Lunch	Luncheon speaker (to be determined)
Saturday 1:30 – 3:00 pm	Reconvene breakout groups
Saturday 3:15 – 5:00 pm	Preliminary results of breakout groups presented • discuss statements of stakeholder concern • discuss possible joint SSAB recommendations
Saturday 6:30 – 8:00 pm	Breakout groups to revise statements as necessary
Sunday 8:00 – 12:00 noon	Statements finalized Recommendation language reworked as time permits Next steps and followon activities identified

Fluor Daniel Fernald will pay for Thursday's reception. The Friday morning Fernald Site tour will emphasize transportation issues, and the Saturday morning plenary discussion will consist of brain-storming on the core topics. Attendees will form breakout groups, with one member from each SSAB in each of the topic groups and the other SSABs' facilitators will help facilitate the groups. The breakout groups will try to identify one or two possible joint recommendations

The FCAB will develop templates of various fact sheets concerning transportation, to aid each site to create its own. Each site will receive both the fact sheets from the other sites and a compilation fact sheet.

Bierer would like to review the fact sheets prior to the conference. Sarno replied that he plans to get the information to attendees before the conference, and by February, a registration packet will be sent. Willeke suggested developing a fact sheet on each receiving site, in addition to each SSAB site. Ken Moore asked about future workshop

topics and locations. Sarno replied Oak Ridge will host the next workshop which will be on Stewardship.

Wagner stated that the SSABs usually tour the site at the meeting location and it has become an important ingredient of the workshop. He emphasized the importance of the CAB members to help plan and run the event.

6. Fernald Future Use Planning

Bierer announced the Fernald Habitat Area is now complete and open from dawn to dusk. He also asked if the FCAB should write a letter of recommendation to the DOE HQ for funding the disposal of the 938 Metric Tons of waste Uranium. Craig stated the DOE Fernald's request to HQ for more money for this project was denied due to lack of funds. By the end of March an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed, relaying details about the process. The FCAB will wait to comment until the EA is released.

Next, Joe Schomaker presented an update on the Fernald Cultural Resources Management Program. The basic topics of the Fernald Cultural Resources Management Program are 1) cultural resource investigations, 2) preserving "Cold War" properties and artifacts 3) Native American reburial, and 4) Museum/education facility.

Schomaker announced that the entire Fernald site has been declared a historical site. This means a data recovery must be done on all buildings and areas which are currently slated to be destroyed. All the buildings on the site have been documented and 128 historical sites have been found at Fernald. The Cultural Resource Management Project is working with several Native American Tribes regarding Native American Indian Reburial. These groups include: the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Shawnee Tribe of Missouri (Eastern Shawnee), the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma (Absentee), Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma, Wyandot Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca Indians, NY, Potwatomi, Kickapoo, and the Chipewa. Additional stakeholders in historic preservation include: the Department of Interior, NAGPRA – Review Committee, State Historic Preservation Office (Ohio), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Department of Energy (offices in Washington, Ohio Field Office, and Fernald), FRESH, FCAB, CRO, and Crosby Township Historical Society. The Cultural Resources Management has written a letter to the DOE HQ and the Department of the Interior for support to rebury the Culturally Unidentifiable Native American Indian remains on the Fernald Site. New technologies are available to manage the areas without the need to have a guard on site and it can be both protected and accessible to the public.

Wagner asked Schomaker how much land would be necessary for the reburial site. Schomaker replied possibly eight to ten areas although there is still uncertainty as the U.S. Government and various tribes have yet to discuss the issue. Bierer thanked Schomaker for his presentation.

Wagner stated the future land use issue is an important focus of the Stewardship Committee and needs to be properly emphasized. Craig added that the question of funding the future site also needs to be addressed. Bierer stated the FCAB wants to form a working group of stakeholders in order to help determine the path of stewardship. Craig said it would be helpful to decide what type facility or center is planned in order to integrate it into the clean-up process. Graham Mitchell added it will be less expensive, for example, to add trails in conjunction with the clean-up process.

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Willeke asked Craig if the DOE Fernald has a ten-year access plan, because the access of the site will change over the years. There is none. Willeke suggested a plan might be helpful to determine the future of the site.

7. Public Comment

Bierer opened the floor to public comment.
There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

Jim Bierer adjourned the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the January 16, 1999, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

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James Bierer, Chair Date
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

_____

Gary Stegner Date
Designated Federal Official

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FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS (DRAFT 1/21/99)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Darryl D. Huff: An area businessman and lifetime resident, he also is the vice chairman of the Morgan Township Zoning Board. The Fernald site is located in three townships, of which Morgan is one.

Michael Keyes: The current president of the International Guards Union of America Local 14 and recently negotiated a five-year contract with Flour Daniel Fernald. He has worked a Fernald for 17 years. He also is a member of the Fernald Citizens Reuse Organization.

Dan McElroy: A retired member of the Cincinnati Building Trades Commission. He is a resident of Colerain Township and worked at the Fernald site from 1982-1985.

Kenneth J. Moore: Ken served in the Air Force and has worked in the field of city planning in Florida and in Ohio. Ken was formally a member of the faculty at the University of Cincinnati, General Manager at Snook-Veith Lumber Company, and served as an administrator on the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. He holds a Bachelors of Science and a Masters degree in Community Planning. He is now retired.

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

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

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

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

Raymond J. Wurzelbacher: A Ross Township Trustee and a superintendent for GAI Construction. He has lived in Ross for over 40 years.

Ex Officio Members

L. French Bell: ATSDR lead for the Fernald site

Jack Craig: Site Manager, DOE-Fernald Environmental Management Project

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

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

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION 1941

1999 DOE Site-Specific Advisory Board Workshop on Waste Transportation

May 20 – 23, 1999

Cincinnati, Ohio

Hosted by the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

LOCATION and ACCOMODATIONS

Vernon Manor Hotel
400 Oak Street
Cincinnati, OH 45219

513-281-3300
513-281-8933 Fax
800-543-3999 Reservations

The Vernon Manor is Cincinnati's oldest operating hotel and has just undergone a complete renovation and is the only hotel in Ohio to be featured in the Connoisseur's Guide to Elegant Small Hotels. Rooms are spacious and the hotel is close to museums and the zoo, as well as the Mt. Adams area of Cincinnati where there are many restaurants. The hotel runs a complimentary shuttle to downtown activities but does not offer airport transportation. Rooms have been reserved at a government rate of $68 per night for a single room and $78 per night for a double room. This includes free parking, a daily continental breakfast, and USA Today.

You must register no later than April 29, 1999 to take advantage of these room rates.

GOALS OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop is being designed for stakeholders who are actively involved in the remediation of the DOE complex, to

1. Improve stakeholder understanding of transportation-related issues and decision-making processes;
2. To foster dialog among SSABs about national transportation issues and create opportunities for continuing that dialog;
3. To identify joint issues and concerns and begin to draft joint recommendations to the resolution of those concerns.

REGISTRATION

This workshop is being conducted for the benefit of all site specific advisory boards in the DOE complex. Space is limited due to the type of activities envisioned and the physical location. Highest priority will be given to SSAB members and their guests. Each DOE site with a SSAB is provided 10 total registrations to fill as they see fit for this topic area. We recommend having five (5) SSAB members and five (5) non-members (for example: citizens, local government officials, DOE and contractors) attend the workshop. See attached registration form.

INFORMATION

Contact Gwen Doddy, Phoenix Environmental
703-971-0030 • 703-971-0006 fax • PhnxEnvir@aol.com

CORE TOPICS

- Routing and Mode
- Packaging, safety, and risk assessment
- Stakeholder involvement and risk communication
- Notification and Emergency response

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Stakeholders will draft statements of stakeholder interest to identify areas that are important to stakeholders and in which they expect to be involved. These statements will help guide DOE both nationally and at sites as they make transportation-related decisions.
2. Identification of issues where joint SSAB recommendations are possible and draft language for recommendations that will be brought back to SSABs.
3. A method for continued discussion and activity among SSABs on transportation-related issues, such as a joint-SSAB Working Group on Transportation.

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday, May 20 7:00 – 9:00 pm	Reception
Friday, May 21 7:45 – 1:00 pm	Tour of the Fernald site (box lunch available)
Friday, May 21 1:00 – 6:00 pm	Welcome and overview Discussion of workshop goals Site introductions Panel presentations and Q&A on core topics Discuss conference approach and plan for breakouts
Saturday, May 22 8:00 – 10:00 am	Plenary discussion on core topics - Identify key stakeholder issues on core topics
Saturday, May 22 10:00 – 12:00 noon	Breakout groups on core topics - Develop draft statements of interest regarding topics - Identify one or two possible issues for a future joint SSAB recommendation
Saturday Lunch	Luncheon speaker (to be determined)
Saturday, May 22 1:30 – 3:00 pm	Reconvene breakout groups to complete work
Saturday, May 22 3:15 – 5:00 pm	Preliminary results of breakout groups presented - discuss statements of stakeholder interest - discuss possible joint SSAB recommendations
Saturday, May 22 6:30 – 8:00 pm	Breakout groups to revise statements and recommendations based on full-group feedback
Sunday, May 23 8:00 – 12:00 noon	Statements amended and approved by full group Recommendation language reworked as time permits Next steps and follow-on activities identified

Mission Not So Impossible: Accelerating DOE Cleanup

COMMENTARY

BY ALVIN ALM

When I took on the job of assistant secretary for environmental management (EM), I was told that change was impossible—that the entrenched interests of both outside groups and the Energy Department bureaucracy were immovable.

After almost two years in the job, I can certainly agree that the decks are stacked against change. But I also believe that change is possible with enough persistence and indeed, that substantial change has actually occurred, although not without a certain amount of pain and turmoil. I would like to recount how these changes occurred and what resulted from them.

In June 1996, the managers of the DOE environmental clean-up program established a new vision for the EM program—the largest environmental program in the world. Contrary to what I was told, I discovered that, at least at the top management levels, there was enthusiasm for change.

Even though substantial progress was being made in improving business practices, the managers realized that the program lacked a central vision and set of objectives. The vision developed by the EM managers was to clean up most of the sites contaminated during 50 years of weapons production within a decade. This goal was designed to save tens of billions of dollars, provide a clear goal for the nation and retain congressional support for funding the program. In order to achieve the goal, a new management structure was needed.

Creating a vision was easier than developing a plan. The foundation for developing a viable plan was simply non-existent. Baselines were not consistent, many policy issues were unresolved and objectives were less than clear. Even more difficult, there was no consensus on future funding. Many at the sites, both DOE personnel and stakeholders, believed that somehow funding would increase, even though [former Energy] Secretary [Hazel] O'Leary, through her restructuring proposals to reduce DOE expenditures, and OMB were both assuming decreases.

Both those who either expected increases or decreases in the EM budget did not accept the10-year plan assumption on level funding.

As the 10-year plan was subjected to public discussion, there was a general consensus that the idea had merit but that the details deviated from past perceptions of funding and timing. The various mutations of the ten-year plan became a clear public target for dissatisfaction by stakeholders, even when many agreed with their direction in private. Through numerous public meetings and opportunities for formal comment, EM staff made many adjustments to the plan, muting, but not dispelling criticisms. Slowly, but surely, stakeholders began to accept the reality that congressional support for the EM program was not infinite and that completion and closure were critical to assuring continued support.

While the plan attracted the most attention, the management changes were equally critical. At the heart of the Accelerating Cleanup plan, substantial efficiencies needed to be achieved. To achieve these efficiencies, all of the EM program was divided into 375 projects, focusing management attention on action, not a series of unrelated activities. Efficiency targets were established far in the future, creating continued pressure to reduce unnecessary overhead, re-engineer the way work was conducted and apply new, cheaper technology. Over $800 million in efficiencies were slated for FY 1998 and FY 1999, and over $8 billion in efficiencies were either identified or committed to for the future. Some of these efficiencies were offset by growth in scope at some sites. Despite the appeal of greater efficiency, many stakeholders believed the efficiency estimates were overly optimistic, and hence the program would ultimately be short-changed.

After a long period of public debate, the final Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure document was issued by [Energy] Secretary [Federico] Pena in June 1998. The question arises whether this document represents yet another initiative that will be overtaken be events or another set of initiatives from new management. Although admittedly biased, I believe steps taken by both DOE and the Congress on the Accelerating Cleanup plan will result in permanent changes.

For one thing, the DOE never before laid out its total strategy for completion of the EM mission both in total and by each site. The "Baseline Environment Management Report," which provided useful analytical information for the ten-year plan, was not a management strategy. The new budgeting and management system, which establishes firm commitments by site, is firmly in place. For each facility, the critical path steps necessary to achieve cleanup have been clearly laid out for management and stakeholders.

The Congress has endorsed the overall approach in "Paths to Closure." Not only have the relevant committees endorsed the management approach, they have also created a new appropriations structure to institutionalize it. Abolishing stovepipe categories, the new structure includes two appropriation accounts for projects that will be finished by 2006. The third is for projects that will be finished after 2006. This structure clearly focuses on getting as much of the job as possible accomplished within a decade.

Overall, the Congress has supported the accelerated program by kind words, by the new appropriations structure and by funding. In a tight budget year, the EM program received roughly the level of funding of the previous year. The Senate Appropriations Committee stated that with recent initiatives, the EM program was turning the corner. For a program that seldom receives much praise, this was a rare and unexpected delight.

If there is a lesson to be gained from the Accelerating Cleanup experience, it is that persistence, coupled with a willingness to listen, can pay off. In a relatively short period of time, the EM program has a vision and a supporting management structure. The program has changed from one of conducting endless activities at the sites to one of completing cleanup. To complete this vision will take enormous effort and commitment by DOE and the Congress. But failure to pursue it would likely result in lack of congressional support and clearly a much more expensive total program.

My conclusion: Change is possible if one is tenacious, courageous and a little bit foolhardy. It is worth the effort in retrospect, if painful at the time. But only fools, or patriots rush in. The reader can decide which is which.

—Alvin L. Alm, currently executive vice president of The Columbus Group, was assistant Energy secretary for environmental management from May 1996 through January 1998.

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Topics:

- Potential "Borrowing" of Soil from 23-Acre Site
- Historical Preservation Activities
- Nuclear Materials Disposition Status

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FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Attendees:

CAB members:	Jim Bierer
	Pam Dunn
	Doug Sarno
	Bob Tabor
CRO members:	Curt Paddock
DOE:	Randy Janke
	Dave Lojek
	John Sattler
	Gary Stegner
Fluor Daniel Fernald:	Mark Cherry
	Mike Hickey
	David Levy
	Sue Peterman
	Charles Raves
	Joesph Schomaker
	Jeff Wagner
Ohio EPA:	Bill Lonner
	Tom Schneider

Action Items

1) February Meeting will focus on the OSDF and Off-Site excavation
2) A letter to DOE-HQ stating FCAB's support of the transferring of enriched restricted materials to Oak Ridge and the designation of these materials as waste (pending correspondance with the Oak Ridge SSAB)

Meeting Summary:

Potential "Borrowing" of Soil from 23-Acre Site

Mike Hickey presented a review of the potential "borrowing" of soil from the 23-acre site. The planners had originally tested the soil near the construction areas and found it suitable for the liner, but after beginning construction they discovered the deeper soil is too rocky for use. This "rejected" soil is now stock-piled for use on the liner's perimeter or for filling the north access road. The DOE is conducting a study, which should be completed by mid-February, to determine the amount of ground till present and the total amount needed.

Pam Dunn questioned the necessity of rebuilding the 23-acre site to its original state. Hickey replied that the DOE would restore the site to meet standard requirements for the new structure, according to state guidelines.

Historical Preservation Activities

Joe Schomaker presented an update of the historical preservation activities. He and other Cultural Resource personnel identified over 128 prehistoric sites and 40 historic sites. In order for any of the Fernald Site's buildings to be dismantled, the buildings need to be catologued and a "data recovery" process needed to occur.

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The DOE has completed this recovery and created two reports. In addition to cataloguing the buildings, many Native American remains have been found on site and catalogued. The next step is to determine a procedure to re-bury these remains. If the remains can be identified with particular tribes, the DOE will ask that tribe for possession of the remains, in order to rebury them. If the remains cannot be associated with a particular tribe, all the tribes must come together to decide on a procedure for reburial. Schomaker believes two to three acreas of the Fernald site are needed for the Native American burial grounds.

Schomaker discussed possibilities for the museum/educational facility to be located adjacent to the burial grounds. He envisions a museum and training center containing items from the Living History Project, Native American history, including information about the first contact with the Europeans, as well as pre-history and Cold War artifacts. The DOE is developing an interactive Compact Disk geared to children that will explain the archeological digs.

Schomaker also explained the relationship between the DOE and the Department of Interior. He indicated that it is a supportive relationship; the Department of Interior has made the DOE the lead agency for establishing procedures with the Native American tribes concerning reburial of the Native American remains. The DOE is also developing criteria for historical preservation of Cold War and DOE artifacts.

The FCAB's role could be to provide stewardship of the museum/education center and coordinate and focus the efforts for the future land use (for example, the Living History Project and the Historical Preservation Activities).

Nuclear Material Disposition Status

Randy Janke presented the status of the nuclear materials disposition. There are approximately 4,000 canisters of enriched restricted materials on site. On December 10, 1998, the contractor began preforming a Readiness Assessment (RA). The DOE oversaw this RA, which lasted approximately a week. The DOE has completed the repackaging of 3,629 ten gallon cans of UF4 for the commercial contract and they have shipped a total of 1,815,738 net pounds of materials to Oak Ridge, with total of 784,367 net pounds awaiting shipment. The remaining materials are waiting to be re-analyzed by personnel from Oak Ridge prior to shipment, which is likely to begin early 1999. Approximately 400 metric tons (MT) of low-enriched materials will not be shipped until feedback from commercial vendors and end users is gathered, which is expected by the end of January. These delays are not expected to impact material disposition plans.

All the LOFT rods have been packaged and the first shipment began on November 4, 1998, and ended December 7, 1998. The TVA has officially decided not to take the 256 MT for the off-specification fuel program. This is not expected to impact the disposition plans because this material is included in the 3,753 MT to be transferred to Oak Ridge or will be shipped to a commercial vendor.

The DOE Fernald and DOE Oak Ridge have jointly identified 986 MT of materials as waste. Of this waste, 186 MT needs to be reprocessed and transferred at an estimated cost of $30 million. The DOE Fernald officially requested a declaration of waste, from the DOE-HQ, for the 986 MT of material; waste declaration is expected by the end of December 1998.

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""Phase one of Fernald's ecological cleanup finished"

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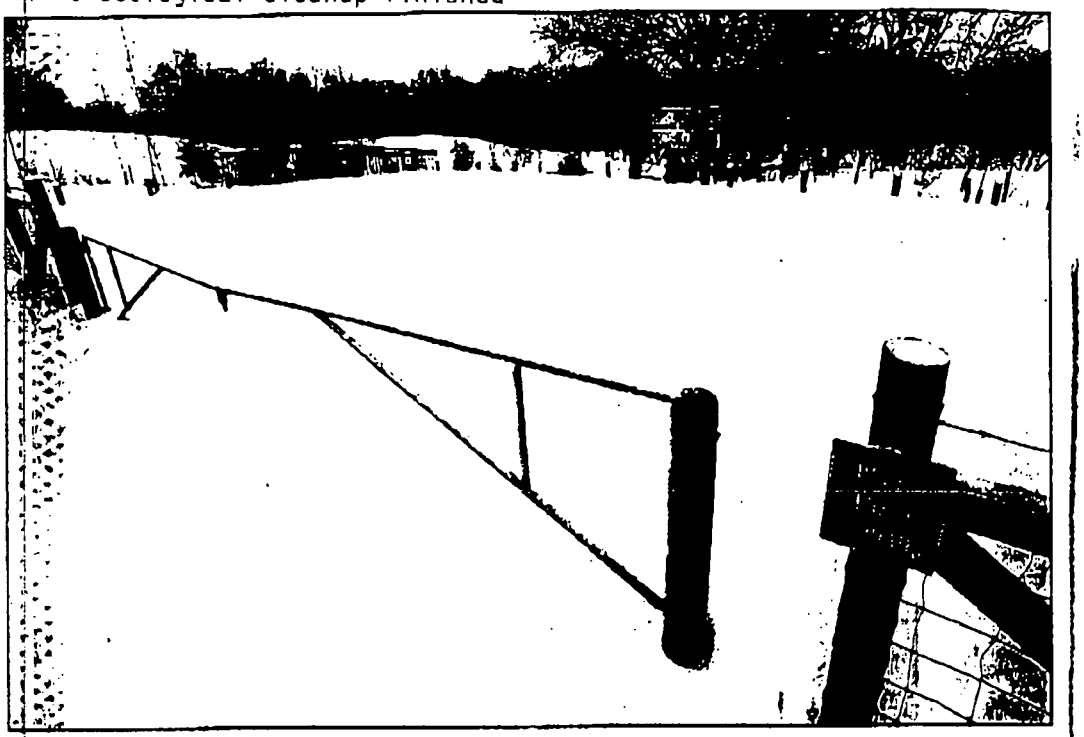

Jim Genney/Journal-News

This area along Paddy's Run Road, which will be planted with native trees and wildflowers, will resemble what the Fernald site will look like after the cleanup is completed.

Phase one of Fernald's ecological cleanup finished

By Nicholas G. Jonson
Journal-News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Once the weather clears, Fernald stakeholders will get a good glimpse of what the Fernald site will look like 10 years from now.

From two wooden decks just off Paddy's Run Road, observers will have a view of a 12-acre area that will include a bird and wildflower sanctuary and a conservation area.

While only the 1-acre bird and wildflower sanctuary has been completed, planting in most of the surrounding area will be completed by summer's end, according to Eric Woods, natural resource manager for Fluor Daniel Fernald.

"This is the first step in the overall plan," Woods said.

The project is one of several the U.S. Department of Energy and Fluor Daniel, the principal cleanup contractor at the former uranium processing facility, agreed to undertake 18 months ago as part of a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The dispute centered around missed deadlines for submitting large-scale plans for treating nearly 14,000 cubic yards of low-level radioactive waste stored in three silos on the site.

Under the settlement, DOE and Fluor Daniel will construct a publicly accessible bird and wildflower habitat and a larger conservation area. DOE and Fluor Daniel also will decontaminate and recycle nearly 1,000 tons of steel and railroad tracks.

Woods said the bird and wildflower sanctuary is planted with tall, native prairie grasses interspersed with plots of native trees, such as oak and maple.

In the surrounding area, 3 acres will be covered with prairie grasses while one-half acre will be covered with blight-resistant chestnut trees, said John Homer, Fluor Daniel project leader.

The remaining 8 acres will be covered with combinations of seedlings and saplings, he said.

When complete, the restored ecological areas will provide more than aesthetic beauty, Woods said.

"We'll be testing different methods of managing a prairie in an area that was once a grazing pasture," he said. As such, ecological monitoring of the areas will continue well into the future, he said.

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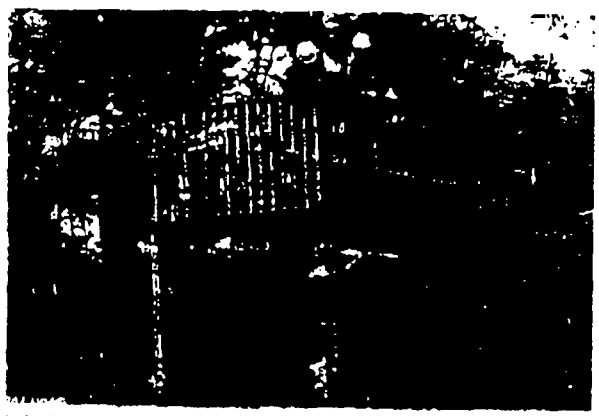
"Fernald makes progress on habitat restoration"

Fernald makes progress on habitat restoration

In 1997, the Department of Energy agreed to perform five environmental projects as a result of a dispute resolution process for the Silos Project at the Department of Energy's Fernald Environmental Management Project. One of the projects involves the creation of a "wild bird/wildflower sanctuary" on a tract of undeveloped land on the west site of the Fernald Site. The Habitat Area Environmental Project will result in wildlife viewing opportunities resembling a park-like setting.

Fernald's wildlife area includes two major components—a public access area and a research demonstration area. A short loop trail in the public access area crosses examples of restored plant communities typical of southwestern Ohio—old field, deciduous forest, hedgerows, tallgrass prairie, and tallgrass savanna/woodland. The trail leads to two wooden platforms overlooking the research demonstration areas. Research within these areas will aid future ecological restoration efforts.

The wildlife area was designed to provide easy access and preservation of the "primitive" nature of the park. The vegetation design attempted to restore a variety of habitats native to southwestern Ohio. Only native plants specifically suited for Fernald's habitat area were used.



Workers put the final touches on the overlook that will allow the public to view the Habitat Area Environmental Project at the Fernald Site.

The Habitat Area Environmental Project provides an example of what future restoration efforts at the Fernald Site may involve. The long-term proposal for the site involves ecological restoration of approximately 884 of the 1,050 acres. Additional information about the cleanup of Fernald, including the habitat area project, is available at **http://www.fernald.gov**. ❖

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January 8, 1999
The Cincinnati Enquirer
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"Firm hired to clean Fernald silo"

Firm hired to clean Fernald silo

Radioactive waste to go to a dump

BY RACHEL MELCER
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CROSBY TOWNSHIP — Community activists say they are happy that, finally, a contractor has been hired to empty and clean one of three silos full of radioactive waste at the former Fernald uranium processing plant.

Site manager Fluor Daniel Fernald announced this week that it will pay Golden, Colo.-based Rocky Mountain Remediation Services LLC more than $16 million over the next five years.

The company will remove about 5,100 cubic yards of powdered metal oxides from the silo, mix it with concrete and shape it into bricks for shipping to a permanent dump site.

Activists, who have monitored the Fernald cleanup through years of squabbling over technology and missteps, in 1986, say the squat, round silos represent their biggest challenge.

The silo 3 contract award "is another step in the right direction," said Lisa Crawford, president of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH). "We want to keep going forward, not back anymore."

Now that this part of the overall silos cleanup is under way, Ms. Crawford said she is anxious for progress on the removal of silos 1 and 2.

Those structures, known as the "K-65" silos, contain much more dangerous waste in a semi-liquid form that is more difficult to handle and remove than that in silo 3.

After a failed 1996 attempt to vitrify the silos 1 and 2 waste — encasing it in glass capsules that could be safely handled — Fluor Daniel and the Department of Energy went back to the drawing board. They are now investigating new technologies for dealing with the muck and hope to select a plan this year.

"A lot of people perceive the silos project as the most hazardous on site ... so the fact that we're beginning is a significant step for most people," said Fluor Daniel spokeswoman Kathy Graham.

The contract 'is another step in the right direction. We want to keep going forward, not back anymore.

— Lisa Crawford,
Fernald community activist

waste and uranium processing byproducts in the 1950s, before government operators switched to disposal pits.

Silo 3 holds talcum powder-like residue without any active uranium, although it does contain some radioactive particles. The compacted material will be broken up and removed from the silo in an almost entirely automated process, according to Fluor Daniel silo Wintz.

As it is excavated, the powder will be combined with liquid concrete and hardened into bricks for shipping. Rocky Mountain Remediation will spend the next year designing an on-site treatment facility, which will be built in late 2000 and put to use until all of the material is moved off site in 2003, Ms. Wintz said.

FRESH members are concerned about the technology, which has failed at other DOE cleanup sites when the material did not harden into bricks. But Ms. Crawford said she and others will keep a close eye on the project.

"While I'm glad we've finally come to a conclusion on this, there is a nagging concern," she said. "That is one of our everlasting concerns, that we do it right if we're going to do it this way."

DOE and Fluor Daniel officials note that the process has been successful many times, commercially as well as in other government operations.

"The thing that's nice about this is that it's not new technology," Ms. Wintz said. "They've got experience with it."

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January 11, 1999
The Cincinnati Post
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"Fernald hires firm"

Fernald hires firm

Post staff report

The more than $16 million subcontract to remove low-level radioactive waste from the Fernald plant's Silo 3 has been awarded to a firm in Golden, Colo.

Awarded last month to Rocky Mountain Remediation Services by the U.S. Department of Energy, the cleanup is expected to be completed in September 2003, said Gary Stegner, spokesman, DOE-Fernald.

A relic of the Cold War, the Fernald plant processed uranium for the government's production of nuclear weapons from 1951-1989. Despite governmental safety assurances, uranium dust, heavy metals and other toxic wastes coated buildings and machinery, filled waste pits, and had contaminated the soil around the buildings and the aquifer below.

"Expedited, safe remediation of the silos is among the site's highest priorities," said Nina Akgunduz, DOE-Fernald Silos project manager. "That's why the award of this subcontract five months ahead of schedule is so important."

The company is responsible for retrieving and treating waste for shipment to a Nevada test site, as well as dismantling Silo 3. It is expected to utilize current Fernald employees.

Silos 1 and 2, which contain low-level ore, are being cleaned up under separate contracts.

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January 6, 1999
The Harrison Press
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"Silos project subcontract awarded at Fernald"

Silos project subcontract awarded at Fernald

Fluor Daniel Fernald has awarded a subcontract to Rocky Mountain Remediation Services L.L.C., based in Golden, Colo., for the remediation of Silo 3, one of four silos constructed at the Fernald Environmental Management Project during the 1950s to house uranium production residues.

Silo 3 contains about 5,100 cubic yards of cold metal oxides. The subcontract, valued at over $18 million, was awarded on Dec. 18, 1998.

RMRS will be responsible for the design and construction of a remediation facility, retrieval and treatment of the Silo 3 material, packaging of the treated waste, and shutdown and dismantlement of the remediation facility.

"The award of this subcontract allows us to get started with safely remediating Silo 3," said Nina Akgunkuz, DOE-Fernald Silos project manager. "Expedited, safe remediation of the silos is among the site's highest priorities. That's why the award of this subcontract five months ahead of schedule is so important."

RMRS has extensive experience with waste treatment and specializes in environmental restoration, waste management, engineering and construction, decontamination and decommissioning, and regulatory compliance at other DOE facilities.

The company will utilize the skills and experience of Fernald employees to operate and maintain its facilities.

"We selected RMRS for the Silo 3 project because of the company's strong technical qualifications and its proposal offered the best overall value," said Karen Wintz, Fluor Daniel Fernald Silo 3 project manager. "We are particulary impressed with the emphasis they place on performing work safely. Their excellent safety record at other DOE sites speaks for itself."

Upon completion of the facility design phase of the subcontract, which is expected to take 20 months, RMRS will build facilities next to Silo 3. A steel structure will be constructed to access the Silo 3 material through the top of the silo. After the material is removed from Silo 3 and moved to the treatment facility, it will be stabilized using a proprietary chemical process called Envirobond™ that chemically binds the regulated metals in the silo material, which will allow it to be safely disposed off site.

Following the treatment process, the material will be compressed into bricks using a second proprietary process called Envirobric™, loaded onto pallets, and placed in approved standard metal shipping containers.

The treated waste will then be shipped by Fluor Daniel Fernald to an approved off-site disposal facility. Treatment operations are scheduled to begin at Fernald in early 2002. All work, including dismantlement of the treament facilities, is expected to be completed by the spring of 2003.

The Silos Project is one of five areas being remediated at Fernald. In addition to Silo 3, Silos 1 and 2 contain low-level ore residues and Silo 4 is empty. Silos 1 and 2 will be remediated under a separate contract. Additional information about the Silos Project is available in the Public Environmental Information Center, 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway (Delta Building), or at Fernald's Web site, www.fernald.gov.

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"Fluor Fernald Awards Silo 3 waste-treatment contract"

FLUOR FERNALD AWARDS SILO 3 WASTE-TREATMENT CONTRACT

Fluor Daniel Fernald officials awarded a $16.7 million subcontract Dec. 18 to Rocky Mountain Remediation Services (RMRS) for the treatment of wastes from Silo 3 at the Department of Energy's Fernald site. The company originally expected to award the subcontract in June (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 9 No. 41), but was able to push the award date up by six months after DOE Headquarters officials chose not to review the contract, according to Fluor Daniel Fernald Silo 3 manager Karen Wintz. Officials at DOE's Ohio Field Office did review the contract.

Under the terms of the contract, RMRS will design and construct a remediation facility, retrieve the waste from Silo 3, treat it, package it, and then shutdown and dismantle the remediation facility. The design phase, which is expected to last 20 months, is the only part of the subcontract for which RMRS will be guaranteed payment; that phase is worth an estimated $4.8 million. The rest of the contract is performance-based, with RMRS earning fee only when they have "successfully treated" the waste, Wintz explained. Waste treatment is scheduled to begin in early 2002.

Treated By Chemical Stabilization

The Silo 3 waste originally was to have been vitrified along with waste in Fernald's silos One and Two, but preliminary investigations showed the chemical makeup of the 5,100 cubic yards of cold metal oxides in Silo 3 differed substantially from that in the other two silos, and DOE officials determined it should be treated separately. Last spring, officials also decided not to vitrify the waste (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 9 No. 21). Instead, RMRS will use chemical stabilization to treat the Silo 3 material. The phosphate-based process renders contaminants insoluble, effectively preventing their leaching out of host materials. After the stabilization process, RMRS will compress the waste to reduce its volume, Wintz explained, and then package the waste into shipping containers. At that point, Fluor Daniel Fernald will assume responsibility for the material, which will be disposed offsite. A disposal facility has not been chosen, Wintz noted.

Use Of Union Labor Force

The contract also requires RMRS to use Fernald's onsite labor force, which, according to Fluor Daniel Fernald project director Dennis Nixon, is "already trained for conditions" at Fernald. The labor requirement also preserves jobs at Fernald, which benefits the local community. Completion of all work, including dismantlement of the treatment facilities, is expected to be completed by early 2003. ◂

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