



4350 FCAB UPDATE

Week of July 1, 2002
(Last update was June 3, 2002)

MEETING SCHEDULE

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2002, 6:00 p.m.

Crosby Township Senior Center

ATTACHMENTS

- 7/11/02 FCAB Meeting Agenda
- 6/13/02 Stewardship Committee Minutes
- 6/15/02 FCAB Meeting Draft Minutes
- DOE Charter for the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board
- Representative Boehner Letter on contact with DOE
- DOE response letter to the Superfund Report Article on Long Term Stewardship
- Letters in Response to the Accelerated Clean-up Schedule
- Savannah River CAB Report
- OakRidge CAB Report
- INEEL CAB Report
- Article on South Carolina Plutonium Blockade
- Article on Hanford Nuclear Reservation
- Articles & News Clippings

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note there is no Stewardship Committee Meeting this month and the FCAB meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11th at 6:00 p.m.

The date for the annual retreat has been set for September 28th and will be held at the Hamiltonian Hotel in Hamilton.

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 or dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com
www.fernald.org, or www.theperspectivesgroup.com

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FCAB BOARD MEMBER MEETING
Crosby Township Senior Center, 8910 Willey Road

Thursday, July 11, 2002

AGENDA

- 5:30 p.m. Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Remarks and Updates
- 6:15 p.m. Conceptual Design Education Center
- 7:15 p.m. Draft Report on Public Records Feasibility Study
- 8:15 p.m. Fernald Performance Management Plan
- 8:45 p.m. Public Comment
- 9:00 p.m. Adjourn



FULL BOARD MEETING

Crosby Township Senior Center

Saturday, June 15th

DRAFT MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 15th, 2002, at the Public Information Center

Members Present:

Kathryn Brown
 Sandy Butterfield
 Marvin Clawson
 Lisa Crawford
 Steve Depoe
 Lou Doll
 Pam Dunn
 Jane Harper
 Gene Jablonowski
 Steve McCracken
 Graham Mitchell
 Robert Tabor
 Tom Wagner

Members Absent:

French Bell
 Jim Bierer
 Lisa Blair
 Blain Burton
 Gene Willeke

Designated Federal Official:

Gary Stegner

The Perspectives Group Staff:

Douglas Sarno
 David Bidwell

Fluor Fernald Staff:

Sue Walpole

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

Call to Order

Tom Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The minutes from the April 2002 meeting were approved.

General Remarks and Announcements

Tom stated that the FCAB Steering Committee met on June 13 to discuss several issues of concern. First, Jessie Roberson had not yet responded to the FCAB's April 2 letter, which expressed the Board's support for acceleration but voiced specific concerns. The letter requested a response to the FCAB by April 20. U.S. Representatives Portman and Boehner received copies of the FCAB letter and wrote letters to Roberson supporting the FCAB statements. Each Representative received a general response from Roberson. The Steering Committee recommended that a follow up letter be sent to Roberson, requesting specific responses to the FCAB's concerns. The FCAB agreed that a follow up letter should be sent.

The Steering Committee also recommended the FCAB sponsor a roundtable discussion for a few FCAB members, Fluor Fernald, DOE, and the regulators. The purpose of this informal roundtable would be to "clear the air" and discuss the current conditions at Fernald. The FCAB supported this idea. The roundtable will be held in T-1 at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9.

Tom suggested that the FCAB focus on its desires for long term stewardship and develop cost estimates. The Steering Committee believes that DOE Headquarters resists stewardship because it is always discussed in the abstract. Pam Dunn asked if the National Academy of Sciences committee that visited Fernald had yet developed recommendations regarding stewardship. Doug noted that we have not heard from them again and would follow up.

Tom announced that the minutes from the April 2002 SSAB Chairs meeting had been completed and distributed to the group. The next Chairs meeting will be in Oak Ridge in October. The next SSAB workshop will focus on transuranic waste and transportation and will be held in Carlsbad in late January or early February 2003. That workshop will include a tour of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Steve DePoe announced that the University of Cincinnati hosted a teacher workshop at the site on June 11, funded through an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant. The workshop was called "Linking Community with Environment: Exploring Fernald's environmental history in the classroom. Steve and Sue Walpole organized the workshop, which involved thirty teachers from around the region. The workshop involved talks by FCAB members, site staff, and regulators. Steve stated that the workshop was a success and he would forward the teacher's addresses to the FCAB to use for future mailings.

Doug announced that the next FCAB meeting would be on Thursday, July 11 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will focus entirely on long term stewardship. Scheer & Scheer will present conceptual designs for the multi-use education facility. Also,

a draft report from the EM-51 sponsored feasibility study will be presented. Because the FCAB meeting will focus on stewardship, there will be no Stewardship Committee meeting in July. There will be no FCAB meeting in August. The annual FCAB retreat will be held September 28, from 8:30 a.m. to mid-afternoon. A FCAB trip to Weldon Spring has been suggested for the weekend of September 7.

Steve McCracken explained that Assistant Secretary Card has requested a quarterly review of important projects, including Fernald. Steve met with Card on June 13 and provided an overview of the site's progress. Card offered headquarters assistance for some issues, including getting NRC approval of an 11(e)2 classification for silos materials.

Gene Jablonowski stated he was pleased that Fernald had met its milestone for completing shipments of uranium off site. Lisa Crawford stated that the press near Portsmouth had been critical of the waste being shipped there. Graham Mitchell stated that there are uncertainties regarding the future of the Portsmouth site and that may underlie the current criticism. The site continues to investigate potential destinations for mixed waste.

Jack Craig announced that DOE headquarters has requested a site plan for acquiring the funds earmarked for acceleration. They would like stakeholder input on this at the July FCAB meeting, so a draft plan will be shared with the FCAB prior to that meeting.

Doug stated that Steve McCracken responded favorably to the FCAB memo on becoming a "Closure CAB." Gary Stegner indicated that he would discuss this issue with Martha Crosland, before the FCAB continues to plan for this transition.

Doug reviewed a handout from Public Affairs, showing how its staff and programs will be scaled back as site closure approaches. There is an assumption that the FCAB will continue to operate through closure, but will reduce the frequency of its meetings to one every two months, beginning in 2004.

Doug announced that the current PEIC will be closed on September 30. The administrative record and some other collections will be moved to a new trailer, located near the security trailer. The trailer will include a VCR for viewing the living history tape. The site's technical library will not be moved to the new location. The new PEIC will be open two days a week and by appointment. Lisa explained that she met with Diana Rayer at the PEIC on June 13 and feels comfortable with what is being moved to the new trailer, what will be boxed and sent to the Records Center, and what is being disposed of. She stated that FRESH would maintain its shelf of information at the new trailer.

Doug announced that the revised Master Plan for Public Use is now available. It will be posted on the FCAB web site.

Doug also announced that Roberson renewed the SSAB charter for two years. Lisa reviewed a memo that was sent from Roberson to DOE field offices. She expressed frustration concerning what she regarded as a condescending tone in the memo, which asked field managers to assure accountability of the boards.

Doug distributed a draft report from the March 13 Future of Fernald workshop. He asked the FCAB members to review the report and respond with comments as soon as possible. The final report will be distributed to everyone who attended the workshop.

Site Progress Update

Terry Hagen provided the Board with an overview of site progress. First, he explained current workforce restructuring. The site is currently in its second voluntary separation initiative but will likely initiate another involuntary separation in mid-August, which would impact approximately 140 salaried workers. Terry acknowledged that this creates tension at the site, but noted that Fluor has contracted with a human resources consultant to help them through this period. Terry also noted that maintaining safety is a concern during times of high tension, so Jamie Jameson has announced a new safety-focused program to start the week of June 17.

The self-performance approach for soils and the OSDF has gone more smoothly than expected, according to Terry. He explained that a rainy spring has put the project behind schedule, but that high levels of productivity should enable the project to complete more disposition than planned. This year, Cell 2 should be completed and liners should be in place for Cells 4 and 5.

Decontamination and Demolition work has been accelerated by adding new Mactec work crews. Because there are safety concerns associated with adding staff, the crews have focused on simpler tasks. Their work will ramp up soon, and Plants 2, 3, and 8 should be completed in 2003. The pilot plant and lab building will be started this year, to be completed in 2004.

Terry stated that the aquifer restoration is progressing smoothly.

Terry explained that the waste pits project is on schedule to meet its goal of 130 tons this year, but has not made as much progress as they hoped it could. The limiting factor to progress is dryer capacity. The site is looking for ways to reduce the dryer bottleneck. Terry expects to have more information on this issue by August. Terry explained that enough signatures were gathered to put the Utah waste tax initiative on the ballot for this fall. Envirocare has begun a public information campaign to defeat the initiative, or to persuade enough people to withdraw their signatures that the issue would be removed from the ballot. If this initiative passes, it could be implemented in January 2003. If the new taxes were put in place, the costs of disposing of waste pit material at Envirocare could increase dramatically.

Terry also provided information regarding the disposal of waste pit liners. The current ROD says that waste pit materials, liners, and caps will be sent off site, and soil beneath the liners will go to the OSDF if it meets the WAC. However, some of the pits do not have a well-defined liner. The current plan is to send all soils down to six inches below the waste material off site. Then, soil testing will be used to verify that soils below six inches meet the OSDF WAC. In addition, the first four feet of the Pit 4 cap may go to the OSDF, if it meets the WAC. This temporary cap is very thick and is composed of surface soil excavated from the site. Placing this material in the OSDF will require an ESD to the ROD, but would result in an estimated cost saving of \$6 million. Lisa requested additional information on this proposal, when Ohio and U.S. EPA have determined their positions. Terry noted that this additional material would not require opening an additional cell for the OSDF.

Silos Projects

Terry explained that the original disposition site for silos waste was NTS. At this time, the site is focused on sending the waste to Envirocare. Due to the political landscape of Utah, some other options have been discussed at a very preliminary, conceptual level. In order to send the waste to Envirocare, the NRC must recognize that the waste can be placed in Envirocare's 11(e)2 cell. NRC and DOE have reached conceptual agreement that this will be approved. DOE is currently drafting a formal letter requesting this designation from NRC, which is currently in internal review. Lisa requested a copy of this letter, once it is finalized. If Silo 3 material is not approved for the 11(e)2 cell, it could be sent to Envirocare's low-level waste cell. In addition, the NTS WAC has recently been revised so that it can receive 11(e)2 waste.

Terry further explained that for Silo 3 waste, the site's preferred alternative is to send it to Envirocare in IP2 bags without treatment. To do this, NRC must grant a modification to Envirocare's placement plan, so the bags can be placed directly in the cell. According to Terry, NRC has indicated that this will not be a problem.

For the disposal of Silos 1 and 2 waste, Envirocare must get a NRC license modification for Radium 226. This request is currently being reviewed by NRC and it looks like it will also not be a problem.

Terry also explained that for Fernald to send silos wastes to Envirocare, it must revise the RODs. The site will conduct two separate processes. For Silo 3, a ROD amendment is needed to eliminate the requirement for treatment for RCRA metals. An ESD is needed to expand the disposition options for Silos 1 and 2. These processes will not be completed until Envirocare has finalized its license modifications. Terry reported that these issues should be resolved within the next month. Steve McCracken stated that the site should communicate these issues and its next steps to the public better. Lisa asked for adequate time to review new proposals, so the public won't feel "railroaded."

Ray Corradi updated the Board on planning and engineering progress for the Silos projects. He reported that the Accelerated Waste Retrieval project is trying

to make up for time lost to the weather on the Radon Control System. Other components of the project are moving forward, including coating the interior of the transfer tanks. A cold test of the Silos 1 and 2 sluicing mechanism will be conducted in Oak Ridge. Ray reported that the overall design for Silos 1 and 2 is behind, but a corrective action plan has been developed with the subcontractor and there are indications that the schedule will be recovered.

Ray reported that the final design for Silo 3 should be completed by early July. Because funding does not support full acceleration of the Silos projects, the Silo 3 schedule has slipped nineteen months. However, Ray stated that the site would look for every opportunity to funnel funding to this project and move it forward. This funding could come from budget under-runs or funds from projects that fall behind schedule. The group briefly discussed the schedule for this project and DOE's expectations for site closure in 2006. Steve McCracken stated that it is most important to DOE headquarters that the site demonstrates disciplined project management. Doug explained that Gene Willeke continues to have significant concerns regarding the transport of Silos 3 materials without some kind of pretreatment to reduce the risk of dispersal. The group discussed the importance of adequately addressing Gene's concerns. Ray reported that the project subcontractors are spending \$20-30,000 to investigate and test fixatives.

As requested by FCAB members, the Critical Analysis Team (CAT) provided a report on the Silos projects. Bob Roal reported that the CAT has reviewed the preliminary design for Silos 1 and 2 and the mechanical plan for Silo 3. He stated that the plans contained a number of contradictions and other "checking mistakes" that need to be cleaned up. He also stated that some of the plans were not complete, because final designs will be the responsibility of the vendors. The performance of these vendor designs will be verified and cold tested before they are constructed. Still, the CAT is concerned that it may be several months before it can review plans for some of the more complex systems, such as the bag filling station for Silo 3. Bob stated that the overall design of the Silo 3 collection system looks adequate to contain the dust. He also stated that the remote operations systems for Silos 1 and 2 need to be mocked up, so there can be a higher degree of confidence that they will work.

In response to questions by the FCAB members, Bob stated that the CAT is receiving documents from the subcontractor at the same time as Fluor, which explains why many of the checking mistakes were not corrected. He also stated that the subcontractor has been responsive to comments from the CAT, but he wants to see if the comments are addressed in the revised plans. Bob stated that this subcontractor is a competent firm and that he expects the final documents will be of a high quality. Steve McCracken stated that it is important to keep continuity of the current CAT members reviewing each step of this project.

CAT member Gail Bingham commented on the measures being taken to reduce the risk of exposure to Silo 3 waste. He noted that the risks associated with

removing the materials from the silo and moving it to the packaging station are the same whether there is pretreatment or not. Gail stated that components of the Silo 3 design are identical to some processes used to handle high-level waste. These include a fully contained process, negative air pressure in the process system, contained filter systems, a remotely operated excavation room, mechanisms to recapture dust in the excavation room, vacuum systems, HVAC systems designed to contain dust, wash-down systems, and personal protection equipment. Gail also suggested using a curtain to contain dust and the use of air vents at the floor and ceiling in the packaging area. He stated that the plan to test the system with a surrogate material is a key to ensuring confidence in the system. Lisa urged that these designs be shared with everyone. Bob Tabor stated that the site has been communicating well with the workforce regarding this project.

The group briefly discussed transportation risks associated with Silo 3 materials. The major concerns were ensuring safety throughout the transportation process and striking a balance between risk reduction and reducing process complexity. The group also discussed the possibility of spraying a material to the outside of the bags to reduce dispersal risk. Bob Roal explained that modeling has shown a relatively low health risk, even if there was significant dispersal of multiple bags' contents. The group also briefly discussed whether it is better to ship all of the material on a single unit train or spread out shipments over time. Tom Wagner requested more information about how the deconstruction and disposal of the silo structures. Board members recommended a technical roundtable regarding the silos, at which more in-depth technical and design information could be communicated.

Long Term Stewardship Issues

Steve McCracken explained that there has not been significant progress on planning for long term stewardship. He noted that he had conversations with Dave Geiser and staff at Weldon Spring, and that the Weldon Spring site will continue to be used as a model for stewardship. Steve promised to provide the FCAB with a clear scope of work and baseline schedule for the transition to stewardship at the September meeting. Pam Dunn noted that some Stewardship Committee activities might be scheduled for August.

Education Facility Design Charrette

David Bidwell presented material that was provided to him by architect David Scheer. This information was discussed by the Stewardship Committee at its June 13 meeting.

The architects developed six key principles for the education facility design, based on input received during the charrette:

1. The building should relate to the site landscape.
2. The building should relate to the full history of the site. This includes Native American and natural history, in addition to the Cold War history and environmental cleanup.
3. The building should look like it belongs to the area.

4. The building should have an institutional presence. In other words, it should not look like a house.
5. Natural materials should be used whenever possible.
6. The building design should be environmentally sensitive.

The Stewardship Committee added that the building should draw people to the site.

Scheer also proposed that the facility be located at the northern end of the twenty-three acre site, away from Willey Road. According to David, David Scheer believed this would help link the building to the trail system and provide better views of the OSDF. Because the terrain is relatively flat in this area, the building would still be visible from Willey Road.

Scheer is working with a design concept in which functional spaces branch out from a central lobby and reception area. This would allow each space to be opened or closed independently. For instance, the site records space could be closed while the meeting space remains open for an evening event. The education space would function as the portal to site trails. David Scheer has also recommended placing most of the building below grade. The front entrance, sod roofs, and the entire education space would be visible above ground, but the remaining building spaces would sit below ground. Placing the majority of the building below grade would save energy costs and help the building fit in to the landscape. Having the land graded as part of cleanup activities can reduce excavation costs.

The Stewardship Committee agreed that David Scheer should move forward with a conceptual design, based on the preliminary ideas that were presented. Committee members, however, he expressed concern about the overall size of the building and suggested developing multi-use spaces to reduce the building's total footprint. David Scheer will attend the July FCAB meeting to get input on more developed designs. Then, it will take approximately two weeks for Scheer & Scheer to complete their final report and designs.

Public Comment

There were no comments offered by the public.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Follow Up Tasks

TASK	Point of Contact	Date Promised
Distribute Future of Fernald Workshop report to participants	The Perspectives Group	ASAP
April 2 letter follow up to Roberson	The Perspectives Group	ASAP
Contact Martha Crossland re: Closure CAB	Gary Stegner	ASAP
Post Master Plan for Public Use on FCAB website	The Perspectives Group	ASAP
Roundtable discussion	The Perspectives Group	July 9
Site plan for acceleration funds	Jack Craig	July 10
Information on waste pit project efficiency and dryer capacity	Terry Hagen	August
Weldon Spring field trip	The Perspectives Group	September 7 (tentative)
Silos Project technical roundtable	Ray Corradi	TBD
Scope of work and baseline schedule for transition to stewardship	Steve McCracken	September 28



MEETING SUMMARY

Recent FEMP Stewardship Documents

4350

Date: June 13, 2002

Topics:

- Recent FEMP Stewardship Documents
- Education Facility Design Charrette Results

Attendees

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn

The Perspectives Group

Doug Sarno
David Bidwell

U.S. Department of Energy

Ed Skintik
Gary Stegner

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Donna Bohannon

Fluor Fernald

Joseph Schomaker
Jeff Wagner
Sue Walpole
Eric Woods

Others

Jim Innis

Doug Sarno opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Doug explained that the site recently released three documents pertaining to stewardship.

The revised Master Plan for Public Use of the Fernald Environmental Management Project includes responses to the FCAB's comments on the draft plan. Doug stated that most of the Stewardship Committee's suggestions were included in the revised plan. However, the question of whether fishing will be allowed at the site remains uncertain. Eric Woods explained that this decision has been deferred until a post-closure risk assessment can be performed. Until that time, fishing is prohibited. Gary Stegner explained that because there is no plan to stock fish in the restored wetlands, it would be some years before fishing was possible. Pam Dunn stated that in addition to health risks, the impact of people fishing (e.g., litter and length of stay) would be problematic. Eric stated that any future use would need to be consistent with the plan, and that the public will be notified of any changes to the plan.

The committee then discussed the revised FEMP Site Deer Management Plan. The site will continue to use plastic tree tubes and repellants, support off-property depredation permits, and monitor its efforts. Eric indicated that these approaches are having some success and stated that deer impacts will become less concentrated when more of the site is restored. In addition to these strategies the site will also experiment with deer exclusion fencing solutions, in a small area behind the storm water retention basin.

The site also recently released the Southern Waste Units Accelerated Natural Resource Restoration Design Plan. Eric explained that this plan allowed the site to begin restoration projects in the Southern Waste Units. Soils in the area are currently being graded to meet the plan specifications and some seeding and placement of erosion matting have occurred. Approximately 500 trees have been planted this year. Sue Walpole noted that students from Crosby and Ross grew plants and recently planted them around one of the ponds in the area. The next phase of planting will begin in October, and will include



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MEETING SUMMARY (continued)

approximately 2400 saplings and 1600-1800 shrubs. A species list is included in the plan. Doug announced that the complete plan would be posted on the FCAB website.

Education Facility Design Charrette Results

Doug explained that the architects who led the May 18 design charrette, Scheer and Scheer, were unable to attend the Stewardship Committee meeting. However, David Bidwell was able to meet with David Scheer to discuss his progress on preliminary conceptual designs for the proposed education facility. Gary stated that he had spoken with a teacher who attended the charrette and that she was very positive about the experience. Pam expressed concerns that some of the ideas from the charrette had not been realistic and were too elaborate.

David Bidwell presented material that was provided to him by architect David Scheer, including six key principles that arose during the charrette:

1. The building should relate to the site landscape.
2. The building should relate to the full history of the site. This includes Native American and natural history, in addition to the Cold War history and environmental cleanup.
3. The building should look like it belongs to the area.
4. The building should have an institutional presence. In other words, it should not look like a house.
5. Natural materials should be used whenever possible.
6. The building design should be environmentally sensitive.

The Stewardship Committee confirmed that these were acceptable principles for the design of an education facility. Jim Innis suggesting adding an additional principle that the building should be inviting and draw people to it. Others agreed to this addition.

Scheer also proposed that the facility be located at the northern end of the twenty-three acre site, away from Willey Road. He believes this would help link the building to the trail system and provide better views of the OSDF. Because the terrain is relatively flat in this area, the building would still be visible from Willey Road. Jeff Wagner noted that signs along Willey Road could also draw people to the building. Marvin Clawson asked if the twenty-three acres would contain ponds as the result of soil borrow activities, but Eric stated that if the site were used as a borrow site the excavation would not be extensive.

Scheer is working with a design concept in which functional spaces branch out from a central lobby and reception area. This would allow each space to be opened or closed independently. For instance, the site records space could be closed while the meeting space remains open for an evening event. The education space would function as the portal to site trails. Pam stated that everyone should be able to access trails from the building, even if they are not involved in an education program.

The last concept suggested by David Scheer was to place most of the building below grade. The front entrance, sod roofs, and the entire education space would be visible above ground, but the remaining building spaces would sit below ground. Placing the majority of the building below grade would save energy costs and help the building fit in to the landscape. Having the land graded as part of cleanup activities can reduce excavation costs. Overall, committee members felt that this concept was supported by the ideas expressed during the charrette. Some concerns were expressed regarding the availability of natural daylight in a below grade building space, but David explained that skylights and ceiling-level windows could be used. Members also asked for additional information on sod roofs.

The Stewardship Committee agreed that David Scheer should move forward with a conceptual design, based on the preliminary ideas that were presented. Committee members, however, expressed concern about the overall size of the building and suggested developing multi-use spaces to reduce the building's total footprint. David Scheer will attend the July FCAB meeting to get input on more developed designs. Then, it will take approximately two weeks for Scheer & Scheer to complete their final report and designs.

Sue Walpole announced that Steve DePoe recently held a workshop for teachers, focused on Fernald. The teachers who attended were generally positive about building an education facility at the site. They desired a space where they could assemble at least one hundred students. They were also interested in having indoor and outdoor learning stations, and stated that there is great local demand for stream studies and other outdoor learning opportunities. Jim Innis noted that the Master Plan for Public Use might need revisions to accommodate stream studies, which likely require some wading.

Joe Schomaker announced that there would soon be a data recovery project on the site, which will require a full archaeological effort. An on-site grave will also be excavated. Joe will provide the group with up-to-date information, in case Committee members would like to observe the project. Joe also reported that the reinterment plan continues to move forward.

**Department of Energy
Charter for the Environmental Management
Site-Specific Advisory Board**

1. Official Designation:

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board

2. Objective, Scope of Activity and Duties:

The Environmental Management (EM) Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB or Board) will provide the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, the appropriate Site Manager(s), and any other U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) officials the Assistant Secretary shall designate, with information, advice and recommendations concerning issues affecting the EM program at various sites. Specifically, the Board will provide advice and recommendations to DOE concerning the following EM site-specific issues: clean-up standards and environmental restoration; waste management and disposition; stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials; excess facilities; future land use; long-term stewardship; risk assessment and management; and science and technology activities. The Board may also be asked to provide advice and recommendations on any other EM projects or issues.

The EM SSAB will have the following duties:

- a. Advise on EM projects and issues; and
- b. Issue reports and recommendations as necessary.

3. Time Period Necessary for the Board to Fulfill its Purpose:

Since the Board exists to advise EM on a succession of projects and issues, the time period required to fulfill that purpose is continuing in nature.

4. Official(s) to whom the Board Reports:

The Board will report to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, the appropriate Site Manager(s), and any other DOE official the Assistant Secretary shall designate.

5. Agency Responsible for Providing Necessary Support for the Board:

U.S. Department of Energy

6. Description of Duties for Which the Board Is Responsible:

The duties of the Board are solely advisory and are fully stated in Paragraph 2 above.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Expenses in Dollars and Person-Years:

The Department of Energy will provide resources sufficient to conduct EM SSAB business as well as travel and subsistence (per diem) expenses for eligible members. The approximate annual cost is \$3.5 million and approximately 10 person-years.

8. Estimated Number and Frequency of Board Meetings:

The Board will meet approximately six to twelve times per year at each of the sites represented on the Board. In addition, Board members at each site may be asked to designate a member or members to participate in national meetings to discuss EM SSAB issues.

9. Termination Date (if less than two years from the date of establishment or renewal):

Continuing.

10. Subcommittees:

To facilitate the functioning of the Board and to promote its effectiveness, subcommittees may be formed for each local SSAB. The objective of the subcommittees will be to make recommendations to the local SSAB.

11. Members:

- a. Pursuant to delegated authority, the Assistant Secretary for EM, is authorized to appoint SSAB members. The standard term for Board members is two years, and members typically serve no more than three consecutive two-year terms. In addition, their appointments are usually staggered so that at least one-third of the membership is retained for continuity. Board membership shall reflect a full diversity of viewpoints in the affected community and region. The Board will be composed primarily of people who are directly affected by DOE site clean-up activities. Members may include, but are not limited to, interested stakeholders from: local governments; Tribal nations; environmental, civic and religious groups; labor organizations; ethnic minorities; academia; women's groups and other interested individuals. Representatives from the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other State governments shall be considered *ex officio* Board members. By serving in *ex officio* capacity, these representatives will attend and participate in Board meetings but will have no

voting privileges. Selection and appointment of group members shall be accomplished using procedures designed to ensure a diverse Board membership and a balance of representative viewpoints.

- b. Approximate number of members: 250. This number is based on each local EM Site-Specific Advisory Board having from approximately 10 to 30 Board members.

This Charter for the Advisory Board above is hereby approved on:

Date: May 16, 2002

Cirrell Matthews
 for James N. Solit
 Advisory Committee Management Officer

Date Filed: MAY 16 2002

JOHN A. BOEHNER
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
CHAIRMAN

AGRICULTURE
VICE-CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

4350

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DISTRICT TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-800-582-1001

May 21, 2002

Mr. Jim Bierer
Chair
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB)
MS 76, Post Office Box 538704
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8704

Dear Jim:

I want to take this opportunity to update you regarding the situation you have encountered with the U.S. Department of Energy.

As you are aware it has been more than thirty days since I last contacted the agency on your behalf. Since they have not responded to the inquiry, I want you to know I am once again asking them to review this matter and forward the information directly to me.

Jim, please be assured that I will remain involved with your case until it is resolved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John".

John A. Boehner

JAB/kg

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**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

APR 16 2002

Mr. Stephen Langel
Inside Washington Publishers
1225 Jefferson Davis Hwy/ Suite 1400
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Langel:

This letter is in response to the March 4, 2002 Superfund Report article "DOE Plan to shift stewardship to other federal agencies splits agency." The article confuses many of the issues facing the Department of Energy and the federal government in assuring the long-term management of sites following the cleanup. I want to take this opportunity to clarify the Department's policy and to provide some context to this discussion.

The article implies that the Department has unilateral authority to transfer sites and "shift responsibilities" between federal agencies. This is clearly not the case. Any coordinated federal management of post-cleanup long-term care will require the support of the other affected federal agencies, the Congress, and a clear identification of authority and accountability. Although the long-term protection of human health and the environment might be better maintained by federal agencies acting in a coordinated manner, the Department has not put forward any specific proposals. We are, however, continuing to work informally with other interested federal agencies to determine a path forward.

The Department is committed to reducing risk to public health, workers, and the environment on an accelerated basis and is focusing the Environmental Management program on achieving those results. The federal government as a whole takes its cleanup responsibilities seriously as well as its post-cleanup, long-term management (i.e., long-term stewardship) responsibilities. As a nation we should consider any and all options that will result in assured long-term protection of human health and the environment.

Hundreds of sites and potentially millions of acres across the country will require some form of long-term institutional care. Currently, this land is managed by several federal agencies, and many of these agencies (including the Department of Energy) do not have land management as a core mission. The result is a variety

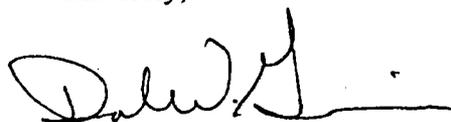


of approaches and requirements that do not provide the consistency (or business certainty) necessary to increase the pace of federal agency cleanup efforts and maximize the re-use, re-development and economic or natural resources of this property. A national approach to long term institutional management is needed to meet the government's goal of cleaning military and Department of Energy sites and transferring land that is no longer needed for national security to the appropriate parties.

Several potential management arrangements exist, and first of a kind approaches and coordinated efforts are being developed and employed today. The Department is working with the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service on implementing the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge Legislation and the Hanford National Monument designation. DOE partners with the Bureau of Land Management regarding uranium milling and mining site issues, and the Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service at the Savannah River Site. We have worked with the New York State government at our Brookhaven National Laboratory on the management of ecological resources, and we have partnered with local government at the Mound site in Miamisburg, Ohio.

The question therefore is not whether to form partnerships to coordinate long-term land management but rather "what is the best way to do it?" Is the best arrangement a single federal organization or does a coordinated partnership between multiple federal agencies make sense? How do we best involve, and coordinate with, our state, local, and Tribal government partners? Resolving these and other questions requires a thoughtful approach, not misleading statements or uninformed criticism. I look forward to continuing our efforts with federal, state, local and Tribal government partners on this and other issues.

Sincerely,



David Geiser, Director
Office of Long-Term Stewardship
Environmental Management

DOE PLAN TO SHIFT STEWARDSHIP TO OTHER AGENCIES SPLITS AGENCY

Date: March 4, 2002 -

An Energy Department (DOE) plan to shift its long-term stewardship (LTS) of contaminated sites to other federal agencies has led to a rift between headquarters and the department's field offices, DOE and other sources say.

According to a consultant following the LTS program, DOE is weighing whether to have other federal agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) take over the LTS program. One private sector source says that the department promoted the idea of eliminating "elements that may not be related to an accelerated cleanup and closure mission" in its recent cleanup program review.

Specifically, DOE is planning on transferring responsibility for Hanford, WA, and Rocky Flats, CO, to the FWS. The site at Weldon Spring, MO, and numerous other former nuclear weapons production and research sites will be handled by the Corps, and uranium mill tailings sites by BLM, the consultant says.

The source adds that a rift has developed within DOE over this proposal, with headquarters supporting the idea and field offices opposing it. The Grand Junction field office, which has authority over stewardship activities, is opposing the move, the source says, because the change would strip the office of its mission. But headquarters is supporting the move, arguing that the field office should be closed down because much of its work can be delegated outside of the department, the source says.

A DOE source says the department is seriously considering this option, adding that the present environmental management (EM) structure should not remain in place to address what would be a significantly smaller program because of all the sites that have reached closure.

But another DOE source says shifting LTS responsibilities to other agencies is just one of many approaches DOE is considering to streamline the program. The department has yet to make any final decisions on the matter, the source says, and "all options are on the table."

DOE has the legal authority to transfer these responsibilities under the Economy Act of 1932, which allows one agency to do work for another, a Corps source says. The source adds that DOE is looking to FWS and others because it wants agencies that will exist for the foreseeable future in order to ensure that these sites continue to be managed properly.

The source says that the department has already approached and received generally favorable reactions from the Corps about taking on LTS responsibilities. According to the source, the Corps would be responsible for managing the sites, including monitoring the waste left behind and reporting its findings to DOE. The source says the Corps would anticipate getting additional funding for taking on the work. We "are willing to do that, . . . [and] would like to do that for them," the source says.

A BLM official says, however, that the agency does not want to take over DOE's LTS responsibilities. Responsibility for the uranium mine tailings sites involves oversight and liability issues that are inconsistent with BLM's mission, sources say. Noting the huge costs involved, a BLM source says "that would be a purely custodial responsibility" and "we don't assume liability" for other agency's sites. The source adds that "this is an attempt to offload some liability" and points to DOE's previous attempt to transfer the Naval Oil Shell Reserves sites in Utah and California to BLM.

FWS sources did not return calls for comment. But one critic of the approach questions FWS technical and financial ability to take on LTS responsibilities. FWS is "totally unequipped, [their] budget is laughable, . . . They don't have two thin dimes to rub together," a former DOE official says. A department source agrees that DOE is not sure whether other agencies are ready to take on these sites. We "don't know if they have sufficient expertise or resources," the source says, the proposal "it's too new."

Critics also allege that the department is using this move to claim success for reducing the size and cost of the cleanup program by transferring components of it away. "The way to claim success is to inflate the initial program and gut the scope," the former DOE source says.

DOE has been under fire recently for alleged reductions in its LTS budget for FY03. Critics have alleged that the department zeroed out the budget for the Weldon Spring, MO, site, undermining other states' confidence in DOE's dedication to LTS (*Superfund Report*, Feb. 18, p7).

Source: Superfund Report via InsideEPA.com

Date: March 4, 2002

Issue: Vol. 16, No. 5

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3502

March 18, 2002

4350

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1-800-784-6366

The Honorable Sonny Callahan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
2362 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. ~~Callahan~~ *Callahan*:

As the Energy and Water Subcommittee considers the FY 2003 appropriations bill, I would like to request sufficient funding to ensure the environmental remediation activities at the Fernald Environmental Management Project can be completed by 2006.

As you know, the President's FY 03 Budget requests \$295 million for the Fernald project. Furthermore, it is my understanding that additional funding may be available to ensure that the project can meet the 2006 closure date through the Department of Energy's new accelerated cleanup initiative based on the Department's top to bottom Environmental Management review process.

I remain committed to seeing Fernald cleaned up safely and efficiently. I believe the combination of the President's request and the additional accelerated cleanup funds will reaffirm our commitment to eliminate the major health, safety and environmental risks as soon as possible. Ultimately, this reduce the overall cost of the project by millions of dollars.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rob
Rob Portman
Representative

RP/tm

*This is a
real success
story - if we
can keep the
funding*



MAR 18 2007

Mr. Stephen H. McCracken
United States Department of Energy
Feed Materials Production Center
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705

RE: Accelerated Cleanup at
Fernald

Dear Mr. McCracken:

Over the last several months representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) have met several times and conducted numerous teleconferences regarding accelerating cleanup efforts at the Fernald site. Much of the discussion concerned rebaselining the cleanup from a completion date of 2010 to a completion date of 2006. Such an acceleration of cleanup requires increased funding, as well as expediting the existing cleanup efforts, while coordinating many large-scale projects.

Further, U.S. DOE's recently completed "top-to-bottom" review of its environmental cleanup program, among other recommendations, established an *Expedited Cleanup Account*. The Fernald site project rebaselining will assist in competing for additional funds through this newly created account with the intent of completing remediation, excluding long term monitoring, by 2006.

Although U.S. EPA has not specifically reviewed U.S. DOE's rebaseline of the Fernald project, we have been briefed on the scope of the project, its assumptions, and the need to expedite various projects. Completing the work by 2006 will be challenging and requires both U.S. DOE and its contractors to bear tremendous responsibility in managing several large construction projects safely and efficiently. It may even require U.S. DOE and its contractor to reevaluate their business practices to accelerate cleanup.

This accelerated project will also require closer coordination with all stakeholders including U.S. EPA. As in the past, U.S.



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southwest District Office

4350

401 East Fifth Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911

TELE: (937) 285-6357 FAX: (937) 285-6404

Bob Taft Governor
Maureen O'Connor, Lt. Governor
Christopher Jencks, Director

March 21, 2002

Mr. Steve McCracken
US Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
PO Box 538705
Cincinnati OH 45239-8705

Dear Mr. McCracken:

Ohio EPA is writing you to express our support for U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) efforts to improve and accelerate cleanups within the Environmental Management program. The Top-to-Bottom Review stresses the opportunities for efficiency improvements within the cleanup program. We believe the Fernald site provides an excellent example of how a clear focus on closure, flexibility, and a good working relationship between DOE, regulators and stakeholders can result in cost savings and acceleration of cleanup.

The Fernald site is poised to achieve significant cleanup acceleration through additional funding from the *Expedited Cleanup Account*. Following are a few of the many opportunities for acceleration that would be provided by additional funding:

- Purchase of additional rail cars for waste transport to disposal sites.
- Acceleration of building Decontamination and Decommissioning.
- Acceleration of construction of the Silos remediation facility to mitigate operating schedule risks.
- Accelerate waste disposition.

Additionally, Fernald has demonstrated success in utilizing funding from the Office of Science and Technology to accelerate and improve cleanup through innovative technologies and technical assistance. Many of those technologies have subsequently been utilized by other DOE sites as improvements. Ohio EPA has been supportive of this relationship between EM-50 and Fernald and hopes to see it continue.

Achieving closure by 2006 will be very challenging. DOE and its contractors bear a tremendous responsibility to manage these large construction/remediation projects in a safe, protective and efficient manner. The accelerated project is going to require even

C:\tas\expeditedsupport.wpd

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Attorney General
Betty D. Montgomery

4350

March 27, 2002

The Honorable Jessie Roberson
Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Additional Funding

Dear Secretary Roberson:

As Ohio Attorney General for the past eight years, I have monitored the progress of the cleanup at the former uranium processing plant at Fernald. As you know, the cleanup operates as part of a Consent Degree entered into with DOE and our office on behalf of the citizens of Ohio. We are very pleased with the progress that has been made at the site and urge the Department to continue to make it a top priority for increased funding to accelerate the closing.

Sincerely,

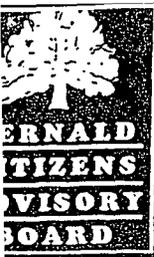
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty D. Montgomery".

Betty D. Montgomery
Attorney General

State Office Tower / 30 East Broad Street / Columbus, Ohio 43215-3428

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000026



April 2, 2002

Jessie Hill Roberson
 Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
 U.S. Department of Energy
 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Roberson:

Since we first recommended an accelerated cleanup schedule to DOE in 1995, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) has been a strong supporter of a focussed and smart remediation approach that does not sacrifice quality or jeopardize safety. As such, we welcome the current attention of DOE Headquarters to finally achieving this vision.

In principle, the FCAB endorses the current initiative to accelerate cleanup towards a goal of closure by December 2006. Representatives of the site contractor and DOE have worked diligently to provide information to the FCAB and address our concerns as they have revised the baseline. We believe, if implemented properly, an accelerated schedule will benefit the community by reducing risks more quickly and allowing us to move forward with the planned future uses of the site. However, a number of very significant concerns remain regarding this accelerated cleanup schedule and management of the site after closure is achieved. Only if these issues are adequately addressed can we be fully supportive of the accelerated approach.

- The goal of reaching closure by 2006 must not compromise the thoroughness of the cleanup or jeopardize the safety of the community and site personnel. It is important that schedule and budget contingencies be recognized for this very complex and challenging work, and that safety and quality be the primary drivers of decision making, not speed.
- Site closure must not be portrayed as the end of DOE responsibilities at the site. Current budget projections make it appear as if DOE's costs will end in 2006, and this perception must be corrected. DOE must commit to long-term stewardship at the site and develop a detailed projection of funding requirements and a schedule of DOE's responsibilities in perpetuity. The Fernald community made an enormous sacrifice in supporting on-site disposal of waste and DOE must not walk away from its responsibilities to the long-term management of that waste and surrounding property at Fernald.
- Meaningful public involvement must not be sacrificed in the name of acceleration. Active stakeholder involvement has been the cornerstone of Fernald's success since 1993. An informed and involved public becomes more critical as the site deals with closure issues and the need to plan and implement long term stewardship.

These issues are extremely important to the FCAB and we would like to have initial feedback from DOE as to how they will be dealing with them in time for discussion at our next meeting on April 20. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this input and look forward to a continued dialogue as remediation of the Fernald site moves forward.

Sincerely,

Jim Bierer
 Chair

Cc: FCAB Members
 SSAB Chairs
 Jamie Jameson, Fluor Fernald
 Martha Crosland, DOE EM-21

000027



Board Beat

SRS proposes initiatives for accelerated cleanup dollars

SRS officials met with stakeholders on February 26, 2002, to discuss the FY03 budget and nine specific initiatives or ideas for proposals for funding from a proposed expedited cleanup account. In early February, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced that the President's Budget for FY2003 proposed the creation of a special "expedited cleanup account." He directed his staff to immediately begin discussions with stakeholders, communities, regulators, state and local elected officials, and Members of Congress, to discuss appropriate ways to refocus DOE efforts and resources to accomplish cleanup reform.

SRS officials met with approximately 50 stakeholders during an SRS Citizens Advisory Board meeting to discuss site initiatives. Three working sessions were held in the afternoon for stakeholders to provide input to site proposals to be developed. Although the meeting generated dozens of questions about the Cleanup Reform Appropriation and FY03 base budget funding, stakeholders focused their input on the following SRS proposals:

Accelerate mission completion and minimize footprint

- Consolidate spent nuclear fuel (SNF) storage facilities by accelerating a three-to-one basin strategy for completion from FY06 to FY04. Spent fuel in the K Basin and the Receiving Basin of Offsite Fuels would be consolidated in the L Basin.
- Minimize the footprint of ongoing process facilities by accelerating clo-

sure of the F Canyon. SRS F Area legacy materials consolidation would be accelerated from FY08 to FY05 and F Area Separations Facility Deactivation would be accelerated from FY12 to FY07.

Invest in current capabilities and support complex-wide special nuclear materials consolidation

- Optimize spent nuclear fuel storage to support integrated risk-based disposition by maintaining a single basin storage capacity and establishing an integrated SNF disposition process.
- Invest in targeted facilities to support disposition of SRS materials particularly plutonium packaging, characterization, surveillance and final disposition and SNF disposition.
- Enhance capability to support storage and disposition of complex-wide materials such as the K Area Materials Storage Facility and utilization of H Canyon.

Expedite high level sludge and salt processing

- Expedite schedule by ten years. Immediately classify forty percent of High Level Waste (HLW) Tanks as a closure facility with tailored requirements. Increase Defense Waste Processing Facility canister production and increase canister load. Expedite salt processing by segregating salt waste streams and applying appropriate disposal methods to each stream.

(Continued on page 2)

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Special points of interest:

- *Environmental Management Top-to-Bottom Review*
- *SRS hosts national workshop*
- *DNFSB talks to the CAB*
- *CIF decision made*

SRS proposes initiatives...

(Continued from page 1)

Expedite tank and processing facility closure

- Work with regulators to schedule final tank closure actions and determine if alternate methods are appropriate. Simplify decontamination and decommissioning plans for processing facilities to recognize that the site will not be turned back to a greenfield.

Accelerated closure of the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground

- Accelerate closure of five higher risk waste sites as a single action by consolidating contaminated soil from four waste sites in the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground

(ORWBG) and then constructing a final closure cover for each of the excavated sites. The excavated materials would establish the final grade for the closure of the ORWBG and a low permeability closure cap would be constructed over the ORWBG.

Accelerated contaminant reduction in Fourmile Branch stream

- Replace the current pump-and-treat system. Raise the aquifer pH and immobilize metals to stop migration to the stream with base injection, and utilize phytoremediation with spray irrigation to reduce aquifer recharge through evapo-transpiration accelerating stream cleanup by three years.

Accelerated risk reduction through innovative technologies and improved regulatory processes

- Accelerate risk reduction and reduce life cycle cost for priority cleanup projects using innovative technologies and a streamlined regulatory process. Capitalize on an established Core Team approach with regulators that supports the deployment of leading edge technologies.

Accelerate risk reduction through expediting Transuranic (TRU) waste shipments to WIPP

- Add assay capability for Pu-238 and 239 waste and add capability to remove prohibited items and repack-age to enhance characterization and process facilities. Sixty shipments are needed to accelerate elimination of TRU waste by 2024. Existing limits on the TRUPACT-II containers are restrictive and enhanced payload capability is needed.

SRS CAB follows EM Top-to-Bottom Review

A year ago, Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham directed the department to conduct a sweeping review of its Environmental Management (EM) programs and activities with the ultimate goal of a "stronger, more effective and efficient environmental management program." A Top-to-Bottom Review Team was formed in August 2001 to review the EM program management systems, with the goal of quickly and markedly improving program performance. SRS officials communicated with stakeholders their emphasis on the assessment when the SRS Citizens Advisory Board met in November in Charleston, S.C. At that time, DOE-SR Manager Greg Rudy provided an overview of SRS assessment activities and discussed re-energized efforts to identify ways to reduce the cost and schedule for the EM program.

In February, a full-day meeting was dedicated to the Top-to-Bottom Review and the SRS initiatives being proposed under the new Cleanup Reform Appropriation, an \$800+ million account to be established for DOE facilities to accelerate risk reduction within the complex. Approximately 50 interested citizens received a presentation from DOE Headquarters Top-to-Bottom Review Team Member Bill Levitan regarding the results of the year-long effort. The team found that the manner in which EM develops, solicits, selects and manages many of its contracts is not focused on accelerating risk reduction or applying innovative approaches to doing the work. Nor is EM's cleanup strategy based on comprehensive, coherent, technically supported risk prioritization. Internal business processes are not structured to support accelerated risk reduction or to address its current challenge of uncontrolled cost and schedule growth. The team recommended improvements in DOE's contract management and that DOE adopt agreements with regulators for accelerated, risk-based cleanup strategy. They also recommended that DOE align and revamp internal processes and re-deploy, streamline or cease activities not consistent with the cleanup and closure mission.

(Continued on page 6)

Cost effective/risk reducing alternative to incineration of Plutonium Uranium Extraction (PUREX) waste

- Provide a stabilization treatment facility for PUREX wastes as an alternative to incineration.

Numerous comments were provided during the three working sessions and all participants gathered at the end of the day to present session outcomes and determine combined comments to DOE for consideration in proposal development. A copy of the public comments can be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155 or viewed at the CAB's website at www.srs.gov and click on Outreach Programs.

The SRS CAB applauded Greg Rudy, DOE-SR manager for his decision to involve stakeholders in the early development of the proposals. However, stakeholder feedback regarding the FY03 budget and Cleanup Reform Appropriation has been mixed. Stakeholders agree with the concept that the highest risks should be addressed first,

(Continued on page 3)

Recent Recommendations Highlighted

Operating Strategy Studies for the Solid Waste System Plan

The SRS CAB recommended that SRS prepare additional operating strategy and cost studies regarding long-term disposal of non-compacted waste and specifically requested that the site:

- Investigate alternatives to the B-25 disposal containers, which includes the possibility of direct shallow-land burial of appropriate low activity, low level wastes.
- Investigate alternatives to reduce subsidence repair costs.
- Evaluate alternative capping strategies.
- Evaluate alternatives to optimize land utilization.
- Provide the long-term public health and environmental impacts for each strategy.

Scrap Metals Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

The SRS CAB offered the following recommendations to help DOE determine the alternatives, issues and environmental impacts to be analyzed by the Scrap Metals PEIS:

- Convey to the general public the various alternatives in language that is clear and easy to understand.
- Include the expected inventory of all scrap metal and the financial impacts of implementing each alternative including disposal cost, expected income from recycling, costs for detection methodology, processing costs, record maintenance, etc.
- Identify the industry/government standard it would consider using in

Alternative # 2. Provide a rationale for choosing that standard realizing that a zero level of radioactivity can never be achieved.

- Address the anticipated public involvement and communications program in the PEIS.
- Identify the short-term health effects to site workers, off-site workers, and the general public for each alternative under consideration.
- Identify the long-term (10,000 years) health and environmental impacts of metal compounds expected from the degradation of scrap metal exposed to the elements and potential landfill leachate.

Groundwater Mixing Zones

The SRS CAB applauds the regulatory agencies (SCDHEC & EPA) and SRS in the prudent use of groundwater modeling technology and vadose zone containment migration software and requested that the three agencies finalize a streamlined protocol, analogous to the Plug-In Record of Decision (ROD) concept, on mixing zone applications. They asked the three agencies to provide a plan of action and milestones for the protocol for presentation to the CAB by January 2002. The Board also requested that the three agencies continue to solicit stakeholder input (SRS CAB and the public) during the initial phases of remedy selection on any restoration site.

PUREX Recovery Alternatives

The Board recommended that a cost benefit analysis to select the optimum

treatment/disposal route for canyon PUREX solvent be prepared and presented to the SRS CAB by April 23, 2002.

Parallel Salt Disposition Strategy

A recommendation was adopted which re-confirmed the SRS CAB position that the FFA closure schedule must be met, including start up of a full scale salt processing facility by 2010 and the closures of HLW tanks as scheduled. It asked for funding needs, permit and regulatory requirements and a synopsis of the technical plan to resolve questions about the low curie saltcake strategy.

Low Activity TRU Facility

The Board recommended that SRS proceed with the planned modifications for the Low Activity TRU Facility and provide a status update on regulatory permits and progress. It also asked that DOE identify any potential cost savings, technology enhancements, or management modifications, which could potentially speedup the disposition of SRS TRU wastes.

Stakeholder Input to SRS Budget Process

The Board recommended that no later than April 19, 2002, SRS develop and submit to the CAB a schedule for annual stakeholder involvement in the budget process. The schedule should include specific dates for submission of information to the CAB and establish specific dates for CAB inputs throughout all phases of the budget process.

SRS proposes initiatives...

(Continued from page 2)

however opinions differ regarding what are the higher risk priorities. Also, many questions remain unanswered regarding the expedited account. Does Congress support the Cleanup Reform Appropriation? Are long-term strategies implementable? Will the regula-

tors buy-in to site initiatives? Will competing for funds put some communities at risk

Although no formal recommendations have been provided, the SRS Citizens Advisory Board will continue to follow the progress of the SRS proposals and the FY03 budget including the expedited cleanup account. Board commit-

tees have received updates regarding consideration of stakeholder input into the proposals. The SRS proposals were shared with Assistant Secretary Jessie Roberson during a visit the last week of March. A Letter of Intent regarding expected funding from the expedited account is anticipated by May, 2002.

SR CAB approves Work Plan for 2002

The Citizens Advisory Board approved the latest Annual Work Plan at a working meeting held in conjunction with their January 2002 Board meeting in Hilton Head Island, SC. The Plan is based on input provided by Committee members prior to the January Board meeting and was further refined by the Chairs of the individual Committees prior to approval of the full Board.

The purpose of the Work Plan is to establish priority issues for each of the Committees, and therefore the CAB. It allows all Board Members to be involved in setting the direction of the CAB, prioritizing resource expenditures (people and dollars), and control-

ling the activities of focus and working groups.

The Work Plan contains sections for each of the four issues-based Committees of the CAB: Strategic and Long Term Issues, Waste Management, Environmental Restoration and Nuclear Materials.

Committee chairs structure their activities to focus on the issues identified in the Work Plan. Since new issues may come up during the year, deviating from the Work Plan is at the discretion of the Committee Chairs - however, they typically inform the CAB when this is required.

Priority issues identified by the CAB in this latest version of the Work Plan include long-term stewardship, high level waste tank issues, the EM Top-to-Bottom Review and plutonium shipments to SRS. The Work Plan is reviewed and updated annually and can be viewed on the CAB website.

*Newly elected SRS
CAB Waste
Management Chair
Bill Willoughby
(right) and Vice Chair
Gerald Devitt (center)
visit waste
Management facilities
at SRS with Kevin
Buchanan (left), DOE*

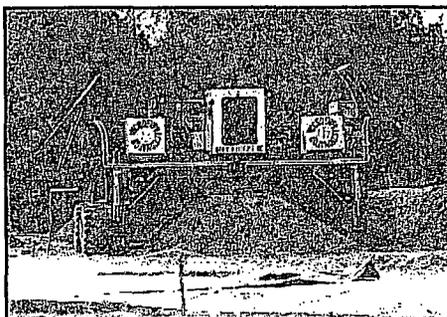


Enhanced Bioremediation Using the Microenfractionator™

Early in situ approaches to bioremediation, a soil cleanup technology, consisted of merely tilling or spreading appropriate nutrients into the soil. This remedial approach was inconsistent due to the vagaries of the climate (rainfall, temperature), and the quality control in the application methods. In addition, the required length of time for such bioremediation efforts made regulatory acceptance problematic. Until recently, bioremediation has been generally limited to applications involving organic compounds (such as petroleum hydrocarbons) that can be easily decomposed biologically. Recent advances in the understanding of bioremediation mechanisms have resulted in better field application methods, which in turn have improved quality control and extended the range of application to degradation of chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds. These improvements are based on more consistent mixing technologies as well as better control of nutrient composition, soil pH, temperature, redox potential, and moisture content.

Enhanced bioremediation using the Microenfractionator™ has been used successfully to treat soils contaminated with other pesticides (metalochlor, atrazine, chlordane, heptachlor, 2,4-D, and 2,4,5-T) and nitrated organic compounds (trinitrotoluene, dinitrotoluene, and RDX).

Aggressive soil preparation is the role of the Microenfractionator™ technology. The Microenfractionator™ is a large piece of equipment similar to those used in municipal composting. It is designed to work on soil that is configured in long piles called "windrows." The Microenfractionator™ was developed to improve soil remediation technologies. This equipment generates dynamic counter-rotating air vortices, thoroughly mixing the soil, contaminants, chemicals, catalysts or other amendments and air for maximum mass transfer.



The Microenfractionator™ is designed with a counter-rotating drum supporting a set of fan-knife blades. The drum is powered hydrostatically by a diesel engine and is driven through the soil pile by self-propelled, four-wheel drive power. The fan-knife blade design causes soil particles to be thrown sideways into each other and against the stainless steel lining of the microenfractionation chamber at high velocities. This physical action causes the particles to fracture into microscopic sizes, exposing more contaminant surface area for treatment.

The machine eliminates hot spots of contamination within the soil matrix, which can inhibit biological remediation, while providing up to 95% homogeneity. The mixing action of the machine simultaneously homogenizes the soil and mixes in the amendments.

SRS CAB hosts National Groundwater Workshop

Every year or so, several board members from nine DOE Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSAB) get together to discuss common issues of concern. The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board hosted a national SSAB Groundwater Workshop at the Sheraton Augusta Hotel on February 1-2, 2002. The workshop was preceded by a tour of the Savannah River Site and a reception on January 31, 2002.

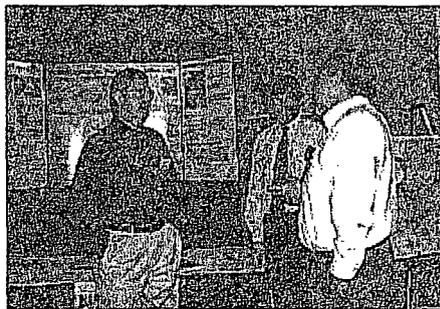
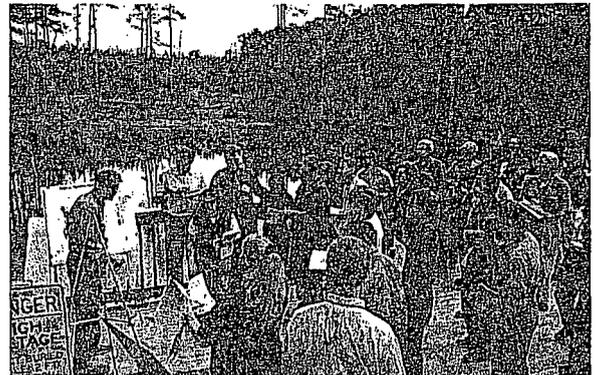
Approximately 100 participants representing the nine SSAB's, the Department of Energy, regulators and other stakeholders attended the workshop, which was the fifth workshop in the series. Previous workshops covered low-level waste, transportation and long-term stewardship.

The purpose of the workshop was to improve stakeholder understanding of groundwater cleanup and technology issues; to foster dialog among SSABs about common groundwater issues and concerns; and to provide joint recommendations toward resolution of those concerns. The workshop began with a day-long tour of SRS. Participants learned about eleven known areas of groundwater contamination that resulted from former waste disposal practices. Eight groundwater remediation systems are operating, treating over four billion gallons of water. Innovative cleanup technologies featured on the tour included dynamic underground

stripping, bioremediation and phytoremediation.

The next day and a half were spent hearing presentations, visiting displays and engaging in discussions to learn more about groundwater contamination issues across the complex. DOE has identified 176 groundwater contamination plumes at its facilities that are being addressed at a cost of \$78 million per year. Participants worked together to develop statements that identified issues of importance to stakeholders to

help guide the Department of Energy and its regulators as they consider groundwater-related decisions. Statements were developed in four topical areas: Technology, Regulations, Public/Community Involvement and Stewardship. These statements will be reviewed by the Chairs of all of the SSABs at their semi-annual meeting in April, and if approved, will be formally transmitted to senior managers at the Department of Energy for their consideration.



For additional information about the Groundwater Workshop, contact Dawn Hayward at 800-249-8145 or Mike Sweeney at 303-631-8166 or check the web at www.srs.gov and click on Outreach Programs.

Experts in nuclear safety monitor progress of material stabilization activities

On March 14 and March 26, the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee received updates from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) on Savannah River Site NM Stabilization Activities. Todd Davis and Dr. Tom Burns are the two DNFSB staff members assigned as site representatives to SRS.

In the late 1980's, Congress recognized that significant public health and safety issues had accumulated at many of the aging facilities in the DOE complex. As an outgrowth of these concerns, Congress created the DNFSB in 1988 as an independent oversight charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy "to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety" at DOE's defense nuclear facilities.

DNFSB concerns in regards to material stabilization activities throughout the DOE Complex including SRS, resulted in the issuing of Recommendation 1994-1. It stated "The halt in production of nuclear weapons and materials to be used in nuclear weapons froze the manufacturing pipeline in a state that for safety reasons, should not be allowed to persist unremediated." When the DNFSB felt adequate progress had not been made, they issued Recommendation 2000-1 which states "...the progress being made of the stabilization activities addressed by Recommendation 94-1 does not reflect the urgency that the circumstances merit and that was central to the Board's recommendation".

During the presentation to the CAB, Todd Davis acknowledged that while the DNFSB has been critical of past delays in material stabilization activities, he believes there has been significant progress made since 1994. The DNFSB, at least conceptually, is in agreement with the proposed SRS implementation plan for stabilization activities, which is in revision. He said the DNFSB is watching with interest several key projects.

The DNFSB has concerns about plans for long-term chemical separations activities. At the current time, F-Canyon suspension plans are ongoing. The DNFSB has communicated to DOE that having both H and F-Canyons available is still appropriate and would provide flexibility and a means to achieve stabilization goals sooner with a proven methodology. According to Davis, there continues to be some surplus material identified in the DOE complex and F-Canyon could be a viable option for disposition. DOE has been given 60 days to respond to the March 21, 2002 letter from the Chairman of the DNFSB.

(Continued on page 7)

New members in the Spotlight



Judy Barnett

Judy resides in Jackson, SC, a small community that borders the Savannah River Site. She is concerned about the environment, drinking water and air. She represents the general public category.



Ann Shaw Dalton

A former high school teacher, Ann majored in Business Administration and taught business subjects. Ann is a member of the National Parks Conservation Association, the Nature Conservancy, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Dorene Richardson

A local restaurant owner and SRS employee, Dorene holds an associate degree in Nuclear Engineering Technology. She has also obtained several certificates regarding hazardous waste management.



Gloria Williams-Way

Gloria is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of History at Paine College, a historically black college in Augusta, Georgia. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts and Bachelor of Science from various universities. She has been an educator since 1982 and is very involved in numerous historical associations.

SRS CAB follows EM review...

(Continued from page 2)

On March 26, Assistant Secretary Jessie Roberson met with the SRS CAB to discuss her commitment to the Top-to-Bottom Review and cleanup reform. She had just begun a week-long visit at SRS to review the site's proposals for funding under DOE's new expedited cleanup account (see related article). Ms. Roberson described the Top-to-Bottom Review as a framework for a path forward to focus on accelerated cleanup that was not intended to criticize, but is a critical self assessment of a ten-year program. Ms. Roberson portrayed a new approach that is risk based, mindful of resources, protective of the environment and responsive to stakeholders.

To obtain a copy of the final Top-to-Bottom report, please call 1-800-249-8155 or view it at <http://www.em.doe.gov/ttbr.html>.

Experts in nuclear safety...

(Continued from page 6)

Another concern identified by the DNFSB relates to the issues associated with the development of new technologies for the stabilization of nuclear materials remains unchanged since 1999. While the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) have identified the Melt and Dilute technology as the preferred alternatives for treating most of the aluminum based spent nuclear fuel, the project is not currently funded. The DNFSB supports utilizing existing facility capabilities (i.e., H-Canyon) to stabilize spent nuclear fuel while other disposition options are developed.

The DNFSB is also watching with interest the approach SRS is proposing in regards to the Cleanup Reform Appropria-

tions. In support of material stabilization activities, numerous missions are targeted for H Area. This fact coupled with an accelerated schedule under the Cleanup Reform Appropriations, requires careful management of vital projects. Davis said the DNFSB has expressed an interest in seeing an integration plan as soon as possible.

For additional information check out these web sites: www.dnfsb.gov
www.deprep.org

Ken Goad, NM

Committee Chair, expressed his value for the presentations by saying, "We appreciate having the DNFSB speak to us. We really benefit from their technical expertise and independent viewpoint. We will continue to seek their help as we evaluate DOE plans for SRS nuclear materials."

Responsibilities of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB)

Broadly speaking, the DNFSB is responsible for independent oversight of all activities affecting nuclear safety within the DOE nuclear complex. Congress gave the DNFSB a variety of powers to achieve its mission. Primary among these is the power to issue a recommendation to the Secretary of Energy. Although the Secretary is permitted to reject DNFSB recommendations, in practice the Secretary has not chosen to do so since the inception of DNFSB operations.

The DNFSB reviews and evaluates the content and implementation of DOE health and safety standards applicable to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear facilities. The DNFSB recommends to the Secretary of Energy any specific measures, such as changes in the content and implementation of those standards, that the DNFSB believes should be adopted to ensure that the public health and safety are adequately protected. The DNFSB also reviews the design of new defense nuclear facilities before construction begins, as well as modifications to older facilities, and recommends changes necessary to protect health and safety. Review and advisory responsibilities of the DNFSB continue throughout the full life cycle of facilities, including shut-down and decommissioning phases.

In addition to recommendations, the DNFSB may conduct investigations, issue subpoenas, hold public hearings, gather information, conduct studies, and establish reporting requirements for DOE. The DNFSB is required by statute to report to Congress each year concerning its oversight activities, its recommendations to the Secretary of Energy, and improvements in safety achieved at defense nuclear facilities as a result of its activities.

DOE-SR makes decision on the Consolidated Incineration Facility

On March 15, 2002, Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) issued the PUREX Solvent Waste Alternative Treatment Final Report and a recommendation to pursue PUREX waste alternative treatment and initiate closure of the Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) upon demonstration of the treatment option (defined as treating 10 percent of the organic PUREX).

On April 1, 2002, SRS notified the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control that a decision was made to accept the WSRC recommendation. In accordance with the SRS Resource Conservation Recovery Act Part B Permit, DOE-SR had until April 1, 2002 to make the decision to either restart CIF or pursue an alternative treatment option.

In a letter to the CIF Focus Group, DOE-SR Program Manager Ray Hannah said, "We very much appreciate the contributions of the CIF Focus Group and of everyone whose hard work has helped to form the basis of our decision."

With the news that SRS will pursue an alternative treatment option, the CIF Focus Group is planning to extend its charter for one more year to follow the research and development of the treatment, storage and disposal process for SRS's legacy PUREX waste.

Is your organization looking for interesting speakers?

Members of the SRS CAB are available to provide

- A brief history of SRS
- A description of the various environmental management programs
- Information about how the public can get more involved in important cleanup decisions.

Call 1-800-249-8155 for more information



**SAVANNAH RIVER SITE
CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD**

Key criteria for Board membership includes a time commitment and the desire and ability to work towards better and informed recommendations. To apply for membership to the Citizens Advisory Board, please call 1-800-249-8155.

Board Briefs published semi-annually by the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board. Content is provided by Board members and support staff. Please send your comments and suggestions to:

Dawn Haygood
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Building 742-A, Room 190
Aiken, SC 29808
Phone: 1-800-249-8155
Fax: 803-725-8057
E-mail: dawnhaygood@srs.gov

Upcoming 2002 Board Meetings

May 21	Combined Committee	N. Augusta Com. Cntr, N. Augusta, SC
July 22-23	Quarterly Full Board	Adams Mark, Columbia, SC
August 27	Combined Committee	Holiday Inn, Beaufort, SC
October 21-22	Quarterly Full Board	Radisson, Charleston, SC
November 12	Combined Committee	Aiken Municipal Conf. Cntr, Aiken, SC

NOTE: Individual committee meetings will be held as required.

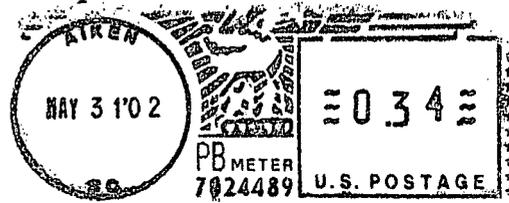
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Aiken, SC 29808

Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board
Building 742-A, Room 190
Aiken, SC 29808



Doug Sarno



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Judge strikes down South Carolina plutonium blockade

By Reuters

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

AIKEN, S.C. — South Carolina cannot physically block federal shipments of weapons-grade plutonium from entering the state, a federal judge ruled Tuesday in a legal battle between the state and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The ruling clears the way for the department to begin shipping more than 30 tons of the radioactive material from its Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant in Colorado to its Savannah River nuclear facility in South Carolina as early as Saturday.

Gov. Jim Hodges signed an executive order last week declaring the plutonium a threat and ordering state police to block any vehicle attempting to carry it into South Carolina.

U.S. District Judge Cameron Currie criticized the governor in ruling the blockade would violate the U.S. Constitution, which gives federal law supremacy over state law. "It is a sad day in South Carolina when a governor ... who has taken an oath to uphold the Constitution must be ordered by a court to obey it," the judge said.

At the Savannah River site 160 miles southwest of Charlotte, the plutonium is to be converted into fuel for commercial reactors. The Department of Energy is under pressure to begin shipping it soon because it plans to shut down the Colorado facility by 2006 and must move the plutonium this year to stay on schedule.

South Carolina has never objected to temporarily holding such plutonium. But Hodges questioned the environmental impact and sought legal guarantees that the federal government would follow through on plans to convert the plutonium to reactor fuel, saying he feared the state would become a permanent dumping ground for nuclear waste.

Hodges' only recourse is a pending appeal before the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia. The Democratic governor, who is seeking re-election in November, had no immediate comment.

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U.S. residents can sue for nuke exposure, says court

By Reuters

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court Tuesday ruled thousands of Washington state residents could sue over illnesses blamed on a Cold War plutonium plant, reversing a lower court dismissal of most of the claims.

The ruling rebuffs defense lawyers' efforts to limit damage awards against contractors who operated the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the most highly contaminated nuclear site in the United States, which spewed radiation as it produced fuel for U.S. atomic weapons as far back as 1943.

Many of the plaintiffs claimed radiation had caused thyroid cancer, as well as bone, breast, and salivary cancer. Damage awards could reach tens of millions of dollars.

The defendants include several industrial companies that ran the plant until 1986, including General Electric Co. and DuPont Co. "We are of course disappointed. We are studying the ruling, and we are not sure exactly where we will go from here," defense lawyer Randy Squires said of the 12-year-old case.

Hanford, a former nuclear weapons production site in south-central Washington state, released radioactive materials into the air, water, and soil, sometimes intentionally and sometimes by accident, according to Washington state health officials.

Many of those who lived downwind from Hanford or who used the Columbia River downstream were exposed to radiation that could cause illness at some point in their lives, state officials said.

The appeals court panel in San Francisco overturned a ruling by Judge Alan McDonald in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Washington that would have eliminated claims of about 90 percent of some 4,000 plaintiffs from southeast Washington and nearby Oregon and Idaho.

On Tuesday the appeals court lowered the amount of exposure to radiation required to prove physical harm, thereby allowing thousands to sue, but also limited damages for emotional distress to only those plaintiffs who had actually been made sick.

Defense lawyers could ask for a hearing before the full appeals court or appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Barring settlement talks, plaintiffs' attorneys were preparing to seek class certification for their clients and to present their full case before the circuit court. "We are looking at another year of development and preparation, but who knows what could happen to this case in that time," said plaintiffs' attorney Tom Foulds.

Both sides said the case could go on for several more years.

"It's hard to see how this decision brings the outcome closer," Squires said. "If you have to look at each one of one of these claims, it's going to take some time."

The federal government has begun cleaning up or stabilizing some of the Hanford waste.

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June 7, 2002
The Portsmouth Daily Times
"Strickland fires on DOE"

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Local News

Strickland fires on DOE

Friday, June 7, 2002

by Jeff Barron

PIKETON — The federal Department of Energy called it reusable material. But United States Rep. Ted Strickland (D-Lucasville) called it nuclear waste.

Strickland strongly opposes the DOE plan to indefinitely store excess uranium material at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

"I think it's an outrage," he said. "I just think we're sick of being dumped on."

On Tuesday, DOE officials described a plan to a public forum at the Vern Riffe Vocational School in which 14,200 metric tons of excess uranium from the Fernald weapons plant in Cincinnati and the Hanford weapons plant in Washington may be stored at the PGD.

The PGD plant is being considered as a storage site along with the Paducah (Ky.) Gaseous Diffusion Plant, the Y-12 National Security Complex and the East Tennessee Technology Park in Tennessee, the Savannah River site in South Carolina and the Environmental Laboratory in Idaho.

A determination as to which site will be used has not been made yet.

Currently, the DOE is storing 4,393 metric tons of material at the PGD plant, according to plant spokeswoman Sandy Childers.

The DOE said the material is not hazardous. But Strickland scoffed at that notion and said there are 150 sites in the country in which the material may come from.

"They're using this as an excuse not to call it what it is — nuclear waste," he said. "You can't trust them (DOE) on anything they've said to us. They've lied to us before."

The DOE also said the material can be used for other

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June 7, 2002

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The Portsmouth Daily Times

"Strickland fires on DOE"

purposes, which is why it is not considered waste.

"Give me a break," Strickland said. "I challenge them to find one way to use it in other ways."

Dale Jackson, Director of the Office of Nuclear Fuels in Oak Ridge, Tenn., said southern Ohio would receive several benefits in storing the material, including an increase in jobs in the transportation and security fields. But Strickland said those jobs would not be worth it.

"I see no justification even though they may hold out the promise of a few jobs," he said. "I see no benefits in the trade off for a few jobs."

Additionally, Strickland said using the PGD to store the material would hinder other jobs from moving to the area. "The site would be much less attractive for economic development," he said.

Strickland said he is working with Chris Jones, the head of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, on the issue.

U.S. Rep. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), whose Second Congressional District will soon include and the western portion of Scioto County, also had an opinion over the controversial plan.

"I had a representative at Tuesday night's public meeting and I'm still gathering information from the U.S. Department of Energy, SODI and others. The most important thing to me is that anything stored at the Portsmouth plant not hamper future redevelopment of the Portsmouth plant," he said in a written correspondence.

"We also need to have assurances from DOE that this uranium can be processed, reused and eventually sold. I will continue to work with DOE, SODI and others to make sure that an acceptable solution can be found."

The DOE is holding a public comment period until June 21 about storing the material at the PGD.

Comments can be sent to David Allen, U.S. Department of Energy, SE-30-1, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37831.

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June 10, 2002

The Portsmouth Daily Times

*"Ogg against plan to store uranium at Piketon"***Local News****Ogg against plan to store uranium at Piketon**

By JEFF BARRON

PIKETON — State Rep. Bill Ogg, D-Sciotoville, isn't as outspoken as U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland, but he also wasn't happy about the Department of Energy's plan to store excess uranium at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. "I think it's a bad idea," Ogg said. "They're just making a dumping ground, then they would never have to clean up that area. If they're not going to produce uranium out there I would like for them to clean it up. Once we become the dumping site for usable uranium, nobody is going to want to come in there."

Under the Energy Department's plan, 14,200 metric tons of reusable uranium material from the Fernald weapons plant in Cincinnati and the Hanford weapons plant in Washington state would be stored at Piketon for an indefinite period of time.

The Energy Department is currently storing 4,393 metric tons of the material, according to plant spokeswoman Sandy Childers.

The Energy Department said the material is not nuclear waste. But Strickland strongly disagrees.

"They're using this as an excuse not to call it what it is — nuclear waste," Strickland told the Daily Times last week. "You can't trust them (Energy Department) on anything they've said to us. They've lied to before."

Ogg would not call the material nuclear waste, though. "I don't know," he said. "He (Strickland) probably knows better about that than what I do. But I just don't want to see it be a dumping site, whether it's usable or waste, or whatever it is."

Ogg said storing the material at the Piketon plant would not only hurt Scioto County, it would harm Pike, Jackson and Ross counties, too.

"I would just like to see them clean it up and make it reusable instead of just working 100 or so people and dumping uranium out there and locking the gates and not doing anything to it," Ogg said.

He said there is not much the public can do to stop the Energy Department from dumping the excess uranium material.

"I really don't think so," Ogg said. "I think that USEC (United States Enrichment Corp.) is connected politically, and they have been ever since they've been in operation. They're going to do just about what they want to do."

Ogg does not see bright days ahead for the Piketon plant. "I had an article a couple years ago where it said one day they were going to end up with 170 people out there for shipping purposes," he said. "It looks like we're headed that way. They keep denying that, but it just seems like things keep rolling toward that day. They'll be nobody out there working, but it will not be a usable site."

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June 10, 2002

Inside Energy

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*"DOE's preference for uranium storage rile Ohio lawmaker"***DOE's preference for uranium storage rile Ohio lawmaker**

Rep. Ted Strickland, D-Ohio, last week expressed concern over a proposed Energy Department draft plan that favors storing several tons potentially reusable low enriched uranium and depleted uranium at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio.

"I think the Ohio governor [Bob Taft] and the Ohio delegation has a obligation to send a message to DOE that this is not acceptable," Strickland said in an interview Thursday. "I don't know what my standing is for legal action, but I won't allow DOE to further dump on eastern Ohio."

At issue is DOE's proposal to store about 14,200 metric tons of uranium either in one centralized location or several consolidated locations, including a commercial site. To implement the comprehensive management plan, DOE is also evaluating several other proposed alternative sites, including the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky, the Y-12 National Security Complex and the East Tennessee Technology Park in Tennessee, the Savannah River Site in South Carolina and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

Comments on the draft programmatic environmental assessment describing the plan, "Implementation of a Comprehensive Management Program for the

Storage, Transportation, and Disposition of Potentially Reusable Uranium Materials," are due Jun 21.

According to the draft PEA, DOE now has potentially reusable uranium materials at 158 locations in the United States. However, most of the materials are located at only a few sites. It also noted that the disposition of the material is "undefined at this time," though the department is considering options including commercial processing of the material, use of the material in research activities, and sale of the material, the draft said.

In May, DOE completed a three-year project to transfer more than 3,600 metric tons of uranium materials totaling 761 shipments from the Fernald Environmental Technology Site in Ohio to the Portsmouth plant. "We've been getting the material ... and DOE assured us that it was reusable material" and that it would create jobs his district, Strickland said. "Now, they are trying to use that as an excuse for further dumping in Ohio. No more than a handful of jobs have been created."

According to Strickland, DOE classifies the uranium as "source material" because of its potentially reusable value, but he took issue with that characterization. He said he sees the agency's proposed plan as a way to avoid paying ex-

pensive disposal costs associated with the material if were classified another way as required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

"I'm calling this radioactive waste. If it's not source material, they got to deal with it under RCRA and that's more of an expensive proposition," Strickland said. He added that he would request from DOE "a time and place for the material and their plans for reusing the material in the future." However, he acknowledged that such a request may be a tall order.

"I don't believe it's likely we will get honest answers from DOE. They've not been forthcoming in the past with commitments made to my site and for them to choose to bring waste into the site will make it less attractive for future development," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Portsmouth plant maintained that the uranium "is usable, marketable material."

During a clean air hearing Wednesday before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on energy and air quality, Strickland raised his concerns with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Christopher Jones. "I got a clear indication that they were very concerned and that there is very strong local opposition to this," Strickland added.

— Shawn Terry

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