



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 21, 2004

Mr. James C. Bierer
Chair, Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
M.S. 76
P.O. Box 538704
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8704

Dear Mr. Bierer:

Thank you for your April 9, 2004, and December 3, 2003, letters requesting that Risk-Based End State (RBES) activities not be applied to the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

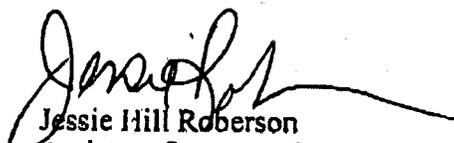
Over the years the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board has provided the Department of Energy (DOE) with the concerns and perspectives of the local community, and we appreciate your input on RBES. The DOE wants to achieve site closure in a responsible, sustainable and environmentally protective manner based on a quantified, technically-sound endpoint. Doing so requires an understanding and acceptance by all parties of the delicate balance between worker and public risk, as well as fiscal and moral responsibility. Development of the RBES vision document for Fernald will ensure that this objective is met.

We are deferring any consideration of an alternative end state for Fernald until the vision document is completed later this year. I want to ensure you that if we propose an alternative we will follow the procedures of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and other applicable regulatory requirements. This process will ensure that consideration is given to stakeholder concerns.

While the product of these activities may or may not result in a change in the current planned end state, the process itself will be beneficial in providing a forum for useful dialog, a more comprehensive analysis of comparative risks, and an up-to-date quantitative foundation for the ultimate end state. I urge you to continue to work with the site to explore the RBES vision and to achieve a mutually satisfactory result.

If you have any further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Mr. Eugene C. Schmitt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Cleanup and Acceleration, at (202) 586-0755.

Sincerely,


Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

