



Minutes from the March 9, 1996 Meeting

CHAIR

John S. Applegate

MEMBERS

James C. Bierer
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pamela Dunn
Constance Fox, M.D.
Guy C. Guckenberger
Darryl D. Huff
Gloria J. McKinley
Jerry Monahan
Thomas B. Rentschler
Robert G. Tabor
Warren E. Strunk
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

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L. French Bell
J. Phillip Hamric
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell

The Fernald Citizens Task Force met from 8:30 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. on March 9, 1996, at the Joint Information Center, 6025 Dixie Highway, Fairfield, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and open to the public. Time was reserved for public input.

Members Present:

John Applegate
French Bell
Jim Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn
Constance Fox
Guy Guckenberger
J. Phillip Hamric
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell
Jerry Monahan
Warren Strunk
Robert Tabor
Gene Willeke

Members Absent:

Darryl Huff
Gloria McKinley
Thomas Rentschler
Thomas Wagner

Designated Federal Official Present:

Ken Morgan
Gary Stegner

Task Force Staff Present:

Sheri Landfair
Crystal Sarno
Douglas Sarno
Sue Walpole

About 18 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE, FERMCO, Hamilton Environmental Services, and the University of Cincinnati.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and asked for approval of the February 10, 1996, draft minutes. The minutes were approved and accepted.

2. Announcements and New Business

Applegate pointed out that each board member has a new 1996 Toolbox based on the new committee structure. Each members' toolbox had will evolve differently, depending on their committee membership.

Beginning with the June meeting, full board meetings will be held in the Alpha building near the Fernald site. The Task Force will use this building free of charge.

Applegate introduced John Bradburne, the new president of FERMCO. Mr. Bradburne commented that he is happy to be back at Fernald, and applauds the work of the Task Force. He said the board's work is very well received in Washington DC, and he looks forward to working with the board in the future. In addition, he pledged a continuation of the support and involvement shown by Mr. Ofte, his predecessor.

3. Cincinnati Enquirer Story

Phil Hamric explained that DOE Headquarters has a team of 12 people from outside field offices, who will work for approximately one or two more weeks to sort out the newspaper charges. To minimize the impact on the cleanup, a special project office was set up, headed by people from the Miamisburg office. It is hoped that the special project office will work on responding to the Enquirer stories and allow Jack Craig and his people to get on with the cleanup. Administratively, the burden of responding has been taken off the Fernald office, and placed on the special project office.

Tom Grumbly has invited both the Inspector General's office and the GAO to review the site. The GAO will be arriving on site as soon as next week.

Guy Guckenberger asked if the alleged defects in the pilot plant have any effect on the future of the cleanup, and in particular are there leaking drums? Gary Stegner said he would be happy to give anyone a tour of the site -- to view the alleged leaking drums, the cement floors, and any other Enquirer charges that cause concern. He will work to accommodate the Task Force's schedule. He also explained that the GAO could take up to a year to complete their report. Jerry Monahan said that most of the problems mentioned in the article can be checked via a tour, and that there has been a regular interaction with FERMCO in all areas of safety and health. Jack Craig said that not only had a lot of the problems indicated in the paper been previously identified by FERMCO and corrected, but that the Enquirer reporter was given that information. There are 5000 Thorium drums in covered storage in building 65 that need to be overpacked. Drums are checked throughout the weekend, and a leaking drum is overpacked upon discovery. FERMCO's contract requires them to respond within 24 hours.

Applegate asked Doug Sarno to help coordinate the tour of the plant to answer any questions the Task Force has. Applegate will act as a clearinghouse for specific questions. If an issue has already been responded to, Sarno will make sure that everyone gets those documents. Pam Dunn asked to tour Building 65, but safety rules prevent outsiders from entering the building without rigorous safety training.

4. Cleanup Plan

Jack Craig presented information concerning the budget for the accelerated cleanup plan. DOE has just received the baseline budget of the accelerated cleanup plan from FERMCO and is in the process of reviewing this document for submittal to DOE Headquarters in early April. DOE is seeking input from the Task Force to establish certain priorities. Current plans call for limited waste shipments this year, and total removal of drummed wastes by the end of FY98. DOE and FERMCO are discussing the idea of accelerating that schedule to have all drummed waste off the site by FY97. This would require moving funds from other projects this year, while ultimately saving money and getting faster results. The board needs to discuss these tradeoffs.

Guy Guckenberger asked if DOE has approved the 10-year cleanup plan. Craig said they had, with the support of Congress, and agreed to provide extra funding to help with the acceleration. It is now his responsibility to develop that plan.

Guckenberger stated that we should take our opportunities when and where we have them, and with the current positive political climate (which could change) we should move ahead quickly. Craig says they think they can find the money somewhere else on site in the FY96 budget and will provide that information to the Task Force. Gene Willeke explained that there are tradeoffs both in dollars and time, and he would like a little more information. Doug Sarno said we have asked DOE to give us the details when they have it, probably in the next month.

Applegate asked for a sense of the board as to whether this was an important topic. The board agreed, and Applegate asked the waste management committee to review the information, develop a draft recommendation, and report back to the Task Force.

5. Committee Reports

Environmental Monitoring

Pam Dunn reported that they are waiting for additional information before scheduling the next meeting.

Transportation

In the absence of committee chair Tom Wagner, Lisa Crawford spoke on three main issues: 1) truck traffic, 2) rail traffic, and 3) the Nevada test site tour.

The committee reviewed the Baseline Traffic Study conducted by the University of Cincinnati, which covers state road 128 between I-74/I-275 and Willy Road (a copy is in the Task Force library). Two traffic lights are currently being planned: 1) at the intersection of 128 and new Haven Road, and 2) in Miamitown at the I-275 Interchange. The committee is doing more research to see if they have any follow-up recommendations to the Baseline Traffic Study. The issue is complicated; for example, some bridges are in poor condition. It was suggested they enlist the aid of the County Engineer. They will have a recommendation at the next meeting.

We are still trying to get a rail trip organized from Fernald, through Cottage Grove, to Cincinnati. The committee is discussing a trip to the Nevada Test Site. Applegate indicated the NTS trip is a manageable expense, especially if it's done over a Saturday night. He will make sure he is back in touch with people about setting it up. He would like it to be cost-effective and to ensure that members who are not visiting Envirocare have the first option of visiting NTS.

Waste Management

Gene Willeke explained that the committee will review various aspects of the accelerated design process. The waste management plan involves the adaptability of the on-site cell size, and the committee requested additional information -- perhaps as a pictorial representation of how the site remediation will be addressed.

The committee developed a set of principles regarding the buffer zone: 1) the cell itself must have a barrier to keep people out -- perhaps a barbed wire fence; 2) the outer edge of the buffer zone should be clearly delineated to discourage access; 3) the buffer zone should be planted as a small forest with native trees and vegetation to form a visual barrier and minimize the aesthetic impact of the cell; 4) the grading around the facility should key into the rolling landscape to minimize the aesthetic impact of the cell; and 5) planting and grading should begin as early as possible to allow trees to reach maturity as the cell is completed.

Membership

Applegate asked for any discussion regarding the January 23 memorandum regarding the Decision of FERMC0 Membership on the Task Force. There was none.

Natural and Cultural Resources

James Bierer explained that the Fernald Natural Resource Trustees are beginning the process of identifying restoration issues. The committee developed a set of priorities as their input to the process.

Key aspects of the priorities were discussed and minor changes were made. Applegate asked Bierer if this was a formal recommendation, Bierer said yes. Gene Willeke moved that the board adopt the priorities as amended, Robert Tabor seconded, it passed unanimously.

Questions were raised regarding the final grade of the site. Doug Sarno explained that the current plans call for borrowing soil from other parts of the site. Some top soil may be brought in, but the site will not be rebuilt to its current grade. Deep holes will be regraded, not refilled. The board decided this issue is of significant concern to the Task Force and additional information is needed.

6. Community Reuse Organization

Applegate introduced Maria Kreppel. It is her responsibility to convene the Community Reuse Organization, and that process has begun in earnest. Applegate asked her to provide the Task Force with an update.

Kreppel stated that the charges of the Task Force and the CRO will be kept separate. The CRO will keep DOE informed, make more specific land use recommendations, and determine the disposition of capital assets. They hope to have a public forum by the end of April to get the CRO organize.

Kreppel is seeking representation from all areas, including elected public officials, educators, and community planners. The process will be open. Guckenberger asked how the CRO related to the Ross Area Merchants Association. Kreppel explained that the Ross Area Merchants will be at the table. John said the Task Force and CRO are coordinating with each other; all Task Force mailing lists have been made available to the CRO.

7. Charter

Applegate introduced the topic by explaining that the Task Force charter was established in 1993 and should be updated to reflect the current charge for the Task Force. The question of term limits was discussed. Ken Morgan explained that term limits originated because there was an assumption that people would burn out over time. There is also the possibility that an organization could inadvertently create an institution that begins to serve its own purposes, rather than the charter. In addition, term limits allow board members to leave the board, since they have busy lives and have a right to get back to them. Guckenberger said there was a different context when the board began than now, four years later. He pointed out the problem of getting new members, and, in addition, of getting those new members up to speed. It might be better to have people with some history of

the site to do the monitoring. Pam Dunn suggested the Task Force annually review itself rather than worry about term limits, and that be done in the December planning meetings. Applegate suggested that all concerns and suggested changes about the charter be addressed to Doug Sarno. A new draft version will be presented at the next full board meeting.

8. Legacy Wastes

Doug Sarno explained that Legacy Wastes are containerized materials (various residues, mixed radioactive and/or chemically hazardous waste, asbestos, soils, liquids, metals) that are mostly in drums that are being overpacked. They are called *legacy wastes* because they were on site before October 1994. The legacy wastes are slated to go to NTS, though it takes a long time to remove them due to a combination of the NTS acceptance rate cap, and FERMCO's budget considerations.

A separate category of materials on site is that of special nuclear materials. This material includes enriched, normal, and depleted uranium, and is not classified as waste. It is being stored in drums and buildings on site, and has commercial value. Some has already been sold to Allied Signal, and the remainder is currently being marketed and should be sold soon. The income from these sales will be used to cover site expenses. Any profit will revert to the general treasury.

9. Groundwater cleanup Issues

Marc Jewett discussed plans to accelerate the cleanup of the groundwater. It is hoped that by increasing the number of extraction wells from 28 to 36, and by using 10 injection wells, that cleanup can be done in 10 years. There are 3 variables -- 1) the desorption rate; 2) sustaining the injection rate; and, 3) the effectiveness of treatment. EPA would like to achieve 20 parts per billion of uranium at the discharge to the Great Miami River. The water is cleaned via an ion exchange process, which should achieve this goal. This process creates a solid waste that will be disposed of in the on-site disposal facility. The next step is getting DOE's approval of this particular 10 year plan. They are expecting \$4 million dollars for funding for technology development through EM50. If these funds do not become available, they will have to acquire the funds from someplace else, which could delay the project.

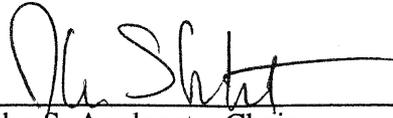
10. Public Comment

The floor was opened to public comment. No public comments were offered.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the
March 9, 1996, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Task Force.



John S. Applegate, Chair
Fernald Citizens Task Force

6/7/96

Date



Gary Stegner
Deputy Designated Federal Official

6/20/96

Date