



FULL BOARD MEETING

Public Environmental Information Center

Saturday, October 12, 2002

MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory board met from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2002, at the Crosby Township Senior Center.

Members Present:

Kathryn Brown
Marvin Clawson
Jack Craig
Lisa Crawford
Steve DePoe
Lou Doll
Glenn Griffiths, for Steve McCracken
Jane Harper
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell
Robert Tabor
Gene Willeke

Members Absent:

French Bell
Jim Bierer
Lisa Blair
Blain Burton
Sandy Butterfield
Pam Dunn
Tom Schneider
Tom Wagner

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

Lisa Crawford called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Jack Craig announced that the site must present DOE Headquarters with a long-term stewardship plan by the end of January 2003. Doug Sarno explained that a generic DOE guidance document for producing stewardship plans and a draft outline for the Fernald plan were distributed at the Stewardship Committee meeting on October 10. Doug stated that both the guidance and outline seem to reflect the FCAB's concerns. FCAB members asked DOE to provide them with a draft version of the plan for review, and Doug stated that a draft version of the plan is anticipated prior to the November FCAB meeting. The plan submitted to Headquarters in January will be a working document, which is likely to change over time. Graham Mitchell stated that Ohio EPA is interested in the concept of creating a Stewardship Record of Decision.

Gary Stegner reported that DOE Headquarters is working under the assumption that the Grand Junction Office will assume long-term stewardship responsibilities at Fernald. Doug explained that a representative from the Grand Junction Office would be invited to the next Stewardship Committee meeting. Doug further explained that EM51 might be transferred from Environmental Management to the Office of Worker and Community Transition.

Lisa asked about the status of the Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB). Jack stated that the board is in the process of being formed but has not met. Tom Winston, of Ohio EPA, will serve on the board. Lisa asked that a list of EMAB members be provided to the FCAB, once the membership is solidified.

Jack also explained that it is likely that all business functions for the Ohio sites will be consolidated at a single DOE business center. He also explained that the Paducah and Portsmouth sites will report to a new office in Lexington, Kentucky, managed by Bill Murphy. Jack will provide the FCAB members with copies of the study done by Barbara Mazurowski that evaluated the DOE field office's organizational structure.

Glenn Griffiths announced that the site has spent a lot of time addressing Congress's Continuing Resolution and its potential impact on the site budget. Glenn stated that there should be no major impacts to the site schedule through February. In response to a question from a FCAB member regarding settlement of the Foster-Wheeler lawsuit against Fluor Fernald, Glenn stated that a Special Master has been appointed by the court to compel a settlement, but Foster-Wheeler has refused to participate.

Glenn explained that some of the teams that were generated by the Top-to-Bottom Review had visited the site. Katie asked for a list of these teams and the members of each team. Graham expressed concern that the numerous

initiatives being undertaken by Jessie Roberson will interfere with moving towards site closure. He asked if the FCAB would like to address this issue and possibly offer a recommendation. The Board determined it would not offer a recommendation on this issue at this time.

Jack briefly explained the changes that were recently made to the Fluor Fernald contract. In short, the contract modifications will provide incentives to Fluor for reaching the 2006 deadline. Lisa asked that a handout be prepared that would show the amount of money that Fluor Fernald will earn for completing its scope of work and how much it will earn for completing the project on schedule.

Doug explained that each site would share its top three issues at the SSAB Chairs meeting, scheduled for October 17-19 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The top three Fernald issues are acceleration and funding, long-term stewardship and public information, and the Silos projects. Doug asked that people with other thoughts regarding the Chairs meeting contact him, Jim Bierer, or Katie Brown, who will attend the meeting.

Doug briefly reviewed a handout from the Records Management team. This handout provided a detailed description of the site records that are eligible for disposition.

Site Update

Dennis Carr provided the group with an update on each of the site's project areas.

Dennis explained that the site would like to roll back the schedule for the Waste Pits project. To do so, they would have to transport waste off site more quickly. At this time, waste pits materials are being dried prior to shipment. A subcontractor was hired to assess if there were ways to improve the efficiency of current dryer operations but was not able to find a good solution. The site is currently working with Envirocare to increase the number of summer shipments, when more evaporation occurs during placement. This would allow Fernald to ship wastes with a higher moisture content and reduce the amount of drying that must be done at the site. Shipping materials with a higher moisture content (up to 15%) would require approval by DOT. The site is also proceeding with a plan to add another mile of track to the rail spur, which would allow the site to employ an additional unit train. Dennis also explained that the site is working through the regulatory process that would allow the soil cover to Pit 4 to be placed in the OSDF, if it meets the Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) as anticipated.

Waste Generator Services are looking at the inventory of materials left on site to see what could be sent to the OSDF and what could be blended with waste pits materials. The remainder of materials will have to be repackaged and sent off site, most likely to the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

Dennis asked Mark Jewett to explain why an ESD or ROD amendment must be pursued to change cleanup levels for the soils below the waste pits. Mark reviewed a handout that showed the different cleanup levels listed for Operable Unit 1 (OU1) and Operable Unit 5 (OU5). He stated that the cleanup levels in OU5 are more protective than those in OU1 for all contaminants except technetium (Tc-99). The site would like to conform to the levels set out in OU5, but to do so, it must undergo a formal mechanism to use the levels set for Tc-99 (30 pCi/g). The Tc-99 levels in OU1 were set at residential standards, prior to the decision to remediate the site to recreational levels. FCAB members supported the pursuit of an ESD, rather than a ROD amendment.

Dennis stated that the Waste Management project is focused on clearing the site of low-level waste by December 2003. There are 2900 containers of mixed waste to be disposed of. The site just contracted Envirocare to treat and dispose of 1400 of these containers, which contain organic materials. These containers will be shipped by truck. The remaining mixed waste containers must be treated (i.e., some type of solidification) before it can be disposed of. Fluor Fernald is building a facility to repackage these materials and searching for a facility that would treat these materials. Dennis also stated that Waste Management is exploring the feasibility of sending enriched, restricted waste to the Hanford site, although the current path is to repackage the waste in smaller containers for disposal at NTS.

A FCAB member asked Dennis about the status of the waste tax referendum in Utah. Dennis explained that the referendum is on the ballot for November. If the referendum passes, it is still subject to approval by the Utah legislature. Dennis reported that if the new fees were implemented, it would Fernald's costs for waste disposal by several hundred million dollars. If the new fees led to the closure of Envirocare's facility, Fernald would send its wastes by truck to NTS.

Due to some worker exposures to nitrogen oxides (Nox), the Decontamination and Demolition (D&D) project is implementing an authorization process to better assess hazards. D&D needs to increase the pace of its work, so soil excavation can start next year in the western end of the production area.

The Soils project is making good progress. Because materials containing higher concentrations of contaminants are currently being excavated from the production area and placed in the OSDF, the project's focus on worker safety has been heightened.

Dennis reported that work on the Silos 1 and 2 project is going well. The Accelerated Waste Retrieval (AWR) system is scheduled to begin operation on November 1. There will be some work on the silos domes to prepare for the AWR startup. The tanks have been installed and painted, and a cold loop test of the slurry system was successfully conducted at Oak Ridge. The site has issued the contract to build the foundation of the treatment facility to a local company, Monarch. A recent treatability study indicated that only cement and fly ash needs to be added to the Silos 1 and 2 materials. Final design for the project is on

schedule for completion in February 2003. The FCAB expressed interest in having a roundtable discussion on the Silos 1 and 2 project in December.

Dennis also reported that the Aquifer project continues to operate well. Three new reinjection wells were recently installed. Completion of this project is still anticipated in 2006, but desired levels must be reached for four seasons.

Closure Toolbox

Doug handed out the Closure Toolbox binders to the FCAB members. FCAB members should bring the toolbox to each monthly meeting, at which updated information sheets will be distributed. This toolbox is intended to provide the FCAB members with up-to-date project information.

FCAB Closure Mission

Doug distributed a draft Closure Mission for the FCAB. At the annual retreat, the FCAB identified its desire to have a mission statement that would guide the FCAB as the site nears closure. The mission presents a list of criteria that the FCAB would like to be completed before it disbands. The FCAB will discuss this mission at its November meeting.

Silo 3 Issues

Doug reported that a public roundtable that focused on Silo 3 was held in September. Ultimately, FCAB members were satisfied with the site's decision to not treat the waste for RCRA metals. However, FCAB members are still concerned about the dispersability of the Silo 3 materials.

Gene Willike was not able to attend the roundtable, but he was able to meet individually with Fluor Fernald staff regarding this issue. Gene reported that they discussed options for conditioning the waste to control airborne dispersal.

Dennis explained that Jennike & Johanson, materials handling consultants, were asked to provide options for controlling dispersability of the waste. They recommended adding a spray nozzle to the waste packaging station, which would inject a liquid crusting agent into the waste as it enters the bags in which it will be transported. Fluor Fernald is willing to try its best to make a conditioning system work, but they have some concerns that adding moisture to the process might result in buildup in the filling chute, clumping in the bag, or problems with air dispersal in the bag. The site will use a mock-up to determine the ideal moisture level. Fluor does not want to set a performance standard for this, because that would require opening bags for testing and increasing the exposure of workers to the material. A design is expected in the spring.

The FCAB discussed this issue. Major discussion points included:

- Controlling dispersability should be called conditioning instead of treatment.
- The conditioning of materials would not require an ESD or ROD amendment.
- The U.S. EPA has not solidified its position on conditioning and how it relates to its position on treatment for metals.

- Conditioning should not be added to the process if it will significantly delay the cleanup.
- Because there are already many protective systems in place for this project, it is unclear how much protection is gained through conditioning.

Glenn Griffiths stated that designing and building the conditioning process would add an estimated two million dollars to the project cost. He indicated that before moving forward with this, he would like a clear confirmation of FCAB support for conditioning. Doug asked the Silos Project Team to provide more information regarding the level of protection gained through conditioning, and Lisa asked for more feedback from Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA. The FCAB will address this issue again at its November meeting.

Records Feasibility Study Report

Doug summarized the draft report for the feasibility study on public access to records after site closure. The report coins a new term, Community-Based Stewardship, which means the public is the most appropriate entity to provide oversight of long-term stewardship. Information is a critical tool for successful Community-Based Stewardship. The report asserts that DOE must approach public access to information as a necessity and indicates that one way to accomplish this is to build an education facility at the site.

The Board briefly discussed the draft. Members felt that the report should discuss the need for information regarding impacts to the community. Gene Jablonowski suggested the use of OU6 to solidify DOE requirements for providing information to the public and suggested including in the report language from the Federal Facilities Agreement. Doug asked FCAB members to provide specific comments on this draft by October 18.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the October 12, 2002 meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

Lisa Crawford
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Date

Gary Stegner
Deputy Designated Federal Official

Date