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**FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE - APPLGATE RESPONSE TO
DARRYL HUFF MEMO**

03/16/95

APPLGATE HUFF
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LETTER

FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE

A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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John S. Applegate

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James Bierer
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Alternates:

Russ Beckner
 Jackie Embry

Ex Officio:

J. Phillip Hamric
 Graham Mitchell
 Jim Saric

March 16, 1995

Mr. Darryl Huff

Dear Darryl:

At the Task Force meeting of March 11, 1995, I was asked to respond to your memorandum to the Task Force of the same date. Specifically, you related a public concern that, in making recommendations concerning the clean-up of Fernald, the Task Force had not considered the most protective options.

Even though "clean-up" is routinely used to describe what is happening at Fernald, it is a poor choice of words. To some it sounds like remedial actions that will remove all or virtually all hazardous material from the site. However, it is, in fact, used to indicate a *range* of possible actions, from minimal reduction of the most immediate threats, to restoration to near-pristine conditions. In other words, the real question is not whether clean-up will occur, but what kind and degree of clean-up will occur.

This has been the Task Force's approach throughout. We have considered options that range from doing nothing to near-pristine. For example, the FutureSite exercise permitted removal of no soil, only the extremely contaminated soil, removal all the way to background, or anything in between. Similarly, we considered the groundwater options ranging from no-action (allowing the plume to expand and dilute, but providing an alternate water supply) to pumping and treating until background levels are achieved. In the case of both soils and groundwater, we found the extremes to be either impractical or unprotective, respectively, and we chose instead a middle-range action.

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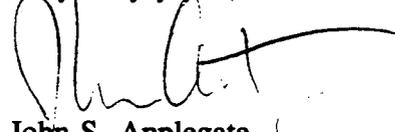
J. Phillip Hamric
Graham Mitchell
Jim Saric

March 16, 1995

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I hope that this responds to the concerns you identified. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



John S. Applegate
Chair

JSA:rmt

c: Task Force Members

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