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**FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE - APPLGATE'S RESPONSE
LETTER TO MR. DAVID YOUNG'S REMARKS MADE AT MARCH 21,
1995 PUBLIC MEETING**

03/29/95

APPLGATE D. YOUNG
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LETTER

FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE

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

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March 29, 1995

David M. Young
Ross Township Trustee



Dear Dave:

As we discussed, I was deeply disturbed by your remark at the March 21, 1995, public meeting that the Task Force's recommendations could be "molded" by incomplete or biased information provided by the Department of Energy. I am therefore very appreciative of your note of March 22, confirming that your remarks were not intended to suggest a lack of integrity on the part of the Task Force.

Your basic concern -- that DOE is in a position to manipulate the Task Force process by providing incomplete information -- is a legitimate one, however, and it is one that has concerned the members of the Task Force from the beginning of our work. Therefore, I think that it would be valuable to explain precisely how we obtain information for our recommendations.

As I described at the Task Force's public meeting on waste disposition on January 25, 1995, early in the process we hired an independent consultant, Doug Sarno, a former EPA engineer, to gather and present the relevant information to us. He works closely with DOE and FERMCO to develop information -- often while it is in a preliminary form -- and then presents it to us primarily in the Tool Box, copies of which are available at all of our meetings.

We have not ourselves gone back to or generated raw data. We are not funded to do that; more important, it would duplicate millions of dollars of study, money which could more productively go into remediation. Nevertheless, I feel confident about the accuracy of the information we have been provided, for several reasons:

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First, our independent consultant makes the information requests, and he screens and analyzes the responses. The Task Force logo does not go onto any information that has not been through this process.

Second, most of the key information is contained in documents that are carefully reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and sometimes by other agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Centers for Disease Control.

Third, one of the foundations of our operation has been that we do not have enough information until everyone on the Task Force feels that we have enough. Task Force members have made such requests (Darryl Huff, for example, has been prolific in his requests for information concerning waste disposition), and the information has been provided, though sometimes more slowly than we would prefer.

Fourth, a number of members of the Task Force have expertise that helps to verify information. For example, as an environmental scientist, Gene Willeke brings a great deal of experience in groundwater and soil remediation, and he has frequently challenged assumptions and estimates. Likewise, Pam Dunn has an encyclopedic knowledge of DOE finances.

Fifth, in the course of our meetings we have gotten to know face-to-face the people who provide us with information. They are the same people who generate the information for DOE and FERMCO. They have been forthcoming and open in their dealings with us. When they don't know something, they say so and try to get an answer; when there have been errors, they have been acknowledged and corrected. Trust is an intangible, I know, but I put great stake in the personal relationship that has developed between the Task Force and the information providers in DOE and FERMCO.

Finally, all of our meetings are open to the public, and we have a widely publicized address and phone number. The same Toolbox that Task Force members receive can be picked up at all Task Force meetings or by calling us. If someone -- anyone -- has information in addition to or inconsistent with what we have been provided, it is a simple matter to bring it to our attention.

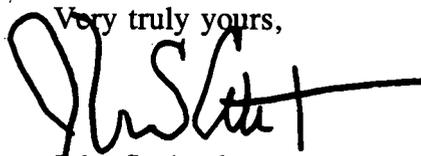
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Obviously, there are gaps and uncertainties in what DOE knows, and current estimates and projections undoubtedly will change over time. From my experience to date, I expect that DOE will be forthcoming about changes and new information.

I hope that the foregoing eases your concerns. For myself, I commit to you that the Task Force will remain insistent that all information requests be honored and will remain vigilant for gaps and discrepancies in data that are provided. I will look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Very truly yours,



John S. Applegate
Chair

JSA:rmt

c: Task Force Members
Ross Township Trustees

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