



FRIDAY MAILING

1/30/98

INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING ARE:

- Fact Sheet: White Metal Box Incidents
- Technical Report Summary: Fernald Silos 1 and 2 Accelerated Waste Retrieval Strategy Critical Analysis Team Report
- Approved Minutes from the November 15, 1997, Fernald Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
- Newsclippings

CAB MEETINGS:

- WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Waste Management Committee will meet on Monday, February 9, 1998, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Jamtek Building, 10845 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.
- MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Monitoring Committee will meet on Monday, February 9, 1998, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Jamtek Building.
- WASTE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Waste Transportation Committee will meet after the Monthly Progress Briefing on Tuesday, February 10, 1998. All members should try to attend the Monthly Progress Briefing.
- STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:** The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 1998, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Jamtek Building.

OTHER MEETINGS:

- FERNALD CLEANUP PROGRESS BRIEFING:** The February Fernald Monthly Cleanup Progress Briefing will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway.

QUESTIONS:

Please call John at [REDACTED] or Doug at [REDACTED] with questions or concerns. You may also fax or e-mail us at:

John	Fax: 281-3331	E-Mail: john.applegate@law.uc.edu
Doug	Fax: 648-3629	E-Mail: [REDACTED]



Fact Sheet:

White Metal Box Incidents

- There have been a total of 7 leaking boxes. All 7 of these boxes contained Pit 8 sump cake. Pit 8 sump cake contains: dirt, diatomaceous earth, lime, water (total moisture content of 63.33%), and uranium (total concentration of 0.02% to 0.57%). Two of the leaking boxes were on the truck that stopped in Kingman, Arizona. The other boxes were found on three other trucks upon arrival at NTS. All leaking boxes were placed at the back of the trailer near the door.
- The two leaking boxes were returned to the FEMP from Kingman, Arizona, for evaluation. FDF is developing plans for further study of failure mode/box integrity.
- The first Kingman, Arizona, incident occurred at approximately 17:00 EST on December 15, 1997. The driver of a truck enroute from FEMP to NTS noticed a "very slow" leak during a routine stop. Emergency actions were implemented. The leak from this box, a 2" x 1/8" crack on the base, was patched. However, the next day a second box was found to be leaking. This leak was not able to be patched successfully. The two leaking containers were repackaged for shipment to meet DOT requirements and reshipped to FEMP on December 19, 1997. A decision was made to conduct a Type B investigation.
- A Type B investigation results when accidents result in serious injury, releases fall within specified parameters, or estimated loss/damage is between \$1 million and \$2.5 million. DOE officials may call for a Type A or Type B investigation if it is "deemed appropriate". In this investigation, DOE officials deemed a Type B investigation "appropriate". A Type B investigation Board was appointed by Ohio Field Office Director, Leah Dever. The investigation will identify all relevant facts; analyze the facts to determine direct, contributing, and root causes of the incident; develop conclusions; and make recommendations to prevent a recurrence in the future. The investigation will focus on the procurement and quality control of the white metal boxes, as well as on operations performance, emergency response, and recovery. The actual investigation began on January 5, 1998. A draft report is to be completed by January 31, 1998.

- All waste shipments from FEMP to NTS have been suspended until corrective actions can be implemented and approval is obtained from the DOE Nevada Office and DOE Headquarters.

- The white metal boxes, purchased from CGR Compacting Inc., are required to meet FEMP and NTS Acceptance Criteria. In order to verify that they meet these criteria, they are evaluated in a three-step process. The process for verifying that the boxes meet specifications is as follows:
 - Before the award of the contract, two certified FDF auditors performed a pre-award audit on CGR's quality and in-house inspection programs to make sure they have a program that meets the requirements of 10 CFR Part 830.120 and/or NQA-1.
 - Prior to the award of the contract, CGR performed DOT testing of the proposed container design which included a water spray test, a water fill test, a free drop test, a compression test, a penetration test, a vibration test, and a bottom lift test.
 - In addition, source inspections at CGR are conducted by a FDF Waste Acceptance representative. Visual receipt inspection is also performed on those containers arriving at FEMP. Periodic Overviews are also conducted by Waste Acceptance representatives at FEMP.

- In all approximately 1200 CGR boxes were shipped to NTS in 1996 and 1997. There had been two previous notifications of problems. One container was found leaking upon arrival at NTS on May 21, 1997. Another container was found leaking upon arrival at NTS on October 6, 1997.



What was the purpose of the Critical Analysis Team?

The critical analysis team evaluated the proposed Silos 1 and 3 Accelerated Waste Retrieval Strategy. The scope of the review was somewhat narrow as many of the details about the strategy are not yet available. For example, the Team did not evaluate FDF's cost or schedule estimates for the project. The overall objectives of the Team were to determine whether the accelerated waste retrieval strategy was desirable for the OU4 project, what improvements to the strategy could be made, and what further external reviews might be needed as the strategy proceeds. The Team found that the strategy appears to be a sound step toward treatment and disposal of Silos 1 and 2 waste. The project, however, will not be successful without appropriate management and contracting systems.

What are the pros of the Accelerated Waste Retrieval Strategy?

The Team believes that the strategy could:

- Significantly reduce the risk of radon release as a result of silo failure.
- Reduce personnel and environmental exposure to radon.
- Show clear measurable cleanup progress at Fernald.
- Develop and demonstrate DOE and FDF management and contracting capabilities.
- Be the first step in treatment and disposal of waste.
- Demonstrate waste retrievability.
- Be economical.
- Provide treatment plant flexible feed capability.
- Provide for quicker, easier sampling and better characterization of the waste.
- Make waste staging logistically and technically easier.
- Separate waste retrieval from waste treatment.
- Provide an opportunity to deal with bentonite uncertainties.
- Allow accelerated D & D of the silo area.
- Relieve site construction congestion.

What are the cons of this strategy?

The Accelerated Waste Retrieval Strategy could:

- Foster the public perception that, once waste is safely stored, DOE will take no further actions toward waste treatment and disposal.
- Increase the cost of the silos project.
- Increase D & D commitments.
- Increase waste handling.
- Increase risks from construction.

What are the additional concerns surrounding this strategy?

The team feels that this strategy will cause management challenges for both DOE and FDF which include:

- The need to remain focused on the entire OU4 remediation; accelerated retrieval is only the first step.
- The need for upper management to support the project.
- A DOE commitment to providing and maintaining an adequate budget for the project.
- The RFP must limit bids to demonstrated technologies.



Minutes from the November 15, 1997 Meeting

Chair
John S. Applegate

Vice Chair
James C. Bierer

Members
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pamela Dunn
Constance Fox, M.D.
Darryl D. Huff
Dan McElroy
Robert G. Tabor
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

Ex Officio
L. French Bell
Jack Craig
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:37 a.m. until 11:50 p.m. on Saturday, November 15, 1997, at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and was open to the public.

Members Present:

John Applegate
French Bell
Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Jack Craig
Pam Dunn
Darryl Huff
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell
Gene Willeke

Members Absent:

Jim Bierer
Constance Fox
Dan McElroy
Warren Strunk
Robert Tabor
Thomas Wagner

Federal Official Present:

Mike Jacobs

Staff Present:

Tereza Marks
Crystal Sarno
Douglas Sarno

About 10 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald.

1. Call to Order

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

2. Announcements and New Business

The Board approved the minutes from the September meeting without changes.

John Applegate announced that Warren Strunk has resigned from the Citizen's Advisory Board due to work commitments. Applegate reminded the Board that over the years, Strunk has had to use work time to attend these meetings. Applegate made a motion that the Board formally thank Strunk for his service. Lisa Crawford seconded the motion. The Board will send a letter of thanks to Strunk.

Applegate suggested that the Board discuss membership issues after the meeting. With Strunk's resignation, the Board has four available positions. Applegate proposed that the Board develop a list of possible replacement members.

Applegate announced that Al Alm has resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy. Because of this change in administration, the Board will have to educate the new Assistant Secretary about Fernald and the work occurring at the site. The Board feels that it is important that the new administration be aware of Fernald's ability and desire to move forward aggressively.

Applegate announced that the chairs of the SSABs held a meeting in Dallas in October. Fernald is much further along, chronologically, than any of the other sites, and the Fernald CAB is now dealing with implementation issues. At the meeting of the SSABs, there was also an update on the status of the national dialogue.

Applegate presented copies of the Complex Wide Contractor Integration Report to the Board. This document introduces a new style of "map," to describe the creation and disposition of different waste forms, that is to be included in the Accelerated Cleanup Plan.

The Nevada Community Advisory Board is hoping to sponsor a workshop on low level waste and Applegate has suggested that the Fernald CAB work with them. The relationship between Fernald and Nevada has become a model for cooperation between other SSABs.

Applegate learned at the meeting of the SSABs in Dallas that the Savannah River site asks the ex-officio members of their board to provide them with an annual list of areas on which the Board should provide comments. The Board and the Agencies work on the list together, and then formalize those comments. Applegate suggested that this might be something of interest for Fernald.

Since the last meeting of the CAB, the funding for Fernald has been moved from the general Environmental Management fund to a Defense Facilities Closure Project.

Finally, Applegate announced that the Fernald CAB web site is now linked to Rocky Flats and Oak Ridge. To provide better inter-SSAB communication, the Fernald site will be kept updated.

3. Review of Site Tour

Lisa Crawford presented a brief overview of the site tour that occurred as part of the October Fernald Monthly Progress Briefing. Crawford reported that the tour was well attended by the public – there were some new faces, which is a good thing. She stated that the tour allowed people to see that there is a lot of activity on the site, (i.e. a lot of soil is being moved). Crawford's impression is that the site is changing weekly.

4. Prioritization

Doug Sarno presented the background of the Fernald CAB and its recommendations on prioritization issues. In July 1995, the Fernald Citizens Task Force recommended an accelerated remediation schedule, removal of special nuclear materials from Fernald and the shipment of legacy wastes as soon as possible, the elimination of the costs of maintaining and providing security to buildings which are scheduled for demolition, the discontinuation of ongoing repair and maintenance to on-site buildings and infrastructure, the streamlining of DOE regulatory requirements, and an overall culture shift within DOE from operations to remediation. In March 1997, the 2006 Plan (Ten-Year Draft Plan) was released. This plan called for DOE to projectize, increase efficiency requirements, develop new technologies, and reduce mortgages. The Efficiency Committee of the Fernald CAB was formed in May 1997 to provide recommendations on budget and efficiency issues, review site priorities and review scheduling issues. The CAB sent a letter on site priorities to Bob Folker, Acting Field Office Manager in September 1997 stating that the priorities and funding given to non-remediation activities is too high and restating the 1995 recommendations, calling once again for a fundamental change in the approach of DOE to remedial operations. Finally in October 1997, FEMP was designated as a Defense Facilities Closure Project by Congress.

Jack Craig announced that the Ohio Field Office now has a new manager, Leah Dever. Dever will attend the next CAB meeting. Dever has many connections in Nevada and has worked at DOE-Headquarters.

Sarno explained that as a Defense Facilities Closure Project, Fernald is still part of the EM budget, but the money in the closure fund cannot be moved to other DOE sites. The purpose of the Defense Facilities Closure Project is to focus resources on the goal of closing the site. Under this classification, however, Fernald received less money than requested. Fernald had requested \$268 million, but only received \$258 million. Rocky Flats is also classified as a Defense Facilities Closure Project. Jack Craig stated that the Mound Project may eventually also be included in this account.

The Defense Facilities Closure Project classification is a result of Congress being unhappy with the way DOE-HQ is organized. Congress wants to see a fundamental change in the way Environmental Management Division operates. However, the Congressional report is not directly recommending many of these changes. Since DOE-HQ is looking at a reorganization, Congress has requested a detailed schedule for the two sites. The Fernald section of the plan is expected to provide a large amount of detail about the site. Rocky Flats, however, is not as advanced as Fernald and the Rocky Flats plan is a contractor generated-plan which has not yet been reviewed and approved by DOE.

Jack Craig felt that due to this reclassification, many of the issues mentioned in the September 1997 letter to Bob Folker have been addressed and resolved.

The CAB was informed that Al Alm has asked each site to submit any big issues to him that he can work towards resolving before he resigns. DOE-FEMP has submitted two issues, one of which is the OUI ROD limits on the ability to use commercial rail. Due to this

problem, DOE-FEMP has postponed procurement of rail cars until Spring. This delay will not affect the current schedule. By January or February, however, DOE will need to resolve these issues, so that IT can complete its rail plan. If this is not resolved by January or February, the cleanup goal for OU1 will be missed.

5. DOE Prioritization Slide Presentation

Terry Hagen and Johnny Reising presented slides showing the schedule and progress of activities occurring at the DOE site.

OU1:

Terry Hagen announced that there will be no change to the schedule for the Waste Pits as a result of the reduced funding. As stated earlier, IT and Flour Daniel will be developing rail plans between now and March. The first enforceable milestone for this project is March 1999. Johnny Reising showed an aerial photo of the Waste Pits taken in 1985 and compared it to a photo taken April 1, 1997. Reising stated that DOE is hoping to take a new photo as soon as the weather clears. Reising and Hagen also discussed the Land Use Master Plan. Reising stated that the rail trestle for OU1 has recently been completed.

OU2:

Hagen stated that the schedule for this project is on track and in some cases is actually a little ahead of schedule. Members of the Waste Management Committee noted that they would like to have a tour of the OSDF as part of their December 1st meeting. Reising stated this would be possible. The tour was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Reising continued the presentation by outlining the lining layers used in the OSDF. He stated that wastes would begin to be placed in the OSDF in early December.

OU3:

Hagen stated that under the revised schedule the completion date for safe shutdown will still remain at the end of 1999. However, the actual D&D of buildings will be delayed.

OU4:

Hagen announced that the estimated date of completion of the Silos Project is 2008. Reising discussed the recent concerns regarding the erosion of part of the bank of Paddys Run in this area. Some old wells casing were exposed. The well casings were fine, but FDF had to reroute the flow of the stream to avoid possible future problems.

OU5 :

Hagen announced that some soil work has been delayed as a result of the reduced budget.

Overall, there are three areas in which delays are expected: non-south field soil excavation, the D&D Project, and the pace of the cell project. In all other areas, tasks are running on or slightly ahead of schedule.

Waste Management:

Over the past several years, the amount of non waste nuclear materials has stabilized at about 63 million tons. About one third of the enriched uranium left is being sold to British Nuclear Fuels. An RFP is out to try to sell the remaining enriched uranium. FDF has tried to find a buyer for the depleted uranium, but has been unsuccessful. This material will be declared waste in 1998. Gene Willeke suggested that this might be an issue for the Waste Management Committee to discuss. The CAB should have this material declared waste and disposed of off-site. Samo asked for details on this waste so that the Committee could prepare a letter about this issue.

Crawford asked that the CAB view a 1962 film showing the work that had occurred at the site. Sue Walpole said she had a copy. The Board decided to show the movie at the next CAB meeting.

6. Costs

Terry Hagen began the discussion by pointing out there are basically two kinds of cost associated with non-remediation activities: administrative support and technical oversight and integration. He pointed out three things that FDF is doing to reduce costs: 1) implementing the Rad Control Optimization Study (i.e. reduction of restrictions in controlled areas, cross training of technicians); 2) producing a long range plan for phasing out support and oversight services (i.e. consolidation, prioritizing, and further projectization); and 3) streamlining project control functions (i.e., reducing the number of activities in the base line schedule).

Doug Sarno proposed that the Waste Management Committee send a letter to DOE asking for quick removal of low level waste to be ultimately disposed off off-site. Jack Craig suggested that the injunction issue which has resulted in the lack of commercial disposal be added to the letter. The Board decided that two separate letters would be more effective. The Board noted that the issue of commercial disposal was previously addressed in the September letter to Bob Folker. Now the Board would be responding to their response. In the case of the injunction, the CAB wants to make it clear that DOE should continue with external regulation. Craig also proposed that the DOE-Ohio Office general counsel meet with the Waste Management Committee at the December 1st meeting to discuss the injunction.

In regards to the future role of the Efficiency Committee, Graham Mitchell suggested that the committee talk to FDF about the inefficiencies of which they are aware and where FDF can make improvements. Willeke suggested that there be more consequences to FDF as a result of an action or a decision that increases inefficiencies. Applegate then asked the full Board for comments on the priorities DOE had outlined in their presentation.

A letter on the reaction to Fernald's becoming a Defense Facilities Closure Project has been drafted. Applegate distributed the draft to the Board members. The Board agreed to change the last line of the document to read "accelerated cleanup at Fernald". The Board also suggested the addition of another paragraph to outline what steps DOE needs to make to improve conditions at the site.

Sarno announced that information will be provided to the Board on a more regular basis. This information will consist of committee summaries, committee notebooks, and report summaries.

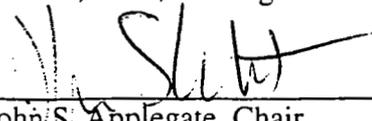
Applegate opened the floor for public comment. Tricia Thompson, Head of FDF Public Affairs, said she felt that the site tour was good. She noted that there are four pages of interest in the Fernald Report, and that a cleanup book is available for stakeholders every three months. Photos of the site can also be found on the web.

Pam Dunn wanted feedback on the recent lawsuit which resulted in the judge telling DOE to do what it was told to do in 1990. Jack Craig was unsure of the status of the lawsuit, but promised to find out more information.

7. Adjournment

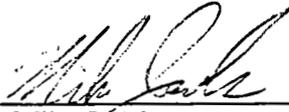
Applegate adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the
November 15, 1997, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.



John S. Applegate, Chair
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

1/4/98
Date



Mike Jacobs
Federal Official

1/13/98
Date

January 12, 1998

Journal News

Front Page

"Fernald organization applies for grants"

Reporter: Nicholas G. Jonson

1254

Fernald organization applies for grants

Group's goal: economic development

By Nicholas G. Jonson
Journal News

ROSS TOWNSHIP

A citizen's organization overseeing the downsizing at the former Fernald uranium processing plant has applied for a \$250,000 planning grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

If approved, the Fernald Community Reuse Organization will use the two-year grant to develop programs related to economic development of the site, worker transition, and reuse and recycling of equipment.

David McWilliams, chairman

of the group and superintendent of the Ross Local School District, said the organization would apply later for a second grant to implement the programs.

Looking back over the past year, McWilliams said the organization experienced "some growing pains."

"It wasn't as simple, as clear-cut as we thought it would be," he said. "We went from thinking that much of what we would do would concern ... issues inside the (Fernald) site to the reality that much of what we will do will take place off the site."

Nevertheless, the organization

was able to get a better understanding of its mission and a better sense of direction, McWilliams said.

"The economic development expertise brought to us in the person of (economic development consultant) Curt Padlock gave us some tangible assets to get our committee structure in place," he said.

In addition to seeking the federal grant, the organization has applied for a \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development to fund small businesses in the area.

If approved, the money will go toward funding various entrepreneurs who may be able to utilize the skills of peo-

ple who worked at the plant. Padlock is scheduled to review the grant application with state officials Jan. 20.

Looking to the future, McWilliams said he would like to see the Economic Development/Worker Transition Committee, one of the organization's three committees, draft substantive plans to address downsizing at the site.

McWilliams said the organization should have plans in place to address the disposal of excess equipment from the site by the end of the year.

"Our plans need to reflect input from the community as well as the needs of workers at the site," McWilliams said.

January 12, 1998
Engineering News-Record
Page 7

1254

"FLUOR TO DESIGN \$1.5-BILLION PETRO PROJECT IN VENEZUELA"

INTERNATIONAL

**FLUOR TO DESIGN \$1.5-BILLION
PETRO PROJECT IN VENEZUELA**

Fluor Daniel Inc.'s subsidiary in Venezuela, Tecnofluor, will perform the basic engineering for a proposed \$1.5-billion crude upgrader for Petrolera Ameriven S.A. Fluor and Tecnofluor had performed conceptual design for the project. Petrolera will use the basic engineering package to confirm its decision to develop the Jose, Venezuela, plant, which will upgrade heavy Hamaca crude. It is an association of four oil companies that includes ARCO, Texaco and Phillips Petroleum. Fluor Daniel also signed a contract with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. to design and build a \$120-million medical isotopes processing facility near Toronto. The facility is a part of a reactor complex being built by AECL.

January 13, 1998

The Journal-Press

Page 2-A

"Fernald citizens board meets Jan. 17"

Fernald citizens' board meets Jan. 17

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board will meet from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton Cleves Highway, near Harrison.

The meeting will cover recommendations on copper recycling, silo issues, and public comments.

January 13, 1998
The Cincinnati Enquirer
Page B3

"Fernald citizens group seeks \$300,000"

By The Associated Press

1254

Fernald citizens group seeks \$300,000

The Associated Press

CROSBY TOWNSHIP — A citizens advisory group has requested \$250,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy to help the department decide what to do with the site of the former Fernald uranium processing plant.

The Fernald Community Reuse Organization, an Energy Department advisory group, is asking for the money. The group said it would use the two-year grant to develop recommendations for the 1,050-acre site in hopes of providing new jobs for workers helping to clean up radioactive contamination there.

David McWilliams, chairman of the group and superintendent of the Ross Local

School District, said the organization intends to apply for a second grant to put its recommendations into effect.

The panel also has applied for a \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development to aid small businesses in the Fernald area, in northwestern Hamilton County.

The money would be used to support entrepreneurs who could hire people who worked at the plant.

Mr. McWilliams said that by the end of this year the panel hopes to have ready recommendations for disposal of excess equipment from the Fernald site.

The plant processed uranium metal from 1951 until 1989 for use elsewhere in producing the nation's nuclear weapons.

The work stopped in 1989 so workers could concentrate on cleanup of the site, which could continue for 10 years or more.

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January 15, 1998

Journal News

Opinion/ Page A8

"Fernald planning grant a good idea"

1254

Fernald planning grant a good idea

There hasn't been a massive amount of attention paid to the question of what happens to the Fernald uranium processing site once the cleanup project is completed. That's somewhat understandable. The multibillion dollar cleanup is expected to proceed well into the next decade.

But it's a question that needs some answers, and the Fernald Community Reuse Organization is making some reasonable attempts at doing just that.

We certainly support the organization's effort to secure a \$250,000 planning grant from the

U.S. Department of Energy. The two-year grant would be used to develop programs related to economic development of the site, worker transition and reuse and recycling of equipment.

The grant would represent taxpayer money being used to help taxpayers. There has been a lot of damage at Fernald due to radiation, which is quite rightly being remediated. To us, the transition grant is another logical part of the remediation costs.

Fernald is a busy place today — because it's being dismantled. It's important to get a handle on where we go from here once the dismantling has concluded.