



February 26, 2003

The Honorable Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environment Management
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0104

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Dear Ms. Roberson:

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board has had a longstanding interest in the long-term stewardship of the Fernald property. Since our first recommendations in 1995, the FCAB has played a major role in defining the future use and appropriate long-term stewardship activities at Fernald.

It is with particular interest that we will be watching the transfer of all EM stewardship-related responsibility to the newly formed Office of Legacy Management. We anticipate that this reorganization will bring greater focus on the long-term stewardship needs of closure sites throughout the DOE Complex. We are also hopeful that the new office will renew the strong DOE tradition of public input and involvement.

One concern we have is that, as an EM-chartered advisory board, we will have no immediate standing with the Office of Legacy Management. We believe that public involvement in both the planning and the implementation of long-term stewardship are essential to ongoing community support and acceptance for remedies that leave waste at the site. This is especially true for sites like Fernald in which enormous volumes of waste are being managed in close proximity to residential areas. DOE's connection to the community over the long term must be assured.

At this time, we are requesting that DOE provide us with a detailed understanding of how the Office of Legacy Management plans to incorporate public input and involvement into its activities and specifically how it will relate to the existing SSAB community. Please provide this response to us no later than April 1, 2003.

We look forward to working with the Office of Legacy Management and continuing the strong tradition of DOE/public cooperation on the decisions that have such a significant impact on the local community here at Fernald.

Sincerely,

James C. Bierer
Chair

cc:

Michael Owen, DOE Office of Worker and Community Transition
Robert Card, DOE Under Secretary
Representative Steve Chabot
Representative Rob Portman
Senator Mike DeWine
Governor Bob Taft