



February 9, 2004

Mike Owen  
Office of Legacy Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Mr. Mike Owen:

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board has reviewed the November, 2003 predecisional draft of the Office of Legacy Management Strategic Plan. Overall, the Board is pleased with the plan and believes that it will serve as a useful guide for Legacy Management activities at closure sites. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this draft; specific recommendations for the strategic plan are highlighted in bold type.

The Fernald CAB appreciates the plan's repeated emphasis on working with stakeholders at Legacy Management sites. Over the past several years, we have focused a great deal of our attention on the role of local communities and other stakeholders in the long-term management of closure sites. We believe that "cooperative partnerships with stakeholders and state, tribal, and local governments," as stated in the Vision of the plan, will benefit both DOE and local communities. This strategic plan, however, provides few details for how or when these partnerships will be pursued. **We recommend that the Office of Legacy Management work with local stakeholders to develop a public participation plan, which would compliment the strategic plan and clarify how stakeholders will be involved in Legacy Management decisions.**

We also were glad to see that the preservation and protection of records and information were included as one of the major goals of Legacy Management and that public access to legally releasable records is included among the objectives of the office. However, a records access system is not effective if members of the local community are not aware that the system exists or do not understand how to make effective use of it. **Therefore, we suggest that community awareness of the public records access system and its effective use be added to the "Success Indicators" for Objective B.2.** In addition to legacy records, long-term surveillance and maintenance activities will result in the creation of new federal records. **We ask that records created after the transition of a site to Legacy Management be included in the strategy outlined in the plan.**

The inclusion of "cultural, natural, and historical resources" in Objective D.1 also appears to be very positive. However, no explanation is provided for what constitutes cultural, natural, and historical resources. For example, the Fernald community has

*Chair*

James C. Bierer

*Vice Chair*

Lisa Crawford

*Members*

M. Kathryn Brown  
Sandy Butterfield  
Marvin W. Clawson  
Lisa Crawford  
Stephen P. Depoe  
Louis Doll  
Pamela Dunn  
Gary Storer  
Robert G. Tabor  
Gene E. Willeke

*Ex Officio Members*

L. French Bell  
Gene Jablonowski  
William Taylor  
Graham Mitchell

*Support Staff*

The Perspectives Group

Mr. Mike Owen  
February 9, 2004

expressed a desire to preserve and properly catalogue historical artifacts, including photographs and videos. Would these be included as cultural and historical resources? **Please provide a brief definition for what Legacy Management considers as cultural, natural, and historical resources.**

Of course, Goal A, "Protect Human Health and the Environment through Effective and Efficient Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance" should be the primary goal of Legacy Management, and DOE as a whole, at all of its sites. This plan places clear priority on the continued protection of health and the environment and challenges the Office of Legacy Management to find better and more efficient ways to accomplish this goal. However, one strategy listed under Objective A.1, "Minimize the Departments environmental liability for surveillance and maintenance consistent with laws and regulations," could be interpreted to mean that Legacy Management is seeking to minimize its responsibilities. **We ask that the intent of this strategy be clarified in the text of the plan.**

We look forward to working with the Office of Legacy Management throughout the transition of the Fernald site from active cleanup to long-term surveillance and maintenance. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact the Fernald CAB at 513.648.6478.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C. Bierer".

James C. Bierer  
FCAB Chair

cc:  
Dave Geiser  
Gary Stegner