



August 17, 2004

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Recommendation 2004-12: Incorporation of Community-Based Stewardship Concepts in Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Legacy Management and Institutional Controls Plan

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Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for providing the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board and other members of the Fernald Coalition for Stewardship the opportunity to review the July, 2004 draft of the Comprehensive Legacy Management and Institutional Controls Plan, Volume 2 (20013-PL-0001, Revision B). The long-term, post-closure management of the Fernald site remains a central priority of the community. This letter reiterates and expands upon key points from comments on the November, 2003 draft of this plan provided to the Department of Energy by the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board on February 9, 2004 (see attached).

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board and the Coalition for Stewardship strongly urge the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to include a comprehensive public education and outreach strategy in Volume 2 of its Comprehensive Legacy Management and Institutional Controls Plan. Because Volume 2 of the plan will be the enforceable commitment for institutional controls at the site, inclusion in this document is the only assurance for the community that Community-Based Stewardship will be implemented.

The Citizens Advisory Board coined the term “Community-Based Stewardship” to describe a system that acknowledges and accommodates the role of the community in long-term management of a closed site. The success of Community-Based Stewardship hinges on the continued community awareness of the controls needed to protect human health and the environment at the site. A site like Fernald—at which a high volume of radioactive waste will be stored in perpetuity—presents a challenge to ongoing community awareness because institutional controls must be maintained from generation to generation. A strategy is needed to teach future generations and new residents about the history of the site and the controls in place to protect their health. Because an aware and informed community is so critical to maintaining the remedy at the Fernald site, education and outreach is, in itself, a critical institutional control and should be treated as such. There continues to be a groundswell of support within the Fernald community for the construction of an on-site education facility as a primary means of achieving this goal.

The July, 2004 draft of Volume 2 presents two primary types of institutional controls (see Section 1.4). The Fernald community believes public education and outreach are institutional controls that should be included in both of these sections:

- **Section 2.0** outlines “Controls on Disturbance and Use of the FCP.” Active public education and outreach would reduce the chance of nearby residents or visitors to the site participating in prohibited activities at the site, because they would understand the risks present and the controls that are in place to manage that risk.

- **Section 3.0** presents “Controls to Minimize Human and Environmental Exposure to Residual Contaminants.” Likewise, an awareness of controls that are in place at the site would enable members of the community to know what to expect from site stewards and, in the absence of those stewards between scheduled inspections, to monitor the integrity of those controls.
- **Section 5.0** of the plan, “Information Management for FCP Institutional Controls,” discusses public access to information regarding the long-term surveillance and maintenance of controls. Clearly, access to this data is necessary in order to maintain the community’s trust that its health is being adequately protected. This data, however, is not adequate for a full understanding of the site. Audience-appropriate materials and programs must be created and maintained that effectively communicate the full story of the site and the remedy that is in place. These could include museum-style displays, written materials, an organized collection of photographic images taken during the site’s fifty-plus years of existence, audiovisual resources, and educational curricula.

Therefore, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board and member organizations of the Fernald Coalition for Stewardship recommend that DOE make the following four revisions to Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Legacy Management and Institutional Controls Plan:

1. In **Section 2.0**, commit to a public education and outreach strategy that will foster an ongoing community awareness of the environmental conditions and actions that are prohibited at the site.
2. In **Section 3.0**, commit to a public education and outreach strategy that will sustain an understanding within the community of the controls that are required to maintain human and environmental health at the Fernald site and the entities responsible for the upkeep of these controls.
3. In **Section 4.0**, “Contingency Planning,” commit to include participation of the public in decisions regarding major maintenance actions required at the site and any future additions, subtractions, or revisions to the Comprehensive Legacy Management and Institutional Controls Plan.
4. In **Section 5.0**, include a new subsection that specifies user-friendly information resources that communicate the full history and environmental conditions of the site are an important institutional control. In Volume 1 of the plan, Table 6-1 provides a useful summary of some types of information required. An enriched version of the table should be included in Volume 2 and include the types of information and historical resources identified by the community and listed on page 33 of the 2002 Fernald Citizens Advisory Board report, Telling the Story of Fernald (see attached). The new subsection should provide details regarding the DOE commitment of resources for the creation and maintenance of these resources. For example, DOE should develop and execute, with full stakeholder participation, a plan that produces an organized and accurately captioned set of photographic images taken during the site’s history that complies with both NARA guidelines and community needs expressed in Telling the Story of Fernald. This plan should be incorporated into section 5.0 of the Institutional Control Plan to ensure it is implemented. Also, this section should clarify the DOE commitment to providing land and resources for the construction of an on-site education facility as an essential component of legacy management. In addition we would like to see the inclusion of walking trails and interpretive signs in promoting public use, connection, and understanding of the site.

We strongly believe that without these additions, legacy management, and the remedy itself will fail.

We would be glad to work with you and representatives of the Office of Legacy Management to craft the appropriate language regarding these issues for subsequent drafts of the Comprehensive Legacy Management and Institutional Controls Plan.

Please provide us with a response to this letter, detailing what actions will be taken regarding each of the four recommendations and an explanation for those actions, no later than September 15, 2004.

Sincerely,



Jim Bierer
Chair, Fernald Citizens Advisory Board



Lisa Crawford
Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety
and Health



Stephen Depoe
President, Fernald Living History, Inc.



Susan Verkamp
President, Fernald Community Health
Effects Committee

cc with attachment:

Gary Stegner
Mike Owen
Paul Golan