



August 23, 2004

William Taylor  
US Department of Energy  
PO Box 538705  
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

**Recommendation 2004-14: Creation of An Enforceable Milestone in Conjunction with Accelerated Waste Retrieval from Silos 1 and 2**

Dear Mr. Taylor:

At our meeting on August 3, 2004, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board addressed issues related to the Advanced Waste Retrieval (AWR) project.

The AWR project would transfer the 8,900 cubic yards of radium-bearing waste from Silos 1 and 2 into four large, steel tanks, located adjacent to these two aging concrete silos. This transfer of the material is necessary to facilitate its treatment, shipment and disposal. However, the letter sent by the State of Nevada's Attorney General to the U.S. Department of Energy on April 15, 2004 raised the specter of uncertainty regarding the final disposal site for the materials contained in the Fernald silos. Although the Citizens Advisory Board continues to believe the top priority of DOE should be the resolution of the dispute with Nevada, the Board considered the pros and cons of moving forward with operation of the AWR facility in light of information provided by the Department of Energy, its contractor, and federal and state regulators.

The Citizens Advisory Board maintains its support for the implementation of the current, legally binding Record of Decision for Silos 1 and 2. This agreement calls for the waste to be transferred to holding tanks via a sluice-and-pump operation, transferred to an on-site treatment facility and stabilized with cement and fly ash, packaged in steel containers, and shipped to an appropriate disposal facility. AWR is a necessary and important first step in this process; however, the Board and the Fernald community are adamant that the Silos 1 and 2 waste not be kept at Fernald for either disposal or long-term storage.

Therefore, as a precondition to our support for the commencement of AWR, we recommend that the Department of Energy achieve concurrence with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on an enforceable milestone that creates an absolute date by which DOE must initiate the continuous treatment, packaging, and shipment of Silos 1 and 2 waste off the Fernald site to an appropriate facility.

Please provide the Citizens Advisory Board with a written response to this recommendation regarding the full decision on AWR and all associated milestones no later than September 8, 2004.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact us. We will continue to monitor issues regarding the Fernald Silos Projects and provide input on the activities necessary to protect the health and environment of the Fernald community.

Sincerely:

Jim Bierer  
Chair

Lisa Crawford  
Vice-Chair

*Chair*  
James C. Bierer

*Vice Chair*  
Lisa Crawford

*Members*  
M. Kathryn Brown  
Sandy Butterfield  
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Mr. William Taylor  
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cc:

Senator Mike DeWine  
Senator George Voinovich  
Representative John Boehner  
Representative Steve Chabot  
Representative David Hobson  
Representative Rob Portman  
Thomas B. Skinner, U.S. EPA  
Christopher Jones, Ohio EPA  
Assistant Secretary Paul Golan  
Robert Warther  
William Taylor  
Jamie Jameson  
NTS Citizens Advisory Board