



## Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office  
175 Tri County Parkway  
Springdale, Ohio 45246

MAY / 2004

Mr. James C. Bierer  
FCAB Chair  
406 Marcia Ave.  
Hamilton, OH 45013

OH-0320-04

Dear Mr. Bierer:

Thank you for your letter of April 20, 2004 and for the opportunity to discuss DOE's desires for the Fernald site. I think that, in general, your group and the rest of the local community will be pleased with DOE's concept for the property. Although it is not possible to discuss with you the specifics of settlement negotiations in Ohio v DOE, Case No. C-1-86-0217, since that matter is in litigation, I can describe what DOE hopes to achieve for the site.

In general, we hope to leave the site as an undeveloped nature area with a state or local organization in a management role. We would like to re-vegetate the property in a manner as suggested in the Natural Resource Restoration Plan we had developed in January 2002. This plan contains details on the types of vegetation to be used, wetland areas and nature trails, although variations in the types of plantings may be made to facilitate future use and/or maintenance. It is also possible that we would leave certain buildings available to local groups for purposes such as you suggest in your letter.

In that connection I was pleased to see, in the attachment to your letter, the concept of "community-based stewardship" and "partnerships with nonprofit organizations ..." for future site "maintenance and other beneficial activities." As you may know, at various state and local parks, wildlife areas, and nature preserves within Ohio local groups take a leadership role through volunteer efforts to guide site use, development and effect care. We envision that such a thing may be possible at Fernald. In fact, we have already had discussions with some local organizations about site use and future care. There seems to be a strong interest by these groups, and we believe such an arrangement could leave Fernald as a vibrant resource for the local community.

In addition, the buildings that can remain at the site could provide assets to the local community for other purposes as suggested in your letter. While plans have not been solidified at this point, it does seem possible that DOE's Legacy Management program may be able to provide access to facilities at the site for historical records and information about the site.



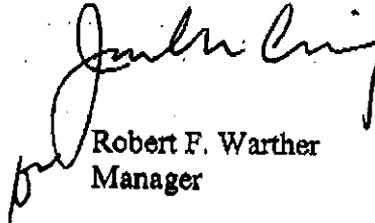
Mr. James C. Bierer

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Thank you for your continued interest in the Fernald site and for all of your past support for the Fernald Closure Project.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert F. Warther".

Robert F. Warther  
Manager

cc:

Lisa Crawford, FCAB  
Bill Taylor, FCP