

## Minutes from the September 12, 1998 Meeting

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:39 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, 1998, at the Site Services Building Conference on the Fernald site. The meeting was advertised in local papers and was open to the public.

Members Present:	Jim Bierer Marvin Clawson Jack Craig Lisa Crawford Pam Dunn Jane Harper Gene Jablonowski Dan McElroy Graham Mitchell Robert Tabor Thomas Wagner Gene Willeke
Members Absent:	French Bell Darryl Huff Ray Wurzelbacher
Designated Federal Official:	Gary Stegner
Phoenix Environmental Staff:	Douglas Sarno Samantha Weinstein
FDF Staff:	Tisha Patton Sue Walpole

Approximately 5 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald.

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

## **2. Announcements and New Business**

Jim noted that the FCAB meeting location has been moved onto the Fernald site to help save money and to coincide with the location of DOE's monthly progress briefings. He reported that he attended the National Dialog meeting in Chicago in June and that five members of the CAB attended the low level waste workshop in Nevada in August.

## **3. Natural Resources and Future Land Use**

Jim announced that the Natural Resource Trustees will be releasing the environmental assessment for the proposed final land use of the Fernald site this month. A workshop will be held on September 23 and a public meeting on October 13 to discuss the proposed plan. The plan provides for a general land use of natural resource preservation and wetlands with a 23 acre parcel to be available for commercial or industrial use. The Community Reuse Organization will be releasing studies and recommendations for the use of that parcel this month as well.

Once stakeholder comments are received and incorporated, a final plan will be developed. Members of the on-site committee noted a desire to comment on the assessment and will hold a meeting in conjunction with the October 13 public hearing.

## **3. Low Level Waste Workshop**

Jim noted that the Low Level Waste Workshop sponsored by the NTS CAB in August was an effective format to discuss waste disposition among SSABs. Good progress was made toward dealing with issues of transportation.

Doug noted that 10 SSABs were represented. The FCAB had 5 members present as well as Doug Sarno, Tisha Patton, Gene Jablonowski, Kelly Keletsky, and Leah Dever. It was truly a stakeholders' forum with few DOE and outside contractors. After some presentations on the low-level waste problem and transportation issues, five small groups were formed around central issues and asked to identify 3 barriers to solving low level waste disposition and present potential solutions to the full group. Each SSAB voted on scale of 1-5 on the importance of the solutions presented and the likelihood that their SSAB members would support such a recommendation.

Doug then presented the workshop recommendations so that the entire CAB could review the list. The FCAB discussed each recommendation and identified whether it was something that the CAB would support and whether the CAB wanted to take a leadership role on that issue. A summary of the results is presented in Attachment A.

## **4. On-Site Committee**

The On-site Committee met on September 9. The committee received a briefing on Special Nuclear Materials disposition. The contract with BNFL is being completed and should begin removing uranium in October. Some progress has been made with the Oak Ridge site to provide long-term storage of some 900 metric tons. Efforts are also underway to designate some depleted uranium as waste. It is imperative to get the material off site by year 2000, so that the site can proceed in dismantling the plant.

Contractors are working on the supplemental environmental projects on recycling and natural resource restoration and the committee will be looking into these over the next few months as results are obtained. The committee also received information on the new waste acceptance organization (WAO) which is responsible for making sure the material that goes into the OSDF does not exceed the WAC or physical requirements for on-site disposal. WAO officials are present at both the loading of materials into trucks and the unloading of materials in the OSDF.

## **5. Off-Site Committee**

Gene Willeke reported that the committee met on September 10. The ongoing Silo procurements were discussed. The material in silo 3 turns out not to be the powdery material that was expected, but a more cement-like material as a result of moisture in the silo since the material was placed there. This is a physical, not a chemical difference. Pam asked how this change will impact the process and cost of the remedy. Gene noted the process is the same as before, but removal will probably take longer and costs may increase somewhat. However, this material was being removed to help determine the right technical approach. The additional costs are not expected to be significant.

Gene reported on the results of the corrective action report for the white metal box incident. One of the ten corrective actions was not concluded successfully with regard to the calibration of measuring equipment. Once that is corrected, NTS reviewers will return to complete their evaluation. Overall, it will still be several months before waste shipments can resume. Gene also noted that many of the rail cars have arrived on site, and the rest of cars should be here soon for shipping of Waste Pit waste. There is a March 30, 1999 milestone for loading waste.

Tom talked about the possibility that the CAB will be hosting an SSAB transportation workshop in the spring as the next step in inter-SSAB dialogues. The Off-Site Committee will begin planning this workshop soon and will be careful to make sure it is focussed effectively to ensure that it gets results. Fernald will take the same approach as the Nevada workshop in that each SSAB will be asked to provide a facilitator and pay their own costs. There was a question of how to handle the additional costs to the CAB of planning and hosting the workshop. Doug noted that they hoped to get some additional funding from HQ.

It was noted that at the monthly briefing on September 8 , there was an issue discussed regarding of the shut-down of the Waste Pits Project for safety violations. The shutdown was not mentioned during the presentation and was only addressed because Lisa asked that it be addressed during the question and answer period. CAB members expressed concern that issues that were severe enough to warrant a shut-down must be identified and discussed in the public meetings. Several stakeholders were aware of the issue prior to the meeting and understood the details of the situation. CAB members felt that not addressing it straightforwardly during the presentation gave the appearance of hiding something and will work to erode trust is behavior continues. DOE agreed to work to prevent similar actions in the future.

## **6. Meeting Logistics**

Concern was expressed because it was difficult to hear with the ventilation system in the room. The room was selected because the previous room was expensive and the current room is free to use. In the past many stakeholders were reluctant to meet on site but that concern has abated. Accessibility is important as parking is further away. A request was made for handicapped parking close to the building. Doug said he would continue to look into a suitable location for both full and committee meetings so the CAB does not have to keep moving around.

## **7. Closure Fund**

Jim noted that Fernald was designated by Congress last year as one of three closure fund sites, but that the CAB has seen little advantage in this designation. A letter was sent to the Ohio Congressional delegation in May requesting clarification on Congress' intent in creating the closure fund but the CAB has yet to get a response. It was decided to re-send the letter with a cover asking for prompt response. The CAB wants to develop a strategy for getting DOE to make better use of the closure fund but first needs to better understand the intent of Congress in establishing the designation.

## **8. Membership**

Jim noted that CAB membership is currently 11. The maximum allowed by the bylaws is 15 and the CAB has generally operated with 14 members. It was noted that the CAB should recruit some additional members to fill any perceived gaps in representation. FATLC has requested an additional member on the CAB, but it was felt that each Union should have equal representation and there is already a representative from FATLC on the CAB. The Guard's Union also requested membership and it was determined that a Guard's Union representative should be invited to participate, since they have no representative at the present. Several members believed it was important to stress that though balanced representation was sought, participation on the CAB was as individuals and not organizations.

Other potential gaps in representation that were noted included Hamilton county, the public health community, emergency response providers, environmentalists, and Native Americans. It was decided to offer membership to the Guards Union and another local resident (Sandy Butterfield) and to make a number of initial calls to gauge the interest of individuals in the communities identified. Jim Bierer agreed to contact the Guards Union, the Hamilton County Health District, and members of the Native American Community. Gene Willeke agreed to contact Hamilton City, the Sierra Club, and Butler County. Dan McElroy agreed to contact Hamilton County Commissoiners. Tom Wagner agreed to contact Ken Moore. Lisa Crawford agreed to contact Sandy Butterfield.

**9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**10. Adjournment**

Jim Bierer adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the September 12, 1998, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

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James Bierer, Chair Date  
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

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Gary Stegner Date  
Designated Federal Official