



Minutes from the December 7, 1995 Meeting

CHAIR

John S. Applegate

MEMBERS

James C. Bierer
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pamela Dunn
Constance Fox, M.D.
Guy C. Guckenberger
Darryl D. Huff
Gloria J. McKinley
Jerry Monahan
Thomas B. Rentschler
Robert G. Tabor
Warren E. Strunk
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

The Fernald Citizens Task Force met from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on December 7, 1995, at the Joint Information Center, 6025 Dixie Highway, Fairfield, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and open to the public. Time was reserved for public input.

Members Present:

John Applegate
French Bell
Jim Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn
Constance Fox
Guy Guckenberger
Darryl Huff
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell
Thomas Rentschler
Warren Strunk
Robert Tabor
Thomas Wagner
Gene Willeke

EX OFFICIO

L. French Bell
J. Phillip Hamric
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell

Members Absent:

Jerry Monahan
J. Phillip Hamric

Designated Federal Official Present:

Gary Stegner

Task Force Staff Present:

Jim Jackson
Sheri Landfair
Crystal Sarno
Douglas Sarno

About twenty spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE, Hamilton Co. Environmental Services, FERMCO, FRESH, Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, Miami University, University of Cincinnati, and other interested parties.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked for approval of the September 30, 1995 meeting draft minutes. No changes were noted and the minutes were approved.

2. Announcements and New Business

As the Task Force will be meeting quarterly, Applegate described a new process for approval of the minutes. The minutes will be transcribed within three or four weeks of the Task Force meeting and mailed to all members for comment; comments will be directed to the Task Force office and incorporated. If there are no substantial revisions, final minutes will then be produced, signed, and sent out to the board. There were no objections to this process.

Applegate welcomed L. French Bell as a new *ex-officio* member to the Task Force.

Applegate notified the Task Force that Marc Jewett of FERMC0 had suffered a heart attack, but is now home from the hospital and doing well.

Sheri Landfair and Crystal Sarno, new administrative staff, were introduced to the Task Force.

The Task Force was briefed on the reorganization of the Task Force library and office and encouraged to use that space for committee meetings as well as a work space.

Applegate introduced the first Task Force newsletter, explained the different parts, and encouraged comments on ways to make it more useful.

Applegate explained that the initial contacts with CSX to ride the rail from Fernald through Cottage Grove to Cincinnati have not been encouraging. It might be possible to ride the rail as far as Cottage Grove and then take a bus for the rest of the way. Gene Willeke and Darryl Huff indicated that CSX had previously offered a tour of the rails to the Task Force. Tom Rentschler felt it would be better to go beyond Cottage Grove. After general discussion, it was decided to pursue the rail trip further.

It was reported that a trip to Envirocare would cost approximately \$1300.00 per person. Applegate asked the board if they wanted to proceed with this issue. Six members expressed interest in visiting the Envirocare facility. It was suggested that a video of the trip be taken so that everyone else could experience it.

Gary Stegner of DOE explained a recent newspaper article which quoted Jack Craig as saying Fernald was going to build a structure on-site to store depleted uranium. Stegner indicated these comments were blown out of proportion, and that Craig had said an on-site facility was possible but that it would only be used as a last resort. Rentschler expressed concern that DOE is not doing enough to get facts out following misleading news accounts and that the Task Force was generally much better informed than the general public. Craig said that DOE meets with the press every few months to make sure information is being reported accurately. Guy Guckenberger wondered if the community was really up in arms? Stegner said that he had not received any follow-up calls to that article. Rentschler expressed concern about communication in general and believes FERMC0 and DOE owe the public an explanation of why they aren't talking to each other. Applegate reassured Rentschler that this was not going to be a "private" issue.

Applegate explained that the March meeting would be the last meeting at the Joint Information Center and asked for input to other possible meeting locations. After some discussion, it was decided that an off-site meeting place would be best, to allow for easy access for the public.

3. Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Applegate referred to a comparison of complex-wide reports that had been prepared by Task Force staff to show how these reports relate to each other and what they mean to Fernald. Applegate reported on a recent meeting of the SSAB chairs about the PEIS. Out of that meeting came a commitment from DOE to better explain how these various programs impact each site, and how individual site decisions would impact other sites. The Task Force is beyond that point, but Applegate will keep the Task Force informed.

Pam Dunn expressed strong displeasure with the PEIS document. Fernald is identified as having no low level waste, and a candidate for regional treatment and regional disposal. She expressed the desire for each Task Force member to submit individual comments. Willeke expressed concern that the PEIS gives the impression that Fernald is a trivial facility; that it does not adequately represent restoration information; and waste volumes are under-represented by a factor of six. Willeke indicated he would submit detailed comments on his concerns.

Doug Sarno explained the scope of the document was changed from the original intent to eliminate consideration of environmental restoration wastes to focus just on waste management. Robert Tabor was concerned about the lack of follow through from the video conference held in October. Dunn believed they were waiting for the written comment period to be over, then incorporate all of the comments and put out a final document. It was decided the Task Force would submit comments by sending a copy of the July recommendations report and indicating where the PEIS recommendations were at odds with Task Force recommendations.

4. Membership

Applegate reported on the results of the new member search. The Task Force was seeking to fill one available position. A total of 18 applications were received in response to the widely advertised request for applicants. The membership committee (Applegate, Crawford, and Guckenberger) reviewed the applications and developed a short list of four individuals based on total experience, interest and proximity to the site. The entire committee interviewed each individual on the short list, and recommended Gloria McKinley as the new Task Force member. Applegate said she has a great deal of experience working on the issues that the Task Force is currently facing.

Applegate reported that the membership committee was very mindful of the interest of the Task Force in looking towards Ross Township to fill the spot on the board. However, only 3 of the 18 applicants were from Ross and there did not appear to be an overwhelming interest. It was thought that the remaining issues of most importance to Ross would be handled by the Community Reuse Organization that the Ross Merchants Association was spearheading. Darryl Huff will be the official Task Force liaison to the CRO and Lisa Crawford will also be on the CRO so the lines of communication will be well established. DOE has made it clear that they want to have direct communication with the neighbors of the facility on reuse issues, and the Task Force does not anticipate providing direct recommendations.

Tabor made a motion that the Task Force formally recommend to DOE adding Gloria McKinley to the Task Force to serve a two year term ending December 31, 1997; that all existing members with expiring seats be appointed to an additional two year term; and that French Bell be added as an *ex officio* member. Connie Fox seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Crawford welcomed McKinley to the Task Force and said she was very impressed with McKinley and looks forward to their working together. McKinley thanked the board and said she looks forward to working with everyone.

Guckenberger raised the issue of expanding the size of the Task Force. Applegate reported the issue was a result of the number of applications by FERMCO white collar employees. FERMCO and DOE are not opposed to creating a FERMCO seat; however, the opinion of the membership committee was that FERMCO employees were already well represented and conflict of interest is a concern. Guckenberger's concern is that out of 18 applications received, one third were FERMCO employees. Gene Jablonowski suggested one option was to add a FERMCO employee as an *ex officio* member. It was noted that the announcement for membership was placed in the FERMCO employee bulletin, that could have accounted for the large response. Willeke suggested the membership committee should reassess the matter and make a recommendation to the board. Applegate agreed to do so.

5. 1996 Workplan:

Terry Hagen of FERMCO was asked to provide an overview of the remedial design and remedial construction processes that would be occurring at the site in 1996. He described the requirements of the remedial design process and how remedial design workplans, preliminary designs, intermediate designs, and final designs would be prepared. Sarno explained how the Task Force planned to organize its activities for 1996 to provide input to this process. The draft 1996 workplan had been prepared and distributed.

Sarno pointed out that preliminary designs on the waste pits and on site disposal facility were in the pipeline right now and the Task Force would have to organize quickly to provide timely response. The disposal facility issues would be handled by the board as a whole, while most other issues were to be handled in new committees to be formed. DOE was planning a public meeting to present the preliminary design of the disposal facility in January. As soon as that date was established, the Task Force would plan a follow-up meeting to develop its recommendations.

Four new committees were described, as follows:

- 1) Monitoring. The Task Force is very concerned about tracking progress of remediation and procedures for determining success.
- 2) Natural Resources. The natural resource trustees for the site are beginning their work and the Task Force will want to provide input to this process.
- 3) Waste Management. The Task Force is very concerned about which materials will be going into the disposal facility and which materials are available for recycling.
- 4) Transportation. The Task Force will provide input to all transportation and shipping plans.

Sarno said that some other issues that will be handled by the whole Task Force include monitoring the budget and schedule for the 10 year program, complex-wide issues, and future use of the site.

A question was raised regarding the status of the CRO. Stegner explained that a draft charter will be completed by February 1996. The charter will be specific on future use, as well as working to offset the loss of employment in and around Ross over the next 10 years.

Dunn asked if the site will be represented, since 80% of the site sits in Hamilton County. Stegner said he believed that membership on the CRO will be balanced. Applegate said the CRO will be looking at important local issues and the Task Force will stay in close contact.

Rentschler asked if groundwater would be monitored. He then questioned who monitors the cost effectiveness of the operation and how would citizens know if the money is being well spent. Sarno replied that the Task Force had not decided to look at the money management issue until this point. Rentschler questioned whether this information was readily available or was it something the Task Force had to do. Craig said there was an analysis available. Sarno said he would work with Rentschler and DOE to make this information available.

Applegate presented the idea of the Task Force moving to quarterly meetings as presented in the 1996 workplan. Crawford suggested meeting every other month, that quarterly meetings were too far apart. Applegate answered that the committees were being established to fill in those gaps, but that if it does not work, we can change to bi-monthly meetings. The committee structure allows people to work on the issues that they are most interested. Non-members were also welcome to be on the committees. Sarno said he would work closely with all of the committee chairs to organize meetings and prepare all of the materials.

Rentschler asked about the radium issue. Sarno said that it is not on the calendar right now because it is basically a dormant issue. Tabor asked what had happened with the letter to Secretary O'Leary. Applegate answered that the letter was never sent because the funding for the study showed up before the letter went out. Willeke said that the progress of the medical studies is being included in the work that is being done. There will be a document to review early next year on the results of the literature study.

Pam Dunn asked if the Natural Resources Committee would also look into the issues surrounding Native American remains. It was decided to expand the name to "Natural and Cultural Resources Committee."

Crawford restated her concern that every three months was just too far apart. Guckenberger pointed out that if everyone was on committees, they would still meet as often. Rentschler stated that he was getting burned out and that the schedule was a good one, although he also thought he wasn't getting as much information lately as he thought he should. Dunn agreed to try the quarterly meetings. Tabor said if we just communicate well, we can always have an extra meeting.

Applegate announced the chairs of the four committees and asked every member to sign up for at least one committee. Jim Bierer will chair the Natural Resources Committee, Pam Dunn will chair the Monitoring Committee, Tom Wagner would chair the Transportation Committee, and Gene Willeke will chair the Waste Management Committee.

Guckenberger moved that the 1996 workplan be approved, Tabor seconded. It passed unanimously.

Guckenberger remarked that the newsletter was well done. Crawford requested that members be informed of who goes where on Task Force business. She also asked for a budget of Task Force spending. Applegate agreed to provide that information. Crawford also questioned why all of the chairs of the different SSABs were meeting together, but not the members. She believes other members should be able to participate at a national level. Applegate explained that these meetings have occurred three times. The purpose of these meetings was to share lessons learned and discuss organizational issues, not to make substantive decisions. He believed that some people do want to turn it into a national forum on substantive issues, but that he thinks that the limited organizational role is more appropriate. He agreed with Crawford that more members should attend. It was decided that the newsletter would report any meetings attended by any members of the Task Force.

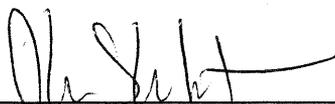
6. Opportunity for Public Input

The floor was opened to public comments. There were no public comments.

7. Adjournment

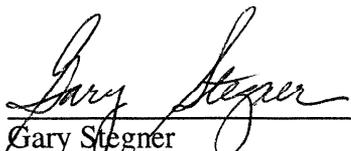
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the
December 7, 1995 meeting of the Fernald Citizens Task Force.



John S. Applegate, Chair
Fernald Citizens Task Force

2/15/96
Date



Gary Stegner
Deputy Designated Federal Official

2/23/96
Date