

*Chair*  
John S. Applegate

*Members*  
James C. Bierer  
Marvin W. Clawson  
Lisa Crawford  
Pamela Dunn  
Constance Fox, M.D.  
Darryl D. Huff  
Thomas B. Rentschler  
Warren E. Strunk  
Robert G. Tabor  
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner  
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

*Ex Officio*  
L. French Bell  
Jack Craig  
Gene Jablonowski  
Graham Mitchell

## Minutes from the May 10, 1997 Meeting

The Fernald Citizens Task Force met from 8:32 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. on May 10, 1997, at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and open to the public. Time was reserved for public input. At the conclusion of the meeting, members toured the site.

### Members Present:

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

### Members Absent:

None

Designated Federal Official Present: Gary Stegner

EPA Headquarters: Jim Saric

Task Force Staff Present: Tereza Marks  
Crystal Sarno  
Douglas Sarno

About 20 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE, Fluor-Daniel Fernald, and FRESH.

## 1. Call to Order

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

## 2. Announcements and New Business

Applegate announced that the March minutes will be distributed for review in the next Friday mailing.

It was announced that Jack Craig was replacing Phil Hamric on the Task Force for DOE.

Since the Task Force last met, the General Accounting Office report on safety issues and finances at Fernald was released. Everyone received a copy. Applegate stated that there was not much for the Task Force to work on with this document, but if members saw a continuing role for the Task Force, to please let him know.

Lisa Crawford distributed materials recently prepared by the Military Production Network containing several mentions of Fernald. Graham Mitchell distributed the Ohio EPA Annual Report.

Applegate noted that the Ten-Year Plan for the entire complex will be released on May 21, and comments will be due in 60 days. He asked that the Transportation Committee take a look at the plan and report back to the Task Force with comments.

Applegate suggested that the July meeting be held on a week night, instead of on a Saturday morning. It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, July 9.

## 3. Committee Reports

### *Transportation Committee*

Tom Wagner, Committee Chair, gave the update on recent road changes.

**On Route 128:** There are new traffic lights installed at the intersection of Route 128 and I-74. Resurfacing of SR 128 is underway from I-74 through Ross. The repavement will be completed in September, and will require lane closings until then. A right turn lane is to be constructed at Willey Road. An upgrade of a small bridge south of Ross is scheduled for 1999 and will also require lane closings.

**On Route 126:** A new right turn lane is under construction at the Old North Site entrance.

**On Willey Road:** Hamilton County plans to resurface Willey Road in late 1997.

**On Site:** The North Access Road will be closed on July 1. The rerouted North Access Road will be open in October. The site is looking at ways to limit traffic and emergency response delays by putting a traffic cop at Willey Road, by adding a right turn lane on SR 128, by proposing alternate routing, and by implementing staggered shifts.

Due to road changes, Emergency Response Teams will require as much as five additional minutes to respond to emergencies in some areas.

Wagner indicated that the committee was confident that a lot of careful thought has gone into managing these transportation issues.

*Monitoring and Recycling Committee*

Pam Dunn, Committee Chair, noted that there will be a meeting on May 21, to look at revisions to the recycling protocol, the monitoring results from Area 1 Phase 1, the status of the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan, and soil certification.

*Natural Resources Committee*

Committee Chair Jim Bierer reported that on May 25, there will be a reburial of the Native American remains and a special ceremony. He reported that, in response to committee recommendations, DOE will produce a bi-weekly publication to keep the public informed on what will be happening on site starting within the next two weeks. This report will be mailed. DOE is proposing to implement tree plantings as aesthetic barriers along SR 126 and Willey Road.

**4. Budget and Schedule Issues**

Doug Sarno noted that the July 1995 Task Force Recommendations endorsed an accelerated clean up plan that was based on a certain budget level. Since then the budget has decreased. The Fernald budget for next year is based partially on privatization funding which is uncertain. Also, the site has run into some technical difficulties. This is natural for a site of this size, but the Task Force now has to address how these changes affect the previous recommendations and decide what the Task Force's role is in helping with these issues.

Jack Craig said that much of the drummed waste will be removed by the end of the calendar year. As these wastes are removed, there will be less oversight required and, therefore, less cost. Half of the enriched uranium on site has been sold to the private sector. However, DOE has not found a purchaser for the depleted uranium, although they have been trying for several years. If DOE cannot find a purchaser, they will have to declare that material waste and it will be shipped to Nevada. This will probably cost several million dollars, which has not been budgeted. In fact, the budget includes the projected income from the sale of this material. All other legacy waste projects are on schedule and some are even ahead of schedule. The project to overpack the thorium drums is well ahead of the scheduled completion in April 1998. There will be extra funds as a result. Plant 5 has been shut down ahead of schedule, as well.

Applegate noted that in projects that have a repetitive nature, Fernald seems to get better with each repetition. Jack Craig said we could hope for more projects with a learning curve. These projects save money as the work progresses.

Graham Mitchell said that if the privatization money is cut, it would result in a significant budget cut. Jack Craig expects the site to get one half of the \$41 million in privatization money budgeted.

John Bradburne commented that the loss of \$41 million is a significant reduction in the budget. Jack Craig explained that privatization funding requires private contractors to put up the initial costs of construction to be paid later on by the government as results are achieved. If that money is not made available by Congress when it is due, then the site will have to pay it out of the operating expenses.

An audience member asked which plant is to be razed next. The boiler plant will be razed, followed by Plant 9. He noted that in Plant 8, there is a kiln that can be used to dry out materials.

Doug Sarno suggested three ways for the Task Force to get involved in budget issues: 1) provide input for technical decisions, 2) keep the site high profile to protect the budget, and 3) give direct recommendations on efficiency issues, i.e., define inefficiencies and find ways to deal with them. Sarno asked if giving direct recommendations is something in which the Task Force would like to be involved. He said the Task Force was already providing input for technical decisions and keeping site profile high.

Doug Sarno noted that DOE is counting on increased productivity over the life of the project in order to meet its budgets. If the Task Force were to become involved in efficiency issues, it would create a committee to examine these issues over a long period of time.

Gene Willeke said that the Task Force is committed to an accelerated clean up and that we should be working to move the site in that direction.

James Bierer said that the Task Force is extremely important in what is happening on the site. It is imperative that the Task Force take a very high profile position in upcoming decisions.

Pam Dunn said that for this issue, it is important for DOE to be open and honest, and lay issues on the table. She also noted that before we take this on, we need a commitment from DOE to that effect. Dunn said that we would need more detailed financial information. Applegate asked Jack Craig, as a DOE representative, if that was a problem. Jack Craig answered no. Craig replied that, in fact, the Task Force pushing for this information would help to move things along. Some of the changes to obtain this information need to occur in Washington DC, and some need to happen on site. John Applegate said they would definitely require the assistance of the regulators. Tom Rentschler said that he had written a letter long ago, requesting financial information. He did not receive an answer for a long time, finally getting only a partial answer. Vitrification wound up costing five times the amount projected. He is not confident that we will get accurate information, or be able to use the information that we do get.

Lisa Crawford suggested a new committee be established to handle this issue. It was agreed.

## **5. Silos**

Doug Sarno discussed the events that have occurred since the Operable Unit 4 ROD was signed, including the difficulties with the vitrification plant, then asked Jim Saric to discuss US EPA's proposed path forward.

Saric announced that EPA has decided that a ROD amendment is needed for Silos 1 and 2, but an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) is all that is necessary for Silo 3. Saric explained that in the decision to award a ROD, EPA must consider, scope, technology and cost. Any of these factors could represent changes from the existing ROD. In this case, the difference in cost from the original estimate is enough to make the ROD amendment for Silos 1 and 2 necessary. With Silo 3, the scope has remained the same, the technology is basically the same, and the cost is in the same ball park. Thus, the ESD will be sufficient for Silo 3. This explains why there are two regulatory processes being done, the ROD amendment and the ESD.

Gene Willeke asked who makes this decision. Saric replied that it is an agency decision. Saric stated we are looking at a 12 - 18 month time frame for the ROD amendment.

John Applegate pointed out that it seems as if we will be doing a lesser evaluation on Silo 3 with just the ESD. Saric said that is not the case; the ESD will look at all of the relevant factors. Applegate asked why one will take over a year and one will take only a few months. Doug Sarno explained that the ROD had more formal comment periods between DOE and the regulators, adding the extra time to that process, commenting that both the ESD and the ROD are thorough processes.

Lisa Crawford asked for an official written statement from EPA headquarters, explaining how they came to the decision about the ROD and the ESD. She expressed concern that this might be a way to avoid vitrification.

Pam Dunn asked if we had any information from the state of Nevada on whether they would accept cementation waste from Silo 3. Nina Akgunduz said that she has just returned from Nevada, and the indication from the DOE Nevada office seemed very favorable. There have not been any public meetings yet. Fernald staff is in regular contact with NTS, and will provide a workshop to the citizens' groups there within the next few months. Lisa Crawford said we need to work with the Nevada CAB and their public relations people. She would like to have the Nevada people come here and talk to us. The Nevada CAB will be discussing transportation at their next meeting, and Tom Wagner is going to meet with them. John Applegate would like to invite someone from the Nevada CAB to join our Waste Management Committee.

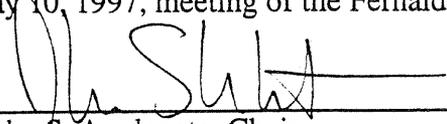
Lisa Crawford asked Jim Saric if all major work was going to stop during the period during which the ROD is amended. Saric answered yes. While small things will be done, and waste removal studies will continue, no waste removal from Silos 1 and 2 will occur.

John Applegate suggested that the Waste Management Committee look at the IRT and value engineering reports and make a recommendation to the group as to how to proceed. It is important that everyone on the Task Force be involved in this issue.

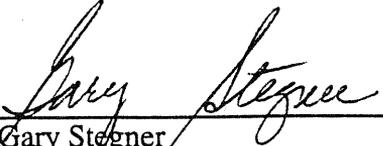
**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45. Task Force members conducted a tour of the site to review recent progress. An itinerary of the tour is attached.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the May 10, 1997, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Task Force.

  
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John S. Applegate, Chair  
Fernald Citizens Task Force

7/8/97  
(Date)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Stegner  
Designated Federal Official

7/15/97  
Date

