



Draft Minutes from the November 15, 1997 Meeting

Chair
John S. Applegate

Vice Chair
James C. Bierer

Members
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pamela Dunn
Constance Fox, M.D.
Darryl D. Huff
Dan McElroy
Robert G. Tabor
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

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

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 8:37 a.m. until 11:50 p.m. on Saturday, November 15, 1997, at the Alpha Building, 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and was open to the public.

Members Present:

John Applegate
French Bell
Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Jack Craig
Pam Dunn
Darryl Huff
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell
Gene Willeke

Members Absent:

Jim Bierer
Constance Fox
Dan McElroy
Warren Strunk
Robert Tabor
Thomas Wagner

Federal Official Present:

Mike Jacobs

Staff Present:

Tereza Marks
Crystal Sarno
Douglas Sarno

About 10 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald.

1. Call to Order

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

2. Announcements and New Business

The Board approved the minutes from the September meeting without changes.

John Applegate announced that Warren Strunk has resigned from the Citizen's Advisory Board due to work commitments. Applegate reminded the Board that over the years, Strunk has had to use work time to attend these meetings. Applegate made a motion that the Board formally thank Strunk for his service. Lisa Crawford seconded the motion. The Board will send a letter of thanks to Strunk.

Applegate suggested that the Board discuss membership issues after the meeting. With Strunk's resignation, the Board has four available positions. Applegate proposed that the Board develop a list of possible replacement members.

Applegate announced that Al Alm has resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy. Because of this change in administration, the Board will have to educate the new Assistant Secretary about Fernald and the work occurring at the site. The Board feels that it is important that the new administration be aware of Fernald's ability and desire to move forward aggressively.

Applegate announced that the chairs of the SSABs held a meeting in Dallas in October. Fernald is much further along, chronologically, than any of the other sites, and the Fernald CAB is now dealing with implementation issues. At the meeting of the SSABs, there was also an update on the status of the national dialogue.

Applegate presented copies of the Complex Wide Contractor Integration Report to the Board. This document introduces a new style of "map," to describe the creation and disposition of different waste forms, that is to be included in the Accelerated Cleanup Plan.

The Nevada Community Advisory Board is hoping to sponsor a workshop on low level waste and Applegate has suggested that the Fernald CAB work with them. The relationship between Fernald and Nevada has become a model for cooperation between other SSABs.

Applegate learned at the meeting of the SSABs in Dallas that the Savannah River site asks the ex-officio members of their board to provide them with an annual list of areas on which the Board should provide comments. The Board and the Agencies work on the list together, and then formalize those comments. Applegate suggested that this might be something of interest for Fernald.

Since the last meeting of the CAB, the funding for Fernald has been moved from the general Environmental Management fund to a Defense Facilities Closure Project.

Finally, Applegate announced that the Fernald CAB web site is now linked to Rocky Flats and Oak Ridge. To provide better inter-SSAB communication, the Fernald site will be kept updated.

3. Review of Site Tour

Lisa Crawford presented a brief overview of the site tour that occurred as part of the October Fernald Monthly Progress Briefing. Crawford reported that the tour was well attended by the public – there were some new faces, which is a good thing. She stated that the tour allowed people to see that there is a lot of activity on the site, (i.e. a lot of soil is being moved). Crawford's impression is that the site is changing weekly.

4. Prioritization

Doug Sarno presented the background of the Fernald CAB and its recommendations on prioritization issues. In July 1995, the Fernald Citizens Task Force recommended an accelerated remediation schedule, removal of special nuclear materials from Fernald and the shipment of legacy wastes as soon as possible, the elimination of the costs of maintaining and providing security to buildings which are scheduled for demolition, the discontinuation of ongoing repair and maintenance to on-site buildings and infrastructure, the streamlining of DOE regulatory requirements, and an overall culture shift within DOE from operations to remediation. In March 1997, the 2006 Plan (Ten-Year Draft Plan) was released. This plan called for DOE to projectize, increase efficiency requirements, develop new technologies, and reduce mortgages. The Efficiency Committee of the Fernald CAB was formed in May 1997 to provide recommendations on budget and efficiency issues, review site priorities and review scheduling issues. The CAB sent a letter on site priorities to Bob Folker, Acting Field Office Manager in September 1997 stating that the priorities and funding given to non-remediation activities is too high and restating the 1995 recommendations, calling once again for a fundamental change in the approach of DOE to remedial operations. Finally in October 1997, FEMP was designated as a Defense Facilities Closure Project by Congress.

Jack Craig announced that the Ohio Field Office now has a new manager, Leah Dever. Dever will attend the next CAB meeting. Dever has many connections in Nevada and has worked at DOE-Headquarters.

Sarno explained that as a Defense Facilities Closure Project, Fernald is still part of the EM budget, but the money in the closure fund cannot be moved to other DOE sites. The purpose of the Defense Facilities Closure Project is to focus resources on the goal of closing the site. Under this classification, however, Fernald received less money than requested. Fernald had requested \$268 million, but only received \$258 million. Rocky Flats is also classified as a Defense Facilities Closure Project. Jack Craig stated that the Mound Project may eventually also be included in this account.

The Defense Facilities Closure Project classification is a result of Congress being unhappy with the way DOE-HQ is organized. Congress wants to see a fundamental change in the way Environmental Management Division operates. However, the Congressional report is not directly recommending many of these changes. Since DOE-HQ is looking at a reorganization, Congress has requested a detailed schedule for the two sites. The Fernald section of the plan is expected to provide a large amount of detail about the site. Rocky Flats, however, is not as advanced as Fernald and the Rocky Flats plan is a contractor generated-plan which has not yet been reviewed and approved by DOE.

Jack Craig felt that due to this reclassification, many of the issues mentioned in the September 1997 letter to Bob Folker have been addressed and resolved.

The CAB was informed that Al Alm has asked each site to submit any big issues to him that he can work towards resolving before he resigns. DOE-FEMP has submitted two issues, one of which is the OU1 ROD limits on the ability to use commercial rail. Due to this

problem, DOE-FEMP has postponed procurement of rail cars until Spring. This delay will not affect the current schedule. By January or February, however, DOE will need to resolve these issues, so that IT can complete its rail plan. If this is not resolved by January or February, the cleanup goal for OU1 will be missed.

5. DOE Prioritization Slide Presentation

Terry Hagen and Johnny Reising presented slides showing the schedule and progress of activities occurring at the DOE site.

OU1:

Terry Hagen announced that there will be no change to the schedule for the Waste Pits as a result of the reduced funding. As stated earlier, IT and Flour Daniel will be developing rail plans between now and March. The first enforceable milestone for this project is March 1999. Johnny Reising showed an aerial photo of the Waste Pits taken in 1985 and compared it to a photo taken April 1, 1997. Reising stated that DOE is hoping to take a new photo as soon as the weather clears. Reising and Hagen also discussed the Land Use Master Plan. Reising stated that the rail trestle for OU1 has recently been completed.

OU2:

Hagen stated that the schedule for this project is on track and in some cases is actually a little ahead of schedule. Members of the Waste Management Committee noted that they would like to have a tour of the OSDF as part of their December 1st meeting. Reising stated this would be possible. The tour was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Reising continued the presentation by outlining the lining layers used in the OSDF. He stated that wastes would begin to be placed in the OSDF in early December.

OU3:

Hagen stated that under the revised schedule the completion date for safe shutdown will still remain at the end of 1999. However, the actual D&D of buildings will be delayed.

OU4:

Hagen announced that the estimated date of completion of the Silos Project is 2008. Reising discussed the recent concerns regarding the erosion of part of the bank of Paddys Run in this area. Some old wells casing were exposed. The well casings were fine, but FDF had to reroute the flow of the stream to avoid possible future problems.

OU5 :

Hagen announced that some soil work has been delayed as a result of the reduced budget.

Overall, there are three areas in which delays are expected: non-south field soil excavation, the D&D Project, and the pace of the cell project. In all other areas, tasks are running on or slightly ahead of schedule.

Waste Management:

Over the past several years, the amount of non waste nuclear materials has stabilized at about 63 million tons. About one third of the enriched uranium left is being sold to British Nuclear Fuels. An RFP is out to try to sell the remaining enriched uranium. FDF has tried to find a buyer for the depleted uranium, but has been unsuccessful. This material will be declared waste in 1998. Gene Willeke suggested that this might be an issue for the Waste Management Committee to discuss. The CAB should have this material declared waste and disposed of off-site. Sarno asked for details on this waste so that the Committee could prepare a letter about this issue.

Crawford asked that the CAB view a 1962 film showing the work that had occurred at the site. Sue Walpole said she had a copy. The Board decided to show the movie at the next CAB meeting.

6. Costs

Terry Hagen began the discussion by pointing out there are basically two kinds of cost associated with non-remediation activities: administrative support and technical oversight and integration. He pointed out three things that FDF is doing to reduce costs: 1) implementing the Rad Control Optimization Study (i.e. reduction of restrictions in controlled areas, cross training of technicians); 2) producing a long range plan for phasing out support and oversight services (i.e. consolidation, prioritizing, and further projectization); and 3) streamlining project control functions (i.e., reducing the number of activities in the base line schedule).

Doug Sarno proposed that the Waste Management Committee send a letter to DOE asking for quick removal of low level waste to be ultimately disposed off off-site. Jack Craig suggested that the injunction issue which has resulted in the lack of commercial disposal be added to the letter. The Board decided that two separate letters would be more effective. The Board noted that the issue of commercial disposal was previously addressed in the September letter to Bob Folker. Now the Board would be responding to their response. In the case of the injunction, the CAB wants to make it clear that DOE should continue with external regulation. Craig also proposed that the DOE-Ohio Office general counsel meet with the Waste Management Committee at the December 1st meeting to discuss the injunction.

In regards to the future role of the Efficiency Committee, Graham Mitchell suggested that the committee talk to FDF about the inefficiencies of which they are aware and where FDF can make improvements. Willeke suggested that there be more consequences to FDF as a result of an action or a decision that increases inefficiencies. Applegate then asked the full Board for comments on the priorities DOE had outlined in their presentation.

A letter on the reaction to Fernald's becoming a Defense Facilities Closure Project has been drafted. Applegate distributed the draft to the Board members. The Board agreed to change the last line of the document to read "accelerated cleanup at Fernald". The Board also suggested the addition of another paragraph to outline what steps DOE needs to make to improve conditions at the site.

Sarno announced that information will be provided to the Board on a more regular basis. This information will consist of committee summaries, committee notebooks, and report summaries.

Applegate opened the floor for public comment. Tricia Thompson, Head of FDF Public Affairs, said she felt that the site tour was good. She noted that there are four pages of interest in the Fernald Report, and that a cleanup book is available for stakeholders every three months. Photos of the site can also be found on the web.

Pam Dunn wanted feedback on the recent lawsuit which resulted in the judge telling DOE to do what it was told to do in 1990. Jack Craig was unsure of the status of the lawsuit, but promised to find out more information.

7. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

