

## Minutes from the September 30, 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  
Jerry Monahan  
Thomas B. Rentschler  
Robert G. Tabor  
Warren E. Strunk  
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner  
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

### OFFICIO

J. Phillip Hamric  
Gene Jablonowski  
Graham Mitchell

The Fernald Citizens Task Force met from 8:35 a.m. until 12:14 p.m. on September 30, 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  
Jim Bierer  
Marvin Clawson  
Lisa Crawford  
Constance Fox  
J. Phillip Hamric  
Darryl Huff  
Gene Jablonowski  
Graham Mitchell  
Thomas Rentschler  
Robert Tabor  
Thomas Wagner  
Gene Willeke

### Members Absent:

Pam Dunn  
Guy Guckenberger  
Jerry Monahan  
Warren Strunk

Designated Federal Official Present: Gary Stegner

Task Force Staff Present: Jim Jackson  
Douglas Sarno  
Ruth Triplett

About thirty spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from FRESH, DOE, U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, the League of Women Voters, University of Cincinnati, FERMCO, and other interested parties.

## 1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. and asked for approval of the July 8, 1995 meeting draft minutes. No changes were noted and the minutes were approved.

## 2. Introduction

Applegate stated the main issues for this meeting were Task Force membership, the 1996 work plan, and radium extraction.

Applegate discussed the upcoming staff changes. Effective October 1, Phoenix Environmental Corporation will provide both administrative and technical support. Applegate cited cost-effectiveness as a main reason for the switch. As a result of this change the local Task Force phone number has been forwarded to Phoenix's office in Alexandria. The Task Force will continue to keep the two offices in the Dos building on Route 128. These offices will provide both local meeting space and a library of useful materials.

He recognized Jim Jackson, FERMCO public affairs, will be the day-to-day liaison between the Task Force and site personnel. and thanked Ruth Triplett for her hard work as administrative support for the Task Force. Triplett's last day with FERMCO is October 31, 1995.

Applegate reported that the accelerated cleanup is still planned, and it is hoped that sufficient funds will be budgeted for it. Fernald budget appears to be protected and Congress presumably is behind the accelerated cleanup.

USEPA has returned the OU5 draft ROD to DOE with comments. Graham Mitchell stated that if either of the EPA's disagree with any aspect of the ROD, then they disapprove the entire document. Mitchell felt that comments were resolvable, and this is the same track all other OU's have been down.

Connie Fox noted that the SSAB evaluation steering committee has had the task of determining if the DOE SSABs are performing well. A survey instrument will be distributed to evaluate each SSAB with a separate instrument to measure how well the group has worked as an advisory body. It appears that we are way ahead of the curve.

## 3. Membership

Applegate introduced the issue by noting that he has spoken individually with each Task Force member over the summer and all members currently on the board want to remain on the board. He noted that the current charter allows for up to 15 members plus *ex-officio* members. We have the option of adding one person to the board; which would be within the bounds of the current charter or changing the charter to add more than one new person. Applegate asked if there were stakeholder interest groups which need to be better represented; and how we should go about looking for that new member or members.

### *Stakeholder Interest Groups*

Gene Willeke stated that transportation issues will be important over the next two years and also that construction and transportation are the most visible. Thomas Wagner asked if there were any groups of people that have expressed an interest or concern about not being on the board. The following were mentioned: Ross trustees, the guards union, salaried employees on the site, Ross

Area Merchants Association (RAMA), and the Western Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission.

James Bierer suggested that the Task Force identify its specific interests for membership. Lisa Crawford noted the high attendance at last year's DOE transportation workshop and suggested looking at towns along the transportation route. She also stated that perhaps we need to consider having an economist on the board; that this would be consistent with future use. Graham Mitchell asked if there was a need for someone from the medical community to be on the board due to the radium issue.

Applegate stated that specific future use of the site might involve different types of people, and that other DOE sites have a Community Reuse Organization (CRO). Gary Stegner stated that RAMA had written to Jack Craig requesting that they be designated as the CRO for the site. RAMA represents several local townships and wants to do two things: 1) look out for long term economic development in the area, and 2) serve as a broker for things at the site. Applegate suggested that working with RAMA might be the best approach to take on economic development issues.

### *Role of Alternates*

Wagner asked if the two alternates had been attending meetings. Applegate answered that they usually don't attend. Crawford noted that we have alternates because if someone currently on the board is unable to continue participating, then the alternate could take that members place. However, since the alternates are not attending the meetings, this purpose is not being served. Applegate said that having alternates is optional and that the Task Force might consider not filling or extending the alternate slots.

### *Size of Task Force*

Applegate then brought up the size of the Task Force. The current charter allows for one more slot. Should one person be added to the board, or should the charter be changed to allow for more than one person? Willeke stated that restricting potential members to the issues we discussed at this meeting could be constraining. There might be people out there who have good topics they want to discuss. He suggested adding two members, for a total of 17 people. He also asked why we were restricting solicitations to Ohio residents. Applegate indicated that this restriction was part of the Task Force charter, but that the Task Force could change it. Willeke suggested that perhaps it is time to drop the 5-mile radius rule. Applegate answered that the 5-mile radius was used because (in part) it was a pre-conceived list. Willeke said our mailing list should contain people who have shown an interest in the site. Bierer suggested we look at the Community Meeting sign-in sheets to determine additional people.

Tom Rentschler noted that The Task Force has already done the hard work and questioned adding any new members at this time. His feeling was that none of the current members have "specific" skills or experience, however, they have proven, as a group, they can use intellect to solve problems. He expressed concern that someone might want to jump on the "bandwagon" for political purposes alone. Crawford agreed in part, stating they have worked hard and that she is concerned a new member will be far behind and will take time to catch up.

Robert Tabor suggested that when we have special issues, we could have an *ad hoc* committee look at those issues, rather than adding any new members on the board. Wagner agreed and said that if we have Ross trustees who feel they are unrepresented on the Citizens Task Force, we need to respond to this concern from Ross.

Applegate responded that it's not unusual for a board to have a committee structure; that could be a good alternative to adding a member to the Task Force. He asked if we should look at filling the one vacancy from the Ross Township area, with the understanding that we should look at committee structure for dealing with special issues as they arise? Because the Task Force will be meeting less frequently from now on, active committees may be a good idea.

Willeke pointed out that the Citizens Task Force needs to be in the decision making mode. He doesn't see a lot in work plan that calls for decision making by our group. Doug Sarno explained that up until now we have been trying to catch up and get out in front of the site. Now that we are caught up, we will probably be more in the mode of monitoring and reacting to site activities.

Applegate asked whether the idea of sticking to 15 members, with the 15th member coming from Ross and using a committee structure, is the way the board wanted to proceed? Willeke agreed with adding just one person, but didn't think we should limit it to someone from Ross. Darryl Huff said a trustee from Ross could represent several people, and it should not be a numbers-based decision. Applegate noted that Ross is an area to be looked at with particular care, that local elections should not interfere with the process, and that committees will be used to include people interested in particular issues. Applegate said the membership subcommittee (Guy Guckenberger, Lisa Crawford and John Applegate) will take all of these suggestions into consideration in looking at potential new members.

**Applegate then moved to have the membership sub-committee go forward in adding one new member by a broad solicitation. Crawford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### *Addition of Ex-Officio Member*

Crawford suggested adding someone from CDC or ATSDR as an *ex officio* member to serve as a representative for the health effects board. Mitchell and Gene Jablonowski agreed. Willeke had strong support for CDC and ATSDR representation because he believes CDC is heading in the wrong direction. Crawford suggested someone from CDC or ATSDR, not from the board, someone from the agency, needs to sit in on our board. Jack Craig felt ATSDR is probably the right organization and that one person as a point-of-contact would be a good representative. DOE is currently funding all that work through grants, and this funding could possibly be eliminated.

Applegate commented that an *ex officio* member change would require both a change to the charter, and DOE and Regulator approval. Wagner noted that by making it *ex officio*, rather than *ad hoc*, other groups wouldn't have the opportunity to request representation as well.

**Applegate moved that an *ex officio* from ATSDR or CDC be added. Wagner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Workplan**

Bierer asked what the rationale was for going to a quarterly meeting format? Applegate answered that there are fewer areas for the Citizens Task Force to focus on at this point. Now that we will be meeting quarterly, we need to develop a better way of communicating with each other on a monthly basis. Willeke suggested the need for regular status reports on site happenings, especially waste shipments. Sarno said the amount and quality of information to the board between the quarterly meetings will be improved. A monthly report to communicate site progress is being developed. Also we now plan to use the committee approach. Bierer stated that it appears we have quite a bit of work and we want to make sure the public doesn't think we are gearing down.

Applegate discussed three different complex-wide studies: 1) the Baseline Environmental Management Report (BEMR) which describes the total cost of remediation for DOE sites, 2) The Risk Report which correlates what has to be done and what degree of risk each one poses, and 3) The Waste Management Programmatic Impact Statement (WMPEIS) which contains information on FFCA draft site treatment plans, and nationwide understanding on where waste will be treated and disposed. The WMPEIS includes three options: 1) treat it where it is, 2) treat it in one place, or 3) regional treatment centers. All documents are related, but are not clearly connected. A subcommittee may want to take these documents and make some sense as to how they affect Fernald. Willeke asked about the status of the first two documents and if we could get summary documents of each of those reports.

Wagner identified the need for a report or agenda topic on complex wide studies that might affect Fernald. Crawford stated that on a national basis, FRESH is watching the WMPEIS. She was on the FFCA subcommittee and both Pam Dunn and Crawford can keep the Task Force updated on those issues. Applegate said that the Task Force staff would obtain and distribute the BEMR and Risk Report to Task Force members.

The video conference on the WMPEIS on October 26 was announced. Task Force members interested in attending included: Willeke, Tabor, Huff, Applegate, and Crawford.

Rentscher suggested taking a junket along the path to Cincinnati via rail. Crawford suggested going to Envirocare in conjunction with representatives from Mound. Envirocare has a disposal facility which is similar in size to Fernald's proposed disposal facility. Tabor expressed interest in disposal facility design. It was decided that the chair will create or suggest a list of subcommittees to focus on important areas where they have questions.

## **5. Discussion of Radium Extraction Issue**

Sarno gave an overview on Radium Issue, and how alpha-emitting radiation is being studied to help to kill tumors. Radium is currently being looked at as a source material. Issues to consider:

- 1) How do you get Radium out of K-65 both before and after vitrification?
- 2) What about storage and transportation to Hanford?
- 3) What about residuals and waste materials?

Headquarters is looking at world-wide search for other sources of radium, and has put everything else on hold until this is proven to be a reliable method for cancer treatment. Clinical trials are slated to begin on humans in the near future. While this will be a long-term process there could be some data in six months.

Questions that were brought up included: Do we want to look into this? What role, if any, do we want to play? What about the issue of costs, who will pay? What about risk (exposure/stability), schedule impacts, expediency, feasibility? Is there any research being done extracting radium from vitrified material?

Discussion followed with Willeke and Bierer agreeing that the Citizens Task Force should be proactive and push radium initiative with funds from headquarters. Part of the reason for pushing forward is that many of these studies are not that expensive. The Radium issue is more than a Fernald initiative, but we are in a position to push this initiative forward.

Applegate suggested putting together a binder of material that contains information on topics in the workplan. This will be combined with a list of potential subcommittee membership issues. Rentschler is concerned that Radium issue is secretive, DOE headquarters is making decisions without public input.

After much discussion, Applegate suggested writing a letter to DOE headquarters to raise *informally* the concerns of the Citizens Task Force and our discussion on the Radium issue. Everyone will get a review copy before the letter is sent.

**6. Opportunity for Public Input**

A League of Women Voters representative said that radium extraction is a good topic for the Citizens Task Force, she was glad to see we are following this issue. She thinks the Task Force should look at what foreign countries are doing and thinks it would be great if radium could be put into containers for ease of transport.

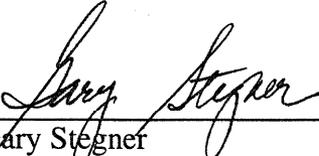
**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the September 30, 1995 meeting of the Fernald Citizens Task Force.

  
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John S. Applegate, Chair  
Fernald Citizens Task Force

12/15/95  
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Date

  
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Gary Stegner  
Deputy Designated Federal Official

12/19/95  
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Date