

Topics:

- Silos Project Update
- Waste Shipping Update
- Planning for SSAB Transportation Seminar at Fernald

Attendees:

CAB members: Sandy Butterfield
Lisa Crawford
Doug Sarno
Bob Tabor
Fawn Thompson
Tom Wagner
Gene Willeke

DOE: Nina Akgunduz
John Sattler
Gary Stegner

FDF: Sue Peterman

OEPA: Kelly Kaletsky

USEPA: Gene Jablonowski

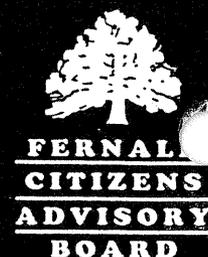
FCAB Action Items:

- 1) Write a letter to Jim Owendoff urging him to expedite the process of approving the restart of Fernald waste shipments to the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

Meeting Summary:

Silos Project Update

Nina Akgunduz presented an update on the silos project. The DOE wants to investigate the possibility of the off-site treatment of the materials from Silos 1 and 2. The DOE understands the materials in Silos 1 and 2 have a higher radiation content than Silo 3, and that there is more risk involved and that political and institutional obstacles may prevent off-site treatment. The investigation will include the requirements of packaging and transporting these materials. The complete study may take up to four years to complete. If off-site treatment is deemed possible, the DOE will solicit vendors and ask them to compare its cost effectiveness. Gene Willeke feels that off-site treatment will be less expensive and less risky than on-site, however, it seems to conflict with the building of the transfer tanks. Though transfer tanks may not need to be built if the materials are being treated off-site, Doug Sarno added that in four years, once the study is complete, the contract for the construction of the tanks will be complete, and there will be no opportunity to coordinate these efforts. Although, a complete study may take four years to complete, Akgunduz said that the DOE should have enough data by the end of 1999 to determine if off-site treatment is feasible, and will then be able to adjust the contract for the tanks' building.



Bob Tabor was concerned about the risk in transferring the materials to another site. He wondered if other facilities would have the ability to handle the materials as well as the Fernald workers who have completed extensive training for the handling of materials with high radiation content. Tabor was also concerned about the loss of jobs if the materials were treated off-site. Willeke said that it would be less risky for the site, but not necessarily less risky overall if the materials were treated off-site. The study will assess all risk involved. The DOE is asking the FCAB to support an addition to the ROD Amendment, (which would concern the right to perform the study) not to support off-site treatment of the waste.

Akgunduz stated that FDF has made a recommendation for an award of contract for Silo 3 and is awaiting approval from the DOE.

Waste Shipping Update

John Sattler presented an update on four specific concerns regarding the shipment of the waste. One concern is the resumption of low-level waste shipments to NTS. On December 2, 1998, the NTS approved the calibration paperwork. In mid-December, DOE-NV, in conjunction with DOE-OH, will transmit letters to DOE-HQ recommending restarting the shipments to NTS. The Committee agreed that the full CAB will also write a letter to Jim Owendoff, DOE-HQ, recommending the restart of shipments to NTS. The DOE-OH hopes to resume shipments to NTS by late January.

The second issue is container use and procurement at the site. The dry waste including Scientific Ecology Group stabilized waste, Low-level thorium legacy waste, Neutralization, Precipitation, Deactivation, and Stabilization, and Empty T-Hoppers, will be overpacked in ISOs or packaged in approved non-CGR ("white-metal boxes") containers. Approximately 500 containers are needed in FY99 for the packaging of newly generated waste which will ultimately be shipped off-site; FDF is pursuing procurement of those containers. There is a DOE initiative to have standardized low-level waste containers, the M-100, used complex-wide. The M-100 containers have been subjected to more rigorous testing than DOT requires and approved at Hanford. A small number of the M-100 containers will be tested at Fernald.

Sattler discussed the disposition of the CGR containers ("white-metal boxes"). There are approximately 1700 CGR boxes in use on-site. DOE is currently evaluating the disposition path for the contents of those boxes. Some will be overpacked, treated, and transported on SeaLands to NTS. There are approximately 1000 empty CGR boxes, and of these 700 are the full height (of those 700, 400 are modified) and 300 are half height. The FDF has opted to complete procurement with CGR based on contractual considerations. The CGR boxes will not be used as primary shipping containers until tested and DOE concurrence is received.

Lisa Crawford was concerned that CGR did not compensate FDF for the defective boxes. Although FDF was not compensated directly, Sattler stated that no DOE complex can again use CGR containers.

Sattler outlined the progress of intermodal transportation of low-level waste to NTS. The Environmental Assessment evaluated three alternatives and their options: 1) intermodal, consisting of four options, 2) all truck route, consisting of two options, and 3) no action, continuation of current practice. The factors to be considered with the all truck alternative: 1) cost impact, 2) risk reduction, 3) stakeholder involvement, 4) emergency response, 5) sensitivities (political, regulatory, etc.), and 6) response to FDF management due by 12/21/98. Considerations for the intermodal option: 1) cost evaluation, 2) risk evaluation, 3) procurement issues, 4) infrastructure (equipment, facilities, resources), 5) procedures, readiness review, 6) stakeholder involvement, and 7) emergency response (see table page 3). The FDF will prepare and publish a detailed schedule by 1/15/99 outlining all activities to be completed prior to starting intermodal transportation.

Environmental Assessment



<u>Alternative</u>	<u>Number of Options</u>	<u>Considerations</u>
Intermodal	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) cost evaluation2) risk evaluation3) procurement issues4) infrastructure (equipment, facilities, resources)5) procedures, readiness review6) stakeholder involvement7) emergency response
All truck	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) cost impact2) risk reduction3) stakeholder involvement4) emergency response5) sensitivities (political, regulatory, etc)6) response of FDF management
Continuation of current practice	no action	

Many members of the CAB were concerned that the DOE and FDF are not fully prepared for intermodal transportation. As a result, the CAB would like to have all the administrative steps in place in order to begin intermodal transportation as soon as possible. Sattler said the study, to be conducted by FDF, will ensure that the proper steps are taken for its implementation. Because the public is most interested in intermodal transportation, Sarno requested the outline of the study be completed before the January 12, 1999 Cleanup Progress Briefing. The study should be completed by fall, at that time the intermodal transportation could begin.

Planning for SSAB Transportation Seminar at Fernald

Sarno is in the process of gathering information on transportation and, in a related effort, was invited to attend a workshop in Tampa given by Transportation External Coordination Group, which is a part of the DOE. It would be beneficial if a member of the Committee also attended the workshop, which is taking place January 19-20th, 1999. During the SSAB chairs conference call, the members briefly discussed the transportation seminar and indicated agreement with the dates. They will give further comments to Sarno by January 8th.