

Topics

- Status of Recommendations from March
- Planning for the Transportation Workshop
- Leachate Piping Leaks

Attendees

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Bob Tabor
Gene Willeke
Tom Wagner
Jim Bierer
Sandy Butterfield
Lisa Crawford
Fawn Thompson

Fluor Daniel Fernald

Dennis Carr
Mike Hickey
Tisha Patton

GeoSyntec

Rudy Bonaparte

Ohio Environmental Projection Agency

Tom Ontko

Phoenix Environmental

Gwen Doddy
Doug Sarno

U.S Department of Energy

Johnny Reising

Opening Remarks

Gene Willeke gave a brief background on the leaks in the leachate piping system. He believes the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) should not focus on the legal aspects of the leaks; instead, they should focus on quality control issues associated with the leaks. Doug Sarno added that the concerns that have been presented by FCAB members about the leaks are very similar to the concerns expressed by the FCAB with regard to the leaking white metal boxes incident.

Status of Recommendations from March

The FCAB has not yet received responses from the Department of Energy (DOE) or the Ohio Congressional Delegation on its earlier recommendations and needs to develop a procedure to follow-up on recommendations.

Tom Wagner suggested a different approach for the recommendations: ask the recommendation's recipient to respond in writing with the amount of time needed to adequately respond to the recommendation. If the time requested has passed without a response, the FCAB should send a follow-up recommendation. Gene Willeke suggested sending a letter to Martha Crosland asking for her help and listing the outstanding recommendations. Lisa Crawford added that someone from the FCAB should meet with Martha Crosland in order to develop a procedure.

With regard to the Nye County, Nevada, Recommendation number 99-1, Willeke suggested sending a memo to Jack Craig asking for closure on this issue. Jim Bierer added that the FCAB should ask a representative from Nye County if the equipment that was sent was satisfactory.

Transportation Workshop

Sarno told the committee that the notebooks for the Transportation Workshop would not be available prior to the workshop due to delays getting final data approval from the DOE. Next week, Sarno will have a meeting with people from the National Transportation Program to gather more data and resources for the transportation fact sheets.



The tentative agenda for the Transportation Workshop is:

- Reception on Thursday night.
- Tour of the Fernald site on Friday morning.
- Plenary starting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon.
- A "skit" about transportation issues on Friday afternoon.

Sarno and Wagner are preparing a presentation for Wagner's introduction to the Workshop. Sarno asked the Committee if they would like DOE to say a few words. Wagner suggested DOE should not give a presentation, but should attend to answer any questions.

Crawford asked how many people were allowed to come from each SSAB and the FCAB. Sarno answered, the SSABs can have up to ten people attend, but the FCAB would not be limited to ten people since we are hosting and have additional duties. Those FCAB members who attend need to participate fully in the workshop.

A memo with final logistics, from Wagner, will be sent to all Transportation Workshop's registrants.

Leachate Piping Leaks

Dennis Carr, Rudy Bonaparte, and Johnny Reising spoke to the committee about the leaks in the leachate pipes. Carr stated two investigative teams were formed to investigate the four leaks in the system. The investigative teams wrote and issued two reports to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF) wrote a summary of the report. In addition to the FDF report, GeoSyntec wrote a report explaining the structural details of the leachate system.

Willeke was concerned that the leachate piping leaks represented similar quality control and management problems to the white metal box incident. Willeke asked Carr if this was a systematic problem. Wagner asked why the pipe thickness was changed from the original proposal. Carr responded the thinner pipe was less expensive and did not effect the coupling. Bonaparte answered the committees concerns about the change in pipe size from a thicker to a thinner pipe and about the deformation of the pipe. Bonaparte stated the pipes are flexible and the oblong appearance does not impact the system. The electro-fusion coupling process failed on several levels; none are related to the thickness of the pipe. First, the installer cleaned the pipes to prepare the ends, but the manufacturer suggested scraping the pipe to prepare the ends for welding. Second, the crews were working from both ends of the leachate system to the center. Once they reached the center, the pipes had to be electro-fused without the crew being able to see the six-inch pipe. Diagnostic tests showed the pipes were functioning properly; however, these tests could not diagnosis a misalignment. The pipes were not properly aligned and that is what caused some of the leaks.

In retrospect, Carr wished all welds had been inspected before installation. Unfortunately, the quality assurance people were concentrating on the overall cell construction rather than the welding of pipes for the leachate system.

Willeke emphasized the committee's dwindling confidence in the ability of the quality control people. What will happen when the system is permanent?

Sarno added that right now, the site has the community's confidence; however, if mistakes on the level of quality control keep occurring, the community may lose confidence. It was suggested that FDF subcontractors need to have sensitivity training; maybe viewing a tape of the neighbors' concerns will help the workers understand this is not an average "plumbing" job. The FCAB offered assistance to FDF in changing the quality control system, if that is necessary.

Willeke suggested the full Board should meet on June 10, 1999, to discuss the leachate pipe leaks and a follow-up on the Transportation Workshop.

