



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: April 10, 2003

Topics:

- DOE Office of Legacy Management
- Grand Junction Office's Closure Site Records Database

Attendees:

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Lou Doll
Pam Dunn
Bob Tabor

FRESH

Edwa Yocum
Carol Schroer

The Perspectives Group

David Bidwell

U.S. Department of Energy

Dave Geiser
Steve McCracken
Mike Owen
Ed Skitnik
Gary Stegner
Anne Wickham

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Donna Bohannon
Graham Mitchell
Brian Nichols

Fluor Fernald

Luther Brown
Joe Shomaker
Jeff Wagner
Sue Walpole
Eric Woods

Others

Clyde Colbert
Jim Innis
Dan Collette

General Updates

David welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

David announced that DOE-Ohio and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have responded to the invitation for the May 8 roundtable on the Natural Resources Injury lawsuit settlement. Each will send a representative to the event. Graham Mitchell indicated that the appropriate contact from the Ohio Attorney General Office likely would attend. The roundtable will be held at the Crosby Township Senior Center, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

David explained that the feasibility study report, *Telling the Story of Fernald*, has been widely distributed within the DOE Complex. He noted that he had received informal comments from Marilyn Tolbert-Smith of the DOE Office of Long-Term Stewardship and that her comments were fairly negative. David responded to her comments in order to clarify several points, because she had indicated that she would be crafting the official response from the Office of Long-Term Stewardship. Dave Geiser (DOE Office of Long-Term Stewardship) explained that a draft of the official response had been completed. This draft has received concurrence from Mike Owen and Steve McCracken and is awaiting signature by Jessie Roberson. Dave indicated that the Office of Long-Term Stewardship generally supports the recommendations in the report, but believes that one or two of the recommendations cannot be implemented under Federal law. Committee members expressed concern and disappointment regarding the tone of Tolbert-Smith's initial response.

At past meetings, the Stewardship Committee expressed an interest in coordinating with community members from other DOE closure sites. Pam Dunn reported that the SSAB Chairs meeting in Denver had focused on budgets and funding for public participation, so she did not have an opportunity to gauge the interest of other closure sites in meeting to discuss long-term stewardship issues. David suggested that the Stewardship Committee address this topic at a future meeting and develop a course of action.

David explained that a letter had been sent requesting an extension to the comment period for the Long-Term Stewardship Science and Technology Roadmap, produced by DOE-Idaho for the Office of Long-Term Stewardship. Dave Geiser stated that the comment period would be extended to May 14. David will provide the Committee with a summary of the roadmap.

At the March meeting, the Committee had requested more information regarding the new draft EPA guidance on Institutional Controls and how it compared to prior guidance. David announced that Gene Jablonowski had sent him an email indicating that the prior guidance was directed at EPA staff, whereas the new draft guidance was geared towards a wider audience and had been developed with broader input. Gene also stated that additional EPA documents on Institutional Controls would be developed this year, including guidance on public involvement.

DOE Office of Legacy Management

Mike Owen (DOE Office of Community and Worker Transition) spoke to the group about the new DOE Office of Legacy Management, which will be officially established in October 2003. Mike has been assigned to manage the formation of the new organization. Mike explained that the Office of Legacy Management would oversee the management of closure sites, as well as benefits of past contractors at those sites. He explained that he is still working with Jessie Roberson of the Office of Environmental Management to determine how sites transition to Legacy Management will occur. Mike stressed that the existing Office of Long-Term Stewardship will be a major building block for Legacy Management, because surveillance and monitoring will be a significant piece of the new organization's mission. Mike noted that the FY04 budget request includes a sixteen percent increase in funding for long-term stewardship activities. He stressed that being independent from Environmental Management would elevate the attention legacy management receives from DOE.

Mike explained that he was involved in establishing the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program for the Department of Defense. He noted that because the BRAC program had been dealing with many of the same issues, the Office of Legacy Management would review the lessons learned by BRAC.

Mike stressed that records management would be an important responsibility for Legacy Management and noted that the Grand Junction Office has experience with that issue. He also stated that public input would be very important to accomplishing the goals of Legacy Management. Mike also answered questions from the meeting participants; key points are noted below:

- Lisa Crawford urged Mike Owen and Jessie Roberson to incorporate community participation into planning for the transition of sites from Environmental Management to Legacy Management. Mike responded that he wants to take advantage of existing mechanisms for public input and openness, but there are no specific plans in place for an extensive public participation program specific to Legacy Management. He also noted that SSABs are chartered to the Office of Environmental Management.
- Edwa Yocum expressed concern regarding the appearance of the site after closure and stressed the importance of the site becoming a community asset, rather than an obstacle to economic growth. Mike stated that Environmental Management would be responsible for reaching the desired end state for the site, and Legacy Management would be responsible for monitoring and maintenance of that end state. He stated that Environmental Management and Legacy Management would coordinate on planning for end states and controls.
- Mike explained that the frequency of monitoring and presence of DOE at the site would likely start out high and decrease over time.
- Pam Dunn suggested that the Office of Legacy Management should be involved in policymaking activities currently being pursued by the Office of Long-Term Stewardship. Dave Geiser stated that, although Legacy Management does not officially exist until October 2003, Jessie Roberson would not sign any new stewardship policies without Mike Owen's buy-in.
- Pam expressed concern regarding uncertainty surrounding some aspects of long-term stewardship that are desired by the community, such as Native American reinterment and construction of an education facility. Steve McCracken stated that DOE is still committed to making land available for these purposes. Mike acknowledged that there are many issues that need to be addressed by the Office of Legacy Management. Dave Geiser stated that it is positive that Legacy Management will be up and running two years prior to Fernald's transition to stewardship. Committee members stressed the importance of being able to build partnerships now.

Steve McCracken stated that the Comprehensive Stewardship Plan, Institutional Controls Plan, Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan, and the implementation plans for these documents will be keys to determining how Legacy Management will manage the Fernald site in the future. He also stressed the importance of determining the process for how those plans can be revised in the future. Mike Owen stated that these documents will be legally binding documents and would be available for public comment.

Grand Junction Office's Closure Site Records Database

Dan Collette (contractor for the DOE Grand Junction Office) demonstrated an Internet-based closure site database, managed by the Grand Junction Office. Grand Junction's Long-Term Surveillance and Monitoring (LTSM) program currently manages thirty former remediation sites. Dan used the recently closed Weldon Spring site as an example. There are two components to the database: the long-term stewardship records search system and the Geospatial Environmental Mapping System (GEMS). The public can be accessed both via the LTSM web site.

For the long-term stewardship records search system, documents in the Administrative Record are scanned into the system. These records are searchable by a number of criteria, including author, date, and words in the document title. Most documents are viewable in a portable data file (PDF) format. Documents that are not viewable via the database can be requested in electronic or hard copy formats. Dan stated that he did not know how long it took to receive requested documents, but said he would find out. He noted that this system actually decreases the amount of requests for documents that are received by Grand Junction, because people are able to access critical documents on their own. Setting up this system for a site is labor-intensive, because many of the documents must be scanned into an electronic format.

GEMS uses map-based systems to display monitoring data. Database users can choose from several options that display different kinds of data on a map. By clicking on different icons, users can link to historical and current monitoring and other environmental data. For some areas of the Weldon Spring site, current photos are also posted in the GEMS database. Dan noted that this system makes it possible to communicate monitoring data to the public more quickly than in the past.

Committee members expressed concern regarding the use of Internet-based databases to provide access to information, since some members of the public do not have access to computers or do not understand how to use them. Dan stated that these databases should be viewed as one tool to access information, but they should not be considered a replacement to other means of accessing site information. Members stated that a comprehensive database of site records must be maintained by DOE, so people are able to identify all of the records that have been archived.

Dan stressed that public input would be important in shaping the database to meet community needs. Committee members suggested that Grand Junction begin loading Fernald information into the database now, so there are fewer records to load upon closure. They also suggested that GEMS could be used to document progress of the ecological restoration projects of the site. Committee members stated that computer stations should be made available in the community so the public could more easily access this database.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.