



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: February 17, 2004

Topics:

- Tour of Fernald Records Facility
- Disposition of Artifacts
- Use of Existing Buildings for Education Facility

Attendees:

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Pam Dunn
Jim Bierer
Steve DePoe
Bob Tabor

FRESH

Edwa Yocum

The Perspectives Group

Doug Sarno
Kristie Bergeron-Hale

U.S. Department of Energy

Gary Stegner
Pete Yerace
Ed Skintik

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Tom Schneider

Fluor Fernald

Eric Woods
Luther Brown
Ric Strobl
Sue Walpole
Joe Schomaker
Jeff Wagner
Brian Devir

Additional Attendees

Nancy Staley
Jim Innis
Earl Carson
Tom Stander
Jill Evans

A tour of the Records Management Facility, located at 690 East Crescentville Road, was held from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Records Disposition

Doug Sarno began the discussion regarding the disposition of records by asking how the committee can be sure that artifacts, photographs, and miscellaneous records are pulled out of storage and identified in a way that is valuable to the public. He asked what types of records should be identified, and where they could be found. Easy access to the records, and a local presence are important to the public.

Pam Dunn referred to a matrix that the Stewardship Committee used to identify the types of records being held in storage. Doug stated that although the matrix was a good starting point, it did not provide the fine level of identification needed at this point in the process. He explained that it was necessary to define what types of artifacts the Committee thought were important to keep on-site. For example, there may be boxes with labels like "John's Desk" which could contain items like phonebooks from the site. While it important to keep one set of those phonebooks, it is not necessary to keep hundreds of them. The challenge the Committee now faces is how to define what artifacts to keep on-site, without having seen inside the boxes. Doug suggested that the Historical society provide recommendations.

Gary Stegner told the Committee that the warehouse on-site would not be available for use until late 2006. Pam Dunn expressed concern that there would not be enough time to go through all of the boxes. Doug stated that there were two points to consider: what is considered a record that will be preserved by the government, and what will be disposed. We want to identify which records will require copies at the site for the public. He explained that this would become even more difficult once the records were sent off-site. It is important that the ideas be put on the table now.

Luther Brown explained that emails containing brief descriptions of the contents of boxes will go out to the Committee and other interested parties. He instructed the Committee to direct questions regarding the contents to Gary Stegner. He and Gary will then dig deeper to answer those questions.

Doug and Pam discussed the importance of keeping videotapes of old public information meetings to show the evolution of public involvement at the site. Doug also discussed the importance of saving old newspaper articles pertaining to the site.

Doug asked Gary Stegner if DOE had historians working on this project. Gary said that there were only two historians available. Doug asked how the Committee could work with DOE to obtain and identify official photographs already stored off-site. Gary responded that the early photographic records had already been sent to the National Archive. Doug stated that it is important that the public know that photos are there and are accessible. It is not necessary to have large volumes of photographs on-site, just enough to tell the story of Fernald. Doug explained that records like official reports would be easier to go through than the obscure items.

Pete Yerace stated that once the story of Fernald is defined, it would be much easier to go through the large volumes of records. Jim Innis expressed the importance of using Luther Brown's expertise in this process. He explained that the Committee should define the story that needs to be told, and then Luther could begin to recognize what kinds of artifacts best tell the story. Steve DePoe expressed the need for a legal driver to keep the project going. Doug stated that DOE's approach is minimal, and that the public has expressed that it is not enough for long-term stewardship.

Telling the Story of Fernald

Doug identified five areas that effectively tell the story of Fernald:

1. History of the Site (construction, production, role in cold war)
2. Workers and Safety
3. Public Participation
4. Clean-up and Environmental Restoration
5. Role of Native Americans (these records would not be a part of the artifacts in storage)

Doug asked the Committee to think of ways to best illustrate these storylines. The logistical approach would have to come from Luther. The Committee discussed taking these storylines to former employees and retirees for ideas on the types of artifacts would best tell the story of Fernald. Pam suggested that litigation records be used. The Committee was informed that these records are permanent, and would not be destroyed. Doug reiterated that the Committee's goal is to create a local history on-site, not an extensive archive of all records for legal research. Doug asked Luther what information he needed from the Committee to begin the search for records. Luther explained that there is a direct correlation between how specific the lists are, and how effective he will be. He also stated that records prior to 1992 were controlled by DOE. Doug told the Committee that the storylines identified would be provided to both Fluor and DOE.

Doug stated that he and David Bidwell would distribute the storylines to the Committee for review. He asked the Committee to begin to identify groups of people to help tell each story.

Multi-Use Education Facility (MUEF)

Sue Walpole distributed a rendering of the site post-closure. The graphic illustrated where the proposed Multi-Use Educational Facility, On-Site Disposal Facility Maintenance Building, and Water Treatment Facility structures would be located. She also distributed a floorplan of the warehouse that DOE recommends for use as the MUEF. Currently, the 10,000 square foot facility does not have heat or bathrooms. Pete Yerace and Gary Stegner explained that the facility is a \$1.4 million structure. Doug stated that more work would be required to make the warehouse a true education facility, and not just a storage facility.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on-site in Trailer T-214, at 6:30 p.m. on April 5, 2004.