

regulators have accepted the vision as a blueprint for the future of the site, and the FCAB and its Stewardship Committee are hard at work to determine ways in which the vision can be achieved. The vision reads:

Fernald Stakeholders envision a future for the Fernald property that creates a federally-owned regional destination for educating this and future generations about the rich and varied history of Fernald. We envision a community resource that serves the ongoing information needs of area residents, education needs of local academic institutions, and reinterment of Native American remains. We envision a safe, secure, and partially accessible site, integrated with the surrounding community that effectively protects human health and the environment from all residual contamination and fully maintains all aspects of the ecological restoration. (Fernald Citizens Advisory Board, 2000)

This vision has been subsequently bolstered by the FCAB with specific recommendations and criteria which help to provide specific direction to DOE. In addition, the FCAB recognizes that achieving this vision will require the coordination and cooperation of many groups beyond those involved in the clean up of the site. They have begun to foster the types of relationships that will be necessary to bring this vision about. Key among these is integration with local schools and universities and seeking appropriate organizations to serve as the long-term stewards of the Fernald site.

CONCLUSION AND LESSONS LEARNED

In many ways, the Future of Fernald process has only just started. The excitement generated by the Future of Fernald process and the FCAB's outreach activities have begun to bear fruit. The FCAB recently received a commitment from the President of the University of Cincinnati to partner in future efforts. The site contractor has also made a commitment to donate a certain portion of their possible early-completion fee to the long-term management of an on-site education center. The FCAB is working with area architects and universities to develop a design charrette which will allow area stakeholders to work with professional designers to begin developing design concepts for an education center on site. The FCAB is also working with DOE to identify what elements of remediation can be coordinated and integrated into supporting future use development.

The members of FCAB enjoy a solid reputation for productive citizen involvement in a highly technical and somewhat controversial arena. FCAB's recommendations are routinely embraced by DOE and state and federal regulatory agencies. Since its founding in 1993, the Board has played a meaningful role in setting standards for clean up at the Fernald site, creating a vision for future-use, defining technology and methods for the clean up work-plan, and participating in public policy decisions that reach throughout the DOE complex. The Board has a national reputation as one of DOE's most effective citizen boards. Although the success or failure of citizen participation in any process is dependent on a number of variables, we believe the FCAB's overall success stems from the following elements: (1) Board members, DOE and contractor staff, and state and federal regulators are united behind a common commitment to clean up the site and leave a positive legacy for the community. (2) The FCAB has stable and strong leadership among its members and outside consultants. (3) The Board has remained focused by annually developing a consensus based work-plan. (4) FCAB members have set aside

“personal agendas” to work collectively toward a consensus vision for the future of the site. (5) Local DOE staff have overcome the agency’s traditional “culture of secrecy” and willingly share information and ideas that allow citizens in the community to participate in planning and decision-making. (6) There is clear evidence that individual participation is leading to long-term beneficial outcomes for the community and nation.

The FCAB will continue to support the Future of Fernald process up to and including the construction of on-site facilities and the design of long-term stewardship programs to ensure that whatever is implemented at Fernald will be sustainable for generations to come.

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