EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/06/03

EDO CONTROL: G20030202
DOC DT: 04/16/03
FINAL REPLY:

Jim Bierer
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 03-0239

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

Radiological Wastes Currently Stored in Silos at the Fernald Uranium Production Plant

ROUTING:

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Dean
Burns/Cyr
Dyer, RIII

DATE: 04/24/03

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NMSS Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Apr 23, 2003 13:36

PAPER NUMBER:	LTR-03-0239	**LOGGING DATE:**	04/22/2003
ACTION OFFICE:	EDO		
AUTHOR:	Jim Bierer		
AFFILIATION:	VA		
ADDRESSEE:	Nils Diaz		
SUBJECT:	Urges the NRC to accept DOE's designation of the radiological wastes currently stored in silos at the Fernald uranium production plant		
ACTION:	Signature of Chairman		
DISTRIBUTION:	RF, SECY to Ack		
LETTER DATE:	04/16/2003		
ACKNOWLEDGED	No		
SPECIAL HANDLING:			
NOTES:	Commission Correspondence..OCM #2793		
FILE LOCATION:	Adams		
DATE DUE:	05/08/2003	**DATE SIGNED:**	

2793

FERNALD CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Chair
James C Bierer

Vice Chair
Thomas E Wagner

Members
Lisa Blair
M Kathryn Brown
Blain Burton
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin W Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Stephen P Depoe
Louis Doll
Pamela Dunn
Jane Harper
Robert G Tabor
Gene E Willeke

Ex Officio Members
L French Bell
Gene Jablonowski
Stephen H McCracken
Graham Mitchell

Support Staff
The Perspectives Group

April 16, 2003

Dr. Nils J. Diaz, Chair
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Diaz:

Since its inception in 1993, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board has supported safe and cost-effective approaches to dispose of wastes at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) former uranium production plant located near Fernald, Ohio. As such, we ask the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to consider accepting DOE's designation of the radiological wastes currently stored in three aging silos at the Fernald as 11e.(2) material, which would allow rail shipment of these wastes to a licensed commercial disposal facility.

A significant concern for the Fernald community is the safe disposal of the uranium ore waste materials currently contained in these three concrete silos. It is our hope that this waste will be safely retrieved, packaged and shipped off site as soon as possible. While truck transport has proven to be a safe and reliable mode of waste transport at the site, we are troubled by the prospect of putting nearly four thousand additional trucks on our streets over the next few years, when a safer and more cost-effective option is available. To date, Fernald has safely shipped more than five hundred thousand tons of waste off the site via rail.

Rail shipment of silos wastes to a licensed commercial disposal facility would require NRC to concur with DOE's designation of this waste as 11e.(2). It is our understanding that while this waste fits the technical definition of 11e.(2) material, it is currently in question due only to the date it was generated. It is our hope that the NRC will support the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board's preference for rail transport of the silo wastes and take the necessary action to accept designation of this waste as 11e.(2).

Thank you for your consideration and timely action on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jim Bierer
Chair

CC:
The Honorable Jessie Roberson
Senator Mike DeWine
Senator George Voinovich
Representative John Boehner
Representative Steve Chabot
Representative David Hobson
Representative Rob Portman

CHAIRMAN REC'D
03 APR 22 AM 11:46