Preserving the Legacy of the Mound, Ohio, Site:
The Mound Cold War Discovery Center

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U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Legacy Management (LM)

Session # Track 4.1
Other Contributors

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Site Background

- Operated from 1948–2002
- Placed on National Priorities List in 1989 (due to volatile organic compounds in groundwater)
- Remediated to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) risk-based standards for industrial and commercial use
- Sitewide institutional controls regarding land and groundwater use and removal of soil from 306-acre site footprint
- Property sold to Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation for commercial/industrial reuse for $10
Mound Science and Energy Museum Association

- Mound Science and Energy Museum (MSEM) Association founded in 1998 by four former Mound employees
  - Opened on-site museum in 2005
    - Hosted about 800 visitors annually
    - Annual open house, tours, and monthly meetings
    - Operated by volunteers
    - Supported by dues-paying members and fundraising
  - Received DOE grant
  - Completed an initial museum exhibit design concept in 2012
Mound Cold War Discovery Center

- Goals of the MCWDC are:
  - Preserve the legacy of the Mound mission and site workers
  - Relate the story of remediation and environmental restoration
  - Utilize efforts of MSEM Association to transition to a new education center
  - Become a sustainable community asset with a permanent presence
Memorandum of Agreement

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed in February 2015
- Four-party agreement
  - DOE
  - Dayton History
  - MSEM Association
  - Mound Development Corporation (MDC)
- Defined roles, responsibilities, and key terms
- Addressed
  - End goals
  - Building remodel
  - Exhibits
  - Operations
Cooperative Agreement

- Cooperative agreement between DOE and Dayton History
- Requires substantial DOE involvement
- Effective October 2015 – September 2020
- Dayton History responsible for:
  - Building redesign and remodel
  - Exhibit design, fabrication, and installation
  - Marketing
  - Educational programs
  - Making MCWDC sustainable
Building Redesign and Remodel

- Multiple design reviews
- Participation of all MOA parties
- Coordination between subcontractors
- March 2016 – December 2017
Exhibit Design, Fabrication and Installation

- February 2016 – April 2018
- Multiple design reviews
- Importance of interactive displays
- Significant reliance on MSEM Association
Educational Programs

- Provide professional curators and educators to operate center on a full-time basis with regular visitation hours
  - Develop educational events for all ages
  - Create tour-guided programs that enhance topics of the exhibits through stories, interactive activities, testimonials, and other creative ideas
  - Create special programs for school-age children aligned with their standardized curriculum
  - Seek ways to draw positive attention to the educational center with special events, film showings (e.g., historical, documentary), special hands-on activities, community events, holiday events, etc.
Marketing

- Dayton History responsible for developing marketing strategies to draw community interest and achieve sustainability during the three-year period of operations
  - Host fund-raising events
  - Develop a series of programs to attract a larger audience
  - Incorporate the center into Carillon Historical Park advertisements for local historical sites
  - Actively seek speaking engagements to highlight the center
  - Manage any entry and/or event fees for the center or donations to the center
Determination of Sustainability

- Dayton History will provide an annual sustainability assessment report to DOE, MSEM Association, and MDC. Report will summarize:
  - Efforts to obtain sustainability
  - Status check for sustainability
  - Operational corrections and suggestions to improve potential for sustainability
  - Amount collected in the legacy fund
- DOE will make final determination of sustainability
- If sustainable, exhibits will remain at the Mound Site until such time that it is no longer sustainable, as determined by Dayton History
If MCWDC Determined to Not be Sustainable

- Exhibits will be relocated to Carillon Historical Park located in Dayton
- Artifacts that are part of the exhibits will also be relocated and would be donated to Dayton History by the MSEM Association
  - MSEM Association artifacts would be labeled to recognize MSEM Association as the donor in the display of the exhibit
- Exhibits and artifacts relocated to Carillon Historical Park become the property of Dayton History
- Five exhibits are to be permanently displayed, the remaining exhibits would be designated for possible rotation as space allowed
Ribbon Cutting – April 23, 2018
Before and After

MCWDC Hours of Operation
Wednesday – Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(and by appointment)

1075 Mound Road,
Miamisburg, Ohio 45324
Before and After (continued)
Before and After (continued)
Before and After (continued)