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Recommendation 20-02

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RECOMMENDATION 20-02: Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Recommendation Department of Energy (DOE) Take Measures to Fully Communicate The 2018 Portsmouth Annual Site Environmental Report.

Background: In the spring of 2019, community concerns arose following the distribution of the 2017 Portsmouth Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) that indicated transuranic contaminants were detected in an air monitor adjacent to Zahn's Corner Middle School. Additional information followed that another transuranic element was discovered in 2018 monitoring, which preceded the Scioto Valley Local School District closing Zahn's Corner Middle School in May 2019.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is sponsoring an independent assessment of the area near the site to determine what, if any, contamination from Portsmouth site exists off-site and to what extent. Since this issue surfaced, questions and concerns arose about the length of time the information was known until it was reported more than a year later in the ASER.

DOE has explained the effort to compile the monitoring data, develop the report, print the report and distribute the report is extensive and time-consuming. Although that is understandable, there should be a mutual agreement that the public should be informed as quickly as possible and as thoroughly as possible on environmental monitoring data once it is known. For that reason, the PORTS EM SSAB offers the following recommendation, which is more focused on the 2018 ASER and future ASERs, as opposed to the broader aspects of communication laid out in PORTS EM SSAB Recommendation 20-01.

Recommendation:

The PORTS EM SSAB recommends DOE communicate with the public a simple mailer that would provide highlights of the report with information on how to access the ASER and contact information for any questions or concerns they may have.

- An updating of information on environmental monitoring on the PPPO.gov website with accessible links as data becomes available.
- A portion of the PORTS EM SSAB public meetings be dedicated to ASER updates.
- Consideration of a station at the Science Alliance to engage students about the information in the ASER.

We want to thank DOE for its interaction with the PORTS EM SSAB and we look forward to providing valuable information to the Department on this topic and other items of interest as the Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) project progresses.