



November 6, 2014

*Portsmouth EM Site Specific  
Advisory Board*

**Chair**

Will Henderson

**Vice Chair**

Val E. Francis

**Board Members**

Shirley A. Bandy

Lisa Bennett

Robert Berry

Maddeline C. Caudill

Carlton L. Cave

Al Don Cisco

Martha A. Cosby

Ervin S. Craft

Adrian C. Harrison

Carl R. Hartley

Brian F. Huber

Ryan H. Knight

Sharon E. Manson

Daniel J. Minter

Irma C. Payne

Cristy D. Renner

**Deputy Designated**

**Federal Official**

Joel Bradburne

**DOE Federal Coordinator**

Greg Simonton

Mr. Whitney,

In 2008, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) was organized to assist DOE with decisions related to the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant and other environmental restoration efforts. This Board was formed in an attempt to provide community feedback to DOE and secure open lines of communication. The reality is that our community members are growing suspicious of the DOE budget process; as for the last two years there has been concern of significant personnel layoffs, due to lack of proper funding and overdependence on the uranium barter program and has only been avoided through intense efforts on the part of the Ohio Delegation and last minute scrambling for dollars.

For the above mentioned reasons, we the members of the PORTS EM SSAB request the FY-15 funding shortfall be restored fully, and in an effort to provide transparency to the process going forward, request a meeting to be scheduled between the Department of Energy EM- Budgeting Office, the PORTS EM SSAB, the members of the Ohio Delegation and the County Commissioners from the affected four counties to be held no later than November 30, 2014, and each subsequent year by 30 November to discuss the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Our intent was to allow you to make the funding and scheduling decisions for the site, provided you were able to meet commitments and funding requirements. However this has not been achieved so now we feel it in our best interest to request a more thorough and open discussion.

As members of the surrounding community, our members desire an accelerated cleanup timeline with lasting benefits well after the cleanup operations conclude and the re-development phase begins. We believe this latest concept will meet the end-goals of multiple community organizations, DOE, and various contractors by allowing a more active role in this process and make us a full member in this development stage. This endeavor will require flexibility and a renewed commitment of all interested parties to work together to accomplish these goals.

The Ohio Delegation is vigilantly working to identify the resources necessary to prevent a significant delay in the cleanup progress at PORTS and the loss of 1/3 of the workforce. As these efforts continue, we respectfully request DOE provide the PORTS SSAB and the county commissioners from the four affected counties an update of the FY 16 Budget to ensure the funding request is sufficient to meet the commitments made in 2009 to accelerate the cleanup and prepare the site for reuse; therefore, saving \$5.4 billion in taxpayer dollars while maximizing employment levels and reaching a greater level of efficiency. We must do everything in our power to make sure the Ohio Delegation and Southern Ohio is not faced with this issue time and again.

I look forward to working together to facilitate these critical changes to encourage openness and restore faith in the process.

Respectfully,

Will Henderson  
Chairman

EHI CONSULTANTS  
PHONE: (740) 289-5249  
FAX: (740) 289-1578  
EMAIL: JULIE@PORTS-SSAB.ORG

1862 SHYVILLE ROAD • SUITE 119 • PIKETON, OHIO 45661 • WWW.PORTS-SSAB.ENERGY.GOV