



*Portsmouth EM Site Specific
Advisory Board*

December 5, 2013

David Huizenga
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

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Dear Senior Advisor Huizenga:

On behalf of the Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB), I am writing to express the board's support of three letters recently written by Ohio's senators, Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, and our representative in the House, Congressman Wenstrup.

Senator Brown issued a letter to President Obama, dated August 8, 2013, that asks the U.S. Department of Energy to request full funding of \$450 million for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015. As Senator Brown points out, the community supports an On-Site Disposal Cell (OSDC) as a waste disposition pathway, as illustrated in PORTS EM SSAB Recommendation 13-02 as well as Recommendation 09-03, which are attached. However, the community does not wish to compromise cleanup activities to finance the OSDC. In short, the \$450 million budget for 2015 is necessary to continue cleanup activities and construct the OSDC in preparation for more than 2.2 million cubic yards of decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) waste.

It should be noted that community leaders are trying to be good partners with the Department and are working in good faith to find solutions to these complex cleanup issues. The support for the OSDC comes with the assumption that the project will be properly funded and cleanup will not be compromised. After all, cleanup is the overall objective so reindustrialization can occur at the Portsmouth site.

The PORTS EM SSAB wants to be clear, as Senator Brown pointed out, that the Portsmouth/Piketon site is vulnerable based on its reliance on uranium barter material, which will expire no later than FY 2018. It is imperative the Department request and maintain the \$450 million budget beyond the lifespan of the uranium barter, which means a clear, long-term plan needs to be established to ensure cleanup milestones are met and the cleanup schedule is not compromised.

Senator Portman issued a letter to you, dated September 17, 2013, that the PORTS EM SSAB also supports. It requests the Department expedite cleanup plans by completing the regulatory process related to building demolition and waste disposition. The community shares Senator Portman's concern that if the process is not completed soon that the project will suffer delays, potentially impacting the budget appropriations and employment levels.

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Congressman Wenstrup issued a letter to you, dated September 30, 2013, that we also support. In his letter, he mentions the 2,500 Ohioans working hard to restore the site and echoes the community's concerns that we simply cannot afford to fall behind on the cleanup schedule. Congressman Wenstrup also encouraged the finalization of the cleanup plans and urged the Department of Energy to fulfill its commitment to the community of a well-executed cleanup.

With support of our elected officials, community leaders and the public, the PORTS EM SSAB believes the time is now to move forward, without delay. Our desire is that adjustments can be made to the appropriations and budgeting for FY 2015, to facilitate these efforts and to fully fund the cleanup at the Portsmouth/Piketon site.

The PORTS EM SSAB sincerely appreciates your work and your commitment to the Portsmouth site and the residents of southern Ohio. The board looks forward to working with you and Secretary Moniz as we move forward with the Portsmouth/Piketon D&D program.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William E. Henderson II". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William E. Henderson II
Chairman
Portsmouth EM Site
Specific Advisory Board

Enclosure:
Recommendation 13-02
Recommendation 09-03