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Recommendation 17-01

May 4, 2017

**RECOMMENDATION 17-01: Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Priorities for President's 2019 Budget Request**

**BACKGROUND:** In recent years, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) has requested input from advisory boards across the EM complex regarding community priorities as site budgets are formulated.

The PORTS EM SSAB recognizes that each community has a unique set of circumstances to consider when establishing priorities for large-scale projects. The circumstances for the Portsmouth site center, a depressed Appalachian area, is an economic climate with high unemployment and much needed infrastructure updates. Therefore, the focus for the PORTS EM SSAB is on workforce continuity, job creation, reindustrialization, recycling, and infrastructure repair.

The PORTS EM SSAB emphatically states that for the sake of the southern Ohio economy the Portsmouth decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) project be fully funded with attention paid to reindustrialization/infrastructure efforts to ensure workforce stability during and after the D&D project. It is with these critical circumstances for the Portsmouth site that the PORTS EM SSAB makes the following recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The PORTS EM SSAB recommends DOE consider a closure fund site approach for the Portsmouth site as has been executed at other DOE sites. The Portsmouth site does not have extraordinary technical challenges. The threat to our D&D Project is one of stability based on potentially inconsistent funding levels, partly as a result of the reliance on uranium barter proceeds.

By establishing Portsmouth as a closure fund site, the D&D project can move forward with certainty and more efficiency. This approach proved to be successful at Fernald, Mound Facility in southwest Ohio, and Rocky Flats in Colorado. The PORTS EM SSAB believes the closure fund site approach will be successful at the Portsmouth site.

In addition to the closure fund approval, priorities for the PORTS EM SSAB community are listed below:

- Construction of the On-Site Waste Disposal Facility as long as DOE meets the conditions outlined in PORTS EM SSAB Recommendations 13-02 and 15-05 (see attachments)
- Recover and Recycle the nickel from segmented converters
- Workforce continuity for the deactivation of process buildings
- Infrastructure should be maintained and updated to support future reindustrialization
- Property transfer
- Continuation of recycling efforts through the DOE-Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) Asset Transition Agreement

The PORTS EM Board would like to thank DOE for soliciting this input. The value of the SSAB program and all programs where public engagement occurs is significant as evidenced by numerous examples across the EM complex of how communications with the public have benefitted DOE and stakeholders alike.

Thank you for your attention to the Portsmouth D&D project and recognizing its importance to southern Ohio.