



RECOMMENDATION 19-01: Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Priorities for President's 2020 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 and we recognize that the changing nature of the Portsmouth project requires that the PORTS SSAB be forward thinking in its approach.

Naturally, the PORTS EM SSAB supports funding for the Portsmouth decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) project to maintain the current employment levels and complete activities that will result in an end state that provides land and buildings and maintains site infrastructure for reindustrialization to ensure workforce stability during and after the D&D project. With these fundamental values in mind, the PORTS EM SSAB makes the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: As has been the case in recent history, the PORTS EM SSAB recommends DOE move forward on a closure fund site approach for Portsmouth as has been executed at some of DOE's most successful cleanup projects. We want to thank the Department for its decision to recommend increased appropriations to Congress in lieu of the uranium barter program, which threatened project stability based on the fluctuations of the uranium market. With that in mind, we recommend the Department consider if the timing is now right to make Portsmouth a closure fund site.

The board would also like to thank Assistant Secretary White for her recent visit to commemorate the transfer of Parcel 1 from DOE to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI). That transfer signifies that reindustrialization and D&D can co-exist.

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

- **Prioritize the recycling and reuse programs at the site through the DOE-SODI Asset Transition Agreement, which not only positively impacts the environment, but provides SODI necessary resources to carry out its mission to repurpose the Portsmouth site.**
- **Continue property transfer activities and work with other offices within DOE to determine a suitable use for the Centrus facilities once they are returned to DOE. We want to thank DOE for its efforts related to Parcel 1 and believe it can be a catalyst to shape the future of the site. The Centrus facilities offer one of the most valuable opportunities for development at**

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the site and can play a key role as we build upon the momentum of the Parcel 1 transfer.

- **Establish a robust robotics laboratory on or adjacent to the Portsmouth site. The Portsmouth site has shown it can be an excellent research and development venue in the area of robotics and a robotic laboratory would be a mutually-beneficial endeavor that could have complex-wide benefits and be a key driver that could accentuate our redevelopment aspirations.**
- **Support future workforce development and training programs that will prepare the next generation workforce for the D&D project, the region's energy and environmental technology industry, and future reindustrialization of the site.**
- **Establish and fund a STEM education program that could benefit students grades 7-12 in the affected four counties (Ross, Pike, Jackson and Scioto).**

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.