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Recommendation 19-02

October 4, 2018

RECOMMENDATION 19-02: Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Development and Funding of a Sitewide Master Plan.

BACKGROUND: 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: The PORTS SSAB recommends that DOE partner with SODI and other economic development agencies to develop a Comprehensive Sitewide Master Plan.

The PORTS SSAB recognizes that DOE's mission is to eliminate the site's infrastructure as part of its D&D mission. The board also recognizes that SODI and other economic development professionals are concerned that some infrastructure could be eliminated that would be useful for future development. A natural solution to these varying perspectives is for DOE to provide SODI the resources necessary to develop a plan, with DOE input, that would allow recognized development professionals to provide a plan that the Department, development professionals and the community can all point to as the path forward. Such an approach would not only be a positive step for future use of the site, but would also eliminate some of the uncertainty related to the D&D project.

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 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.