



Paducah Citizens Advisory Board

"working for the future"

Emerging Technology Center, Room 221
5100 Alben Barkley Dr.
Paducah, Kentucky 42001
(270) 554-3004

Recommendation No 23-01: Suggestions to increase views and traffic to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Virtual Museum.

Rev 6 November 10, 2022

Background

In July 2022, a virtual museum cataloging and commemorating the history of the U.S. Department of Energy's Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant was announced as available online.

It can be viewed at pgdpvirtualmuseum.org.

The plant was built in the 1950s to enrich uranium for military nuclear reactors and weapons development and later to support the nation's commercial nuclear power program. The Paducah site manufactured low-enriched uranium, which was further enriched and processed at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio, and the K-25 plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The virtual museum includes detailed information on the history and processes used at the PGDP, as well as information about why Paducah was chosen as an enrichment site. Viewers can also find a comprehensive history of the PGDP, including how it began, life at the plant, timelines, and missions at the Paducah site. In addition, the virtual museum incorporates personal accounts from past employees on what it was like to work at the PGDP through the museum's "Faces of PGDP." Another feature of the virtual museum is the Sights and Sounds section, which highlights dozens of photos and videos from the Paducah site.

In August 2022, DOE asked the Paducah CAB for recommendations on how to better utilize the PGDP Virtual Museum as an asset and educational tool.

RECOMMENDATION

The PGDP CAB recommends that

- **DOE requests the City of Paducah, Visitors Bureaus, and Chambers of Commerce from McCracken and surrounding counties to include the virtual museum link on their websites.**
- **DOE creates a worksheet or curriculum corresponding to the Virtual Museum in order that teachers can easily incorporate the site into their standard curriculum.**

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- **DOE includes the link to the Museum in future press releases and print media provided during site tours.**
- **DOE drafts a Site Introduction Session for new and onboarding officials and groups including, but not limited to, city/county leaders, leadership KY, Young Professionals, Chambers of Commerce, NAACP, etc.**
- **DOE develops a mass media calendar to push the video out to the public when it is most likely to be viewed and searched for by topic. For example, push the Virtual Museum during April's Earth Day.**
- **DOE builds a Virtual Museum display at the McCracken County Public Library to give the library patrons and the general public access. In addition, it creates wall art that includes the website link, using a QR code for easy location of the Virtual Museum.**

Who We Are

The EM SSAB is the DOE-EM's most effective vehicle for fostering two-way communication between DOE-EM and the communities it serves. The EM program is the world's largest environmental cleanup program and the EM SSAB its only citizen advisory board. For more than 20 years, the volunteer citizens of the EM SSAB have partnered with EM officials at both the local and national levels to ensure that the public has a meaningful voice in cleanup decisions.

Public participation is required/recommended as part of a number of environmental regulations. It is also good business practice, resulting in better decisions that often result in improved cleanup. Over the past two decades, EM SSAB members have volunteered over 48,000 hours of their time and submitted to EM officials over 1500 recommendations, 88% of which have been fully or partially implemented, resulting in improved cleanup decisions.

The EM SSAB comprises approximately 200 people from communities in Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington. The Board is cumulatively representative of a stakeholder population totaling millions of people who are affected by generator sites, transportation routes and disposal sites. As we move forward the EM SSAB welcomes the opportunity to highlight the value of this unique volunteer board and discuss its priorities during the months and years ahead.



Department of Energy

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January 6, 2023

Mr. Don Barger, Chair
Paducah Citizens Advisory Board
Emerging Technology Center, Room 221
4810 Alben Barkley Drive
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

PPPO-02-10022814-23

Dear Mr. Barger:

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 23-01: SUGGESTIONS TO INCREASE VIEWS AND TRAFFIC TO THE PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT VIRTUAL MUSEUM

Reference: Letter from D. Barger to J. Woodard, "Paducah Citizens Advisory Board DRAFT Recommendation 23-01: Suggestions to increase views and traffic to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Virtual Museum," dated November 10, 2022

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) received the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 23-01, which recommends the following:

- *DOE requests the City of Paducah, Visitors Bureaus, and Chambers of Commerce from McCracken and surrounding counties to include the virtual museum link on their websites.*
- *DOE creates a worksheet or curriculum corresponding to the Virtual Museum in order that teachers can easily incorporate the site into their standard curriculum.*
- *DOE includes the link to the Museum in future press releases and print media provided during site tours.*
- *DOE drafts a Site Introduction Session for new and onboarding officials and groups including, but not limited to, city/county leaders, leadership KY, Young Professionals, Chambers of Commerce, NAACP, etc.*
- *DOE develops a mass media calendar to push the video out to the public when it is most likely to be viewed and searched for by topic. For example, push the Virtual Museum during April's Earth Day.*
- *DOE builds a Virtual Museum display at the McCracken County Public Library to give the library patrons and the general public access. In addition, it creates wall art that includes the website link, using a QR code for easy location of the Virtual Museum.*

DOE accepts the CAB's recommendation 23-01 relating to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Virtual Museum. DOE will keep the CAB apprised on efforts to address the activities in the

recommendation at our regular meetings. DOE appreciates the CAB's encouragement and is committed to outreach activities that further educate the public on the site's history and mission.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Buz Smith at (270) 441-6821.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Woodard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Woodard
Paducah Deputy Designated Federal Official
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

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