

# PORTSMOUTH SITE ADVISORY BOARD

## PORTSMOUTH EM SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023, SSAB MEETING • 6:00 P.M.

**Location:** The Ohio State University Endeavor Center, Room 160, Piketon, Ohio

**Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Members Present:** Chair, Jody Crabtree; Vice-Chair, Herman Potter; Sam Brady, Donna Carson, Bryan Davis, Randy Evans, John Hemmings, Wayne McLaughlin, Matt Setters, and Beth Workman

**SSAB Members Absent:** Lisa Pfeifer

**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Contractors:** Jeremy Davis, Greg Simonton, DOE; Shawn Jordan, Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth (FBP); Melissa Green, (ETS); Julie Galloway, Cindy Lewis, (EHI) Consultants (EHI)

**Liaisons:** Sean Kubera, Ohio Department of Health (ODH); Grace Stutler, Harry Kallipolitis, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**Facilitator:** Eric Roberts, EHI

**Public:** Vina Colley (PRESS/NNWS); David Manuta (MC2); Diana Cahall, Lee Blackburn, Gina Doyle, Joe Manchik, and Trena Ward

Approved by Jody Crabtree, Board Chair

*Signature on File*

Jody Crabtree

**Call to Order:**

**Crabtree:** I would like to call the meeting to order.

**Roberts:** I would like to welcome everyone, and I will be facilitating the meeting. There will be a public comment period after the presentations. The board should stay within its defined scope and follow the meeting ground rules adopted.

**November Agenda:**

**Roberts:** We have a copy of the agenda in front of you. Are there any changes or alterations we need to make to the agenda?

Being none, would someone like to make a motion to approve the agenda?

**McLaughlin:** I move to approve the agenda.

**B. Davis:** I second the motion.

**Motion carried** (10 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

**Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) provided by Jeremy Davis, Portsmouth Site Lead:**

- Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER)
- 2022 Environmental Monitoring
- Co-Located Monitors
- Air Monitoring
- 2022 Additional Air Monitoring
- Surface Water and Sediment
- Soil
- Crops and Wildlife
- 2022 Environmental Risk Summary
- Public Outreach – ASER Summary Mailer
- Public Outreach – Online
- Public Outreach – Print
- Public Outreach – Student ASER

A copy of the DDFO presentation is available on the SSAB website (<https://www.energy.gov/pppo/ports-ssab/listings/meeting-materials>)

<b><i>Question/Comment:</i></b>	<b><i>Answer:</i></b>
<b><i>Workman:</i></b> How far down do you test for the soil samples?	<b><i>J. Davis:</i></b> It depends on what we are looking for, usually a small 6-inch core.
<b><i>B Davis:</i></b> Where did you say you sent the ASER reports?	<b><i>J. Davis:</i></b> Right now, Pike County. They are also online and at the Pike, Scioto, and Ross County libraries.
<b><i>Crabtree:</i></b> The calculated radiation dose is 0.09 millirem. Any idea how that compares to the past?	<b><i>J. Davis:</i></b> It's about the same. It is usually pretty low.

**Federal Project Coordinator comments provided by Greg Simonton, Federal Project Coordinator:**

**Simonton:** We had The Science Alliance about three weeks ago. We had about 1200 students come to the site over the three days. We had about ten industry partners, contractors on-site, and some regional employers like Kenworth and General Electric. Also, ten universities were there.

<b><i>Question/Comment:</i></b>	<b><i>Answer:</i></b>
<b><i>Workman:</i></b> Greg, do you lead this, or who works with the students?	<b><i>Simonton:</i></b> Ohio University works with the students. We have a grant with Ohio University, and this is in their scope to work with. We do oversee it. We arrange for the presentations and the data to be shared. Again, you are giving students the chance to work with the university.

**Liaison Comments:**

**Kubera:** I don't have anything tonight.

**Stutler:** I don't have anything either.

**Administrative Issues:**

**Work Plan 2023-2024**

**Crabtree:** The tabletop budgeting exercise is interesting. We participated in this exercise while we were at the National chairs meeting. It is a complicated process, but learning it helps you see it better.

**Roberts:** Does anyone want to make a motion to accept the work plan for 2023-2024?

**Brady:** I move to accept the work plan for 2023-2024.

**Workman:** I second the motion to accept the work plan.

**Motion carried** (10 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair, Eric Roberts, EHI:**

**Chair:**

**Roberts:** We already have Jody Crabtree as a nomination. Do we have anyone else?

Seeing none, please, with a show of hands, all in favor of Jody Crabtree serving as chair.

**Motion carried** (10 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

**Vice Chair:**

**Roberts:** We already have Herman Potter as a nomination for Vice Chair. Do we have anyone else?

Seeing none, please, with a show of hands, all in favor of Herman Potter serving as Vice-Chair.

**Motion carried** (10 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

**Executive Subcommittee:**

**Roberts:** There will be ballots passed with everyone's name on it. Please circle three names for the Executive Subcommittee. Cindy and Greg, would you please count the votes?

We have a tie. We will hand out another ballot with Bryan Davis and Donna Carsons' names. Executive Subcommittee will be Sam Brady, Donna Carson, and John Hemmings.

**Public Comments:**

**Colley:** At the last SSAB Board meeting, however far back that was, I asked you all a few questions. Since 1993, I have been asking how much plutonium is on-site. How much have we processed on-site in 70 years? That was one of my questions; no one has answered me yet. Another question was what they were doing over at the reservoir with all those big pipes. Does anyone know?

**Roberts:** Do you have a time frame when you saw that?

**Colley:** Six months ago, maybe, I am not sure.

**J. Davis:** Which reservoir?

**Colley:** By the plant down to Wakefield Mound Road.

**J. Davis:** Inside the perimeter road or outside?

**Colley:** Outside

**J. Davis:** That's the first time I have heard that question.

**Colley:** How many people on this board are from the community and not connected to the plant? Bryan Davis is a conflict of interest.

**Roberts:** Vina, I can't allow you to attack a board member. We can talk after the meeting if you want to discuss this.

**Colley:** In a press release, Dan Moore said this will be an American Recycle Center. So that means we will be transporting waste in and out of Piketon. Then, all the sites from all over the world will be transporting their waste to Piketon.

**Blackburn:** I had to laugh when Vina talked about the pipes. I saw them, and I am surprised you guys haven't. Well, obviously, I am disappointed, however, I can no longer complain about streaming. I have complained about that for a long time. I am glad to see that at least that is happening. Now, it would be appropriate to let the community know how they might be able to watch it. I don't even know where I would go to even watch it. Is it on Youtube? Where is it? You need to let the public know. It was great to hear that minutes are now going to be approved within 45 days. Hopefully, those minutes will be posted on the site. Lately, they have not, so that would be a great thing to occur. I was glad to hear that the 2022 ASER report is available. I would like to know if there are any 2017's surprises. As in if there was any radioactivity recorded off-site. Is that something you can tell me, or do I have to go to the ASER?

**J. Davis:** Nothing that I know of.

**Blackburn:** And nothing off-site.

**J. Davis:** No

**Blackburn:** Okay, that is pretty much all I have to say.

**Doyle:** My sister and I started a Facebook account about four years ago listing the people who used to work at the plant that had cancer. I started asking what kind of cancer, where you lived, and so on. I live near there. As of right now, there are over 540 comments, and in each of those comments, there are several names of people from all over Pike County. We have had so many people die, so many kids with cancer, they shut down the school. I attended a meeting at the CTC and asked whether this building had been tested. I don't know if you guys can even answer me. But I don't know if I trust the answers that you give. Would you send your kids to school down here? My kids and my nieces and nephews all went to school at Zahns Corner, kids they knew who died of cancer. Because of living around here, there are so many. There is Zach Farmer, Kate Smith, Josh Snell, and if my phone weren't dead right now, I would read the list to

you, every name. There is too much cancer in our county. And you can't tell me when you take these high school kids out, and they are doing well, and the testing results are good. You can't tell me that we are going to rely on High School kids to tell them that it is safe to live here. It blows me away when I see the farmers out here planting potatoes on 23. Where are those mounds of potatoes going? Between Waverly and Piketon. Where is the corn all going? Is it all good? Is it all safe? We don't know. We were told for years that it is not good to plant stuff in the ground. The doctors have told them from all around this is environmental. Your child's cancer is environmental. That's why there is a trust issue for the community. That's why we want OEPA and DOE all involved. We want our community safe.

**Cahall:** My comment may seem a little strange, but I am glad to see the board back meeting again. It's been a long time. Jeremy, could you forward a complaint to someone from away from here that can appoint board members in a timely manner.

**J Davis:** That has been noted, and we are doing things to ensure that process is streamlined.

**Cahall:** If you have it fixed, keep an eye on it. Thank you.

**Manuta:** I was chief scientist at the plant for many years. I have a couple of general things I want to mention tonight. When you spoke about the co-located monitors, one question was how far out from the site? The closer you are to the site, the more likely you are to detect contamination of a chemical kind. So, we don't know how deep into Scioto and Jackson County it goes. One of the speakers mentioned you go down six inches to test the soil. The trichloroethene that was used a lot at the plant is much denser, so it will travel well into the soil. Six inches down may not be deep enough to catch it in high amounts. How far down we need to go, I don't know, but my suspicion is more than six inches. DOE has an enormous task: cleaning up the various sites.

**Ward:** I can name some people that have had cancer and died. All three of my children have lost classmates. I realize that we need jobs, but my concern is the contamination in the area. In our drinking water, in the air, in our schools. What can we do to do away with that? We don't have any answers for that.

**J. Davis:** The focus on our clean-up project is to take the material out there and put it in the safest place possible.

**Ward:** What about the cancer that is already out there? It's not just people that have cancer. It is also the people with MS. It causes women to have deformed babies, miscarriages, and diabetes. I have lived there for 40 years. We were told back in the 80's not to drink our water. I can see the plant from my hilltop, and it looks like a city at night. I am close enough that I can hear the alarms go off when they have leaks out there. We had a farm on Big Run, and back in 82, we were told not to eat the fish from our pond because it was contaminated. That's my concern. Like I said, we need jobs and people to work, but my concern is the contamination in the area, our soil, water, and air. What are they going to do with it? Where are they going to put it? How are they going to contain it?

#### **Final Comments from the Board:**

**Roberts:** Any comments from the board?

***Crabtree:*** First, it is great to see all the tables full. Hang in there. It will take a little bit, but you will catch up quickly. I want to thank DOE. The ASER report is getting streamlined faster due to feedback from this board. DOE is a government agency that takes a little while to get stuff done. I want to welcome all the new members and look forward to working with all of you.