



# PORTSMOUTH EM SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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•OSU Endeavor Center• 1862 Shyville Road • Piketon, Ohio 45661 • (740) 289-5249 •

## Proposed Agenda for February 17, 2026 Board Meeting

### Chair

Donna Carson

### Co-Vice Chair

Herman Potter

### Board Members

David Adams

Jim Arnzen

Sam Brady

Tonia Brown

Angel Glass

Chandler Grooms

John Hemmings

Mike Milam

Lisa Pfeifer

Beth Workman

**6:00 pm**

Call to order, introductions

Review of agenda

**DOE Comments**

**Federal Coordinator Comments-Greg Simonton**

**Liaison Comments**

**Presentation**

**Administrative Issues**

**15 Minute Public Comment Period**

**Final Comments from the Board**

**Adjourn**

### Deputy Designated

Federal Official

### DOE Federal Coordinator

Greg Simonton

### *Support Services*

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**  
**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 17, 2026**

**1862 Shyville Road**  
**Room 160**  
**Piketon, OH 45661**

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

D&D – Deactivation & Demolition  
DDFO – Deputy Designated Federal Officer  
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy  
EM – (DOE) Office of Environmental Management  
EM SSAB – Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory  
EPA- Environmental Protection Agency  
FACA – Federal Advisory Committee Act  
FY – Fiscal Year  
HQ – Headquarters  
PAD - Paducah  
Portsmouth – (DOE) Portsmouth Site  
PORTS SSAB – Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board  
PPPO –Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office  
SSAB – Site-Specific Advisory Board

## **APPENDIX**

Appendix 1 Portsmouth Site Budget Presentation

Appendix 2 Written Comment Submitted by Gina Doyle

## PARTICIPANTS

Site-Specific Advisory Board: **Herman Potter**, Vice-Chair; **David Adams**, Board Member; **Chandler Grooms**, Board Member; **Mike Milam**, Board Member; **Lisa Pfeifer**, Board Member; **Beth Workman**, Board Member.

Absent: **Donna Carson**, Chair; **Sam Brady**, Board Member; **Tonia Brown**, Board Member; **John Hemming**, Board Member; **Angel Glass**, Board Member; **John Hemmings**, Board Member;

U.S. Department of Energy: **Jud Lilly**, Interim PORTS Site Lead; **Greg Simonton**, Federal Coordinator.

Department of Energy Contractors: **Melissa Green**, Enterprise Technical Assistance Services (ETAS); **Julie Galloway**, Staff; **Cindy Lewis**, Staff; **Eric Roberts**, Meeting Facilitator

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

Public: **Lee Blackburn**; **Vina Colley**, PRESS/NNWS; **Gina Doyle**, Don't Dump on Us; **David Manuta**; **Diana Cahall**; **Trena Ward**; **Mike Beckman**; **Dale Jones**

## MEETING MINUTES

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB) meeting was held in Piketon, Ohio, and virtually via YouTube. Participants included EM SSAB leadership, support staff, DOE contractors, and the public. The meeting was open to the public and conducted in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Recordings of this meeting can be viewed on YouTube at the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=portsmouth+site+specific+advisory+board](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=portsmouth+site+specific+advisory+board)

### Opening Remarks:

*Mr. Herman Potter* opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

*Mr. Eric Roberts*, contractor for the Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (PPPO), welcomed attendees and reviewed the meeting's ground rules. Before we begin, I have a few announcements. First, Jim Arnzen has resigned from the board due to an unexpected family matter. We received his notice this morning. Second, since our last meeting, Wayne McLaughlin has passed away. We extend our condolences to his wife and family. You may also notice additional representatives from the DOE at the table today. Before we proceed with introductions, Greg, would you like to introduce them?

*Mr. Greg Simonton*, Jud Lilly is a Federal Project Director at the site, and he's also serving in the interim capacity as the site lead. Jud moved to Waverly little over twenty years ago. He is a local community member. He was here when the office first started up under the Lexington Field Office and continued to expand his portfolio.

*Mr. Jud Lilly*, as Greg mentioned, I moved to Waverly in 2005 after my former boss, Bill Murphy, asked me to help start a cleanup project in Portsmouth. My family and I relocated, and it has been a good experience. Earlier this year, Jeremy Davis resigned to take another position, so I stepped in as the acting site lead. There is currently an effort to find a permanent site lead, but I have let management know that I am not interested in the permanent role because I enjoy my current job. When I first arrived, my main project was demolishing the X-326 Process Building, which we completed. After the person in charge of the On-Site Waste Disposal Facility retired, I took over that responsibility. Now that Jeremy is gone, I am filling in as the Acting Site Lead in Portsmouth. There have also been other changes in our organization. Our office, the Portsmouth Paducah Project Office, is headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky. Recently, the field office manager in Lexington was promoted to second-in-command of the nationwide environmental management organization. Joel Bradburn is now acting as EM-2. His deputy, Reinhard Knerr, whom I have worked with for a long time, has resigned and will be taking deferred retirement. In Lexington, Erik Olds is now acting as the field office manager. He is also the field office manager for Oak Ridge, so he is handling both Portsmouth and Oak Ridge. The deputy position is now filled by April Ladd, the site lead at Paducah, who is acting as deputy for Portsmouth Paducah. So, we have had quite a few changes in the Portsmouth Paducah Project Office.

All board members introduced themselves.

**Agenda:**

*Mr. Eric Roberts* asked board members if any changes or alterations were needed to the agenda. Seeing none.

**DOE Comments:**

**Federal Budget Process:** *Please refer to Appendix 1*

*Mr. Eric Roberts* began the discussion by noting that the federal budget for 2027 will be released in the coming weeks. This is typically when advisory boards provide advice and recommendations to the Department of Energy. The focus is not on specific spending, but rather on identifying key initiatives and values from both the board and community perspectives. These recommendations serve as value statements, highlighting priorities in the event of additional funding or areas to protect in the event of reduced funding. The board's perspective differs from that of a project manager, as it considers broader community impacts and workforce needs, rather than just financial details. This input is important because Congress and the President seek budget proposals that reflect community priorities. Even a brief recommendation from the board can significantly influence funding decisions. If you would like, Julie and I can share last year's budget recommendations for your reference. This will help you build on previous input as you develop this year's recommendations. Please let us know if you have any questions or thoughts.

**Federal Project Coordinator Comments:**

*Mr. Greg Simonton* deferred to the DOE comment.

**Liaison Comments:**

*Mr. Sean Kubera* of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) said he had no comments.

*Mr. Tom Snyder* of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) said he had no comments.

*Ms. Grace Stutler* of OEPA said she had no comments.

*Mr. Harry Kalipolitis* of OEPA said he had no comments.

**Administrative Issues:**

*Mr. Eric Roberts*, at this time, I am not aware of any administrative issues. If anyone has concerns that need to be addressed, please let me know. We are still awaiting further direction from the board.

Looking ahead, we plan to hold a public meeting in April. April also includes the spring chairs meeting, where the chair and vice chair from each of the eight boards will meet in Hanford, Washington, to discuss complex-wide issues affecting the environmental management program. Topics will include the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the storage of transuranic waste, which, while not directly impacting us, have broader implications for the DOE budget and our program. The Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board will also discuss its current role and its impact on

various sites. Joe Bradburne is scheduled to provide an update on the EM program. Each site will share updates, and there will be time for the chairs to discuss collective priorities.

From an administrative perspective, we will review prior budget resolutions. We need to determine whether the budget resolution should be finalized in April or if June is acceptable, given our meeting schedule. April is likely preferable due to anticipated short public comment periods, which typically begin after the president releases the budget. We are currently waiting for that release. We have not yet submitted our top issues for the chair's meeting. We will coordinate with Donna and Herman to finalize this list. When a timely recommendation is needed, we usually ask three or four board members to volunteer for Zoom calls to develop a draft. Once a draft is ready, we will circulate it to the board for feedback. If you are interested in contributing, especially after reviewing the previous two years' budget recommendations, please email us to volunteer. Your participation is appreciated.

### **Public Comments:**

*Mr. Eric Roberts*, this is a comment period, not a question-and-answer session. We ask that comments remain within the advisory board's scope, but this is an open public comment period. You can talk about whatever you would like. We have several folks who have signed up to speak tonight.

*Ms. Vina Colley*, Hi. I'm calling from PRESS Incorporated. We've been working on the on-site contamination of this plant for over forty years now. My question to the EPA is: in 1992, PRESS found documents indicating that Little Beaver Creek is contaminated. So that radioactive contamination is going into the creek. We have asked over and over, please. If you're going to keep your production up, you've got to put signs in this creek. Little Beaver Creek, Scioto River. The EPA found radioactive material in fish from the Scioto River. They were there at our request.

My other comment is if you're going to run the centrifuge, and from my understanding, some of that fuel is going to be used for small modular reactors. So, if we're going to do that, it could also feed into these data centers. We're totally against all of that. There are no public comments for us to comment on. You have these poster meetings where it's a one-on-one conversation. The community has a right to have public meetings.

And the other thing is, we have board members here. You should introduce them and say who they are. Are they affiliated with the plant, or are they otherwise? We don't know who they are. That is a couple of our requests: put up signs. No more dirty jobs in here until we clean this plant up. This plant is still contaminated. The cells are sitting on top of fractured bedrock that's pulling water into the Midwest's largest aquifer. And so, we have a lot of problems here, and we shut the community out to the point where we're not allowed to say anything, and you put answers to what we tell you. We ask that you be more proactive; the board should be asking us questions, and we should be answering them. In the forty years I've been doing this, it hasn't happened. We deserve better. We have the highest rate of cancer in the state of Ohio, and we're one hundred and seven nationally above the average for childhood cancer. Nobody's addressing this.

*Mike Beckman*, I believe my comments would fall outside the board's scope.

*Ms. Gina Doyle*, I'm Gina Doyle, a resident of Pike County, the administrator of Don't Dump On Us, and the advocate coordinator of Scioto Valley Cancer Support Group. I am here today to

speaking not just about the proposed expansion of boards, but about the unfinished legacy of this site, a legacy that this site has left on the people who call this community.

For decades, residents here lived alongside boards without a full understanding of what they were being exposed to. Families drank the water, breathed the air, raised children, and worked nearby while contamination spread quietly and without warning. Many people were never informed of the risk. Many are still waiting for clear answers.

The legacy at PORTS is not abstract. It is personal. It is measured in cancer diagnoses, chronic illnesses, rare conditions, and lives cut short. In Piketon and the surrounding communities, families have married loved ones far too young and watched multiple members of the same household face serious illnesses, a pattern that cannot be dismissed as a coincidence. Cleanup is still ongoing, monitoring is still incomplete, and trust has not been restored. The concern is not speculation. In a recent interview with WKRC TV Local 12, Chris Wright acknowledged what communities like ours have lived with for decades. Speaking to investigative reporter Duane Polhman, he stated, " We went fast, we cut corners, and now we have big cleanup problems to deal with." Pike County is one of the communities still living with those consequences. Because of that history, any discussion of expansion must be accompanied by accountability.

Economic development cannot be separated from public health, and promises of progress cannot outweigh the responsibility to protect the people who already paid the price. Expansion without fully addressing past and present harm risks repeating the same mistakes that brought us here in the first place. This community has heard assurances before. We were told things were safe before, and we know how that turned out now. If expansion is to move forward, public health must not be treated as secondary or optional. That means stronger, not weaker, environmental monitoring, independent oversight that residents can trust. In full transparency, even when the information is uncomfortable, residents must be informed in real time, not after decisions are made, community voices must be meaningfully included, not simply acknowledged, and health concerns must be met with action, not just words. I have a little bit more, but I'm afraid we'll run out of time. I will just submit my comments to the board.

**Ms. Diana Cahall,** I would like to request that the chair's meeting be livestreamed on YouTube or Zoom, or on this or that, or whatever, so that interested members of the public and members of the board can either watch it live or watch it later. That meeting is very important and puts DOE's year in perspective. I think people would be very interested. I know they didn't do that last year, but a year before, and I found it very informative. Then last year, they didn't do it. So, let's request that they do it again, and I would also like to fully support Gina's concern for the community's health and the continued cancer problems, and please make that the focus of your attention. Thank you.

**Dr. David Manuta,** It's good to see everyone here today. A lot of you know that I was Research Staff Member Two or Chief Scientist at the site. And there are several points that I wanted to bring out that could be back on what's already been stated with the redevelopment of the site and with data centers coming in elsewhere in the state, Mr. Polman did speak with Mr. Wright, the Secretary of Energy and the discussion was that the small modular reactors are safe and that very well may be true, but it missed the front end of the discussion because you still have to manufacture the fuel and that will be done here through the HALEU project, H A L E U. Now the reason why I bring that up is in the nuclear fuel cycle enrichment is actually the third step and power generation is the fifth step and the fact is they're not the same and we have a history

as has already been articulated tonight about illnesses associated with the manufacture of the fuel and because it appears that the energy secretary had not been previously informed that this is a history that goes back to the time of Doctor Oppenheimer. and at this site specifically, more than seventy years, we've got three generations of people that are sick. The originals, my generation, and those that came after me.

We begin producing HALEU fuel, and we risk making a fourth generation of workers sick. We know better than that. So what assurance is there that the manufacturer of HALEU will be safe enough so that the typical worker can be 70 or 80 years old and enjoy their grandkids? I bring those points up because I believe they're significant, and then in closing, I also agree with the point that the chair's meeting should be taped in some way so that it can be reviewed afterwards in case people can't personally attend but would be interested in seeing the proceedings on some type of video form. Thank you.

*Ms. Trena Ward*, I understand this is about jobs, and people need to eat. We had a car wash, and it had more regulations there than we have out there. Before Thanksgiving, my husband was diagnosed with cancer. He has lived in this area for 70 years. What we have going on out here is not safe. I am taking him to the doctor four days a week for dialysis and chemotherapy. His COPD acted up, and he almost died on me Saturday night. I don't think, I think this needs to be, they can clean this up for ten years and then still would not be clean. I'm packing him. He was a very strong, independent person. He worked as a pipefitter for forty years. He can't go upstairs now. He can't get in and out of the car. I have to take him every Tuesday for his dialysis and his chemo, and it's just wearing me out. I mean, I just, like I said, we had a car wash, and we had more regulations from the EPA than we do out there. We had to test the water every month, or we got fined heavily. I feel like they are not testing out there. I think they are pulling the wool over our eyes. All the people who are sick; it just doesn't cause cancer, it causes multiple sclerosis, birth defects, and girls not being able to have babies. I guess that's all we've got to say. Thank you, ma'am.

**Final Comments from the Board:** None

Herman Potter closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

# **Appendix 1**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY**

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**Office of Environmental Management**

*Portsmouth Paducah Project Office*

# **Federal Budget Process**

Feb. 17, 2026

# Quick Facts

- The federal government operates on a fiscal year (FY) calendar, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30.
  - For example, FY 2026 began on October 1, 2025, and ends September 30, 2026.
- The U.S. federal budget is created annually through an intricate process that must start 18 months before the start of the new FY on October 1.
- After departmental requests are vetted, the President provides a budget recommendation, however Congress enacts the budget.

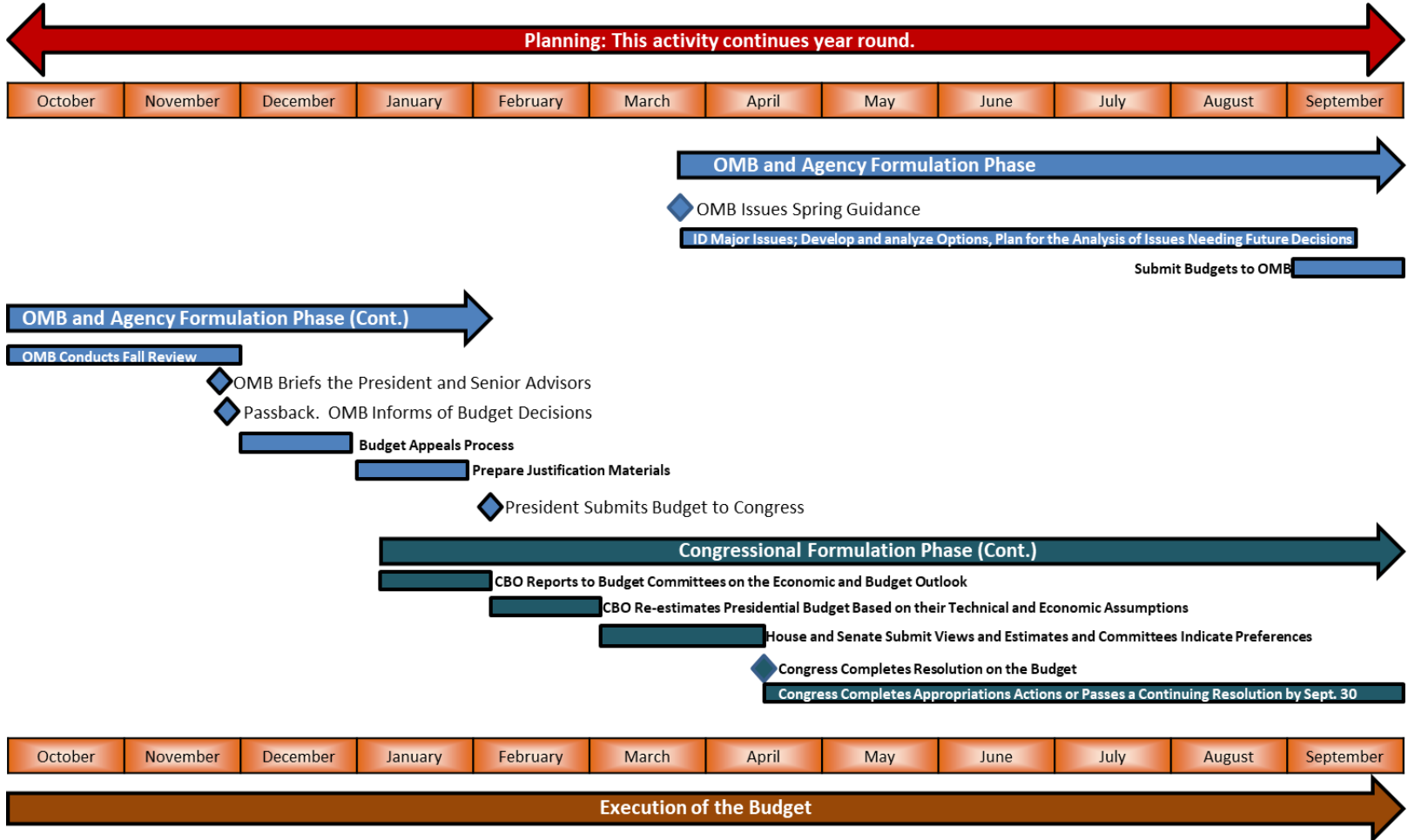


# *Continuing Resolution*

- If Congress does not pass bills to fund government operations by October 1, they have to pass a Continuing Resolution or shut down the government.
- A continuing resolution is short term legislation passed by Congress to keep the Federal Government open.
- Funding is based on current year spending levels which may positively or negatively impact projects.



# Budget and Planning Timeline



\*OMB's Agency Formulation, Budget Allocations are Embargoed and **NOT** Releasable Outside of the Administration

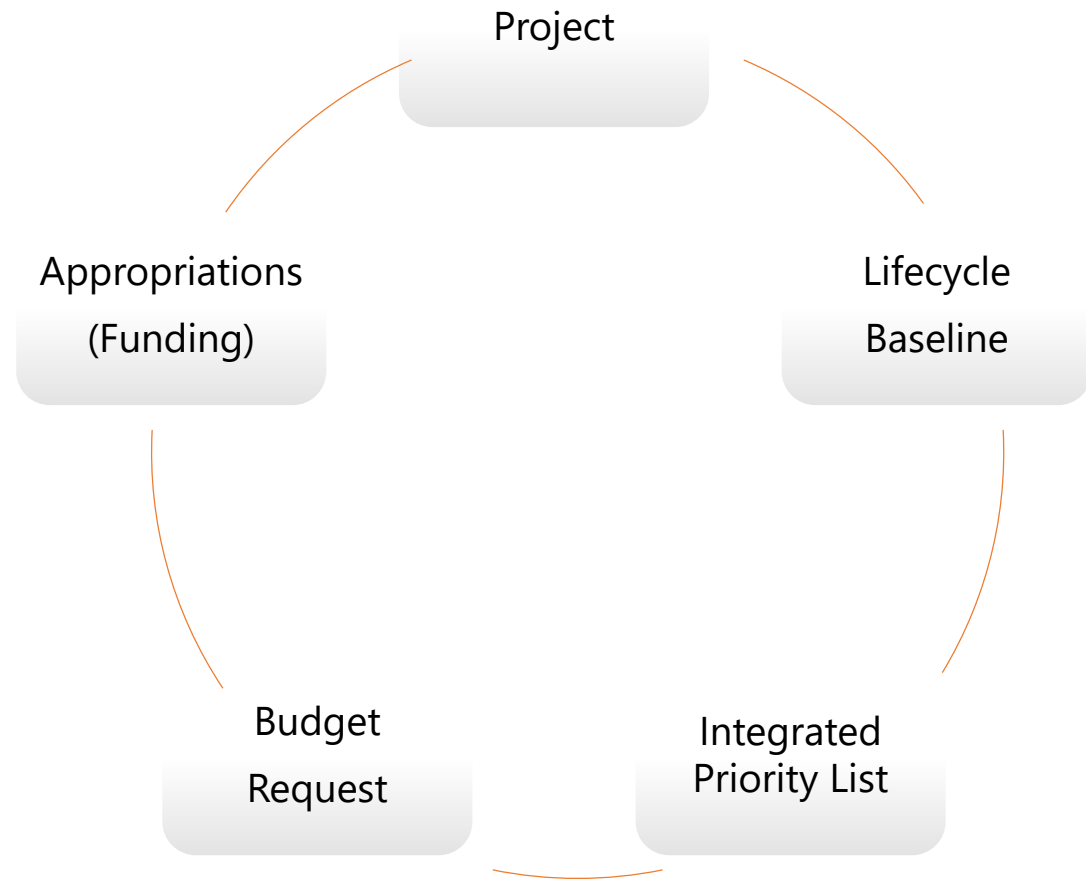


# Three Fiscal Year Budget Push: Status

- **FY 2026 Execution**
- **FY 2027 Budget Request**
  - President's budget is typically announced in February.
- **FY 2028 Budget Planning**
  - Budget development is in the beginning stages.
  - Priorities will be determined for FY 2027.



# The Budget Development Process



The planning process is ongoing throughout the project lifecycle.



# Budget Development Process

- Around January each year, the project field offices receive guidance for budget development for the FY beginning 18 months in the future from the Secretary of Energy.
- In March and April, the Integrated Priorities List and the life cycle baseline are used to develop the site budget request.



**U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY**  
Office of Environmental Management  
*Portsmouth Paducah Project Office*



**Office of Management and  
Budget**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY**

# Site Budget Development

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- The proposed site budget request is forwarded to headquarters where, from May to September/October, it is compiled with other U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) sites' requests, aligned to match EM goals, and ultimately included in DOE's Budget Request submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- From October to January, OMB develops the President's formal budget request, which is submitted to Congress in February.
- In the spring, Congress holds reviews and responds to the President's budget.
- In the summer, the House and Senate begin consideration of the appropriations bill. Once passed, it goes to the President for signature.



# **Appendix 2**

Good [morning/afternoon]. My name is Gina Doyle, and I live in Pike County, Ohio. I am here today to speak not just about the proposed expansion at PORTS, but about the unfinished legacy this site has left on the people who call this community home. For decades, residents here lived alongside PORTS without full knowledge of what we were being exposed to. Families drank the water, breathed the air, raised children, and worked nearby while contamination spread quietly and without warning. Many people were never informed of the risks. Many are still waiting for clear answers. The legacy of PORTS is not abstract. It is personal. It is measured in cancer diagnoses, chronic illness, rare conditions, and lives cut short. In Piketon and the surrounding communities, families have buried loved ones far too young and watched multiple members of the same household face serious illness — a pattern that cannot be dismissed as coincidence. Cleanup is still ongoing. Monitoring is still incomplete. And trust has not been restored. This concern is not speculation. In a recent interview with WKRC-TV Local 12, Chris Wright acknowledged what communities like ours have lived with for decades. Speaking to investigative reporter Duane Pohlman, he stated, “We went fast, we cut corners, and now we have big cleanup problems to deal with.” Pike County is one of the communities still living with those consequences. Because of that history, any discussion of expansion must begin with accountability. Economic development cannot be separated from public health, and promises of progress cannot outweigh the responsibility to protect the people who already paid the price. Expansion without fully addressing past and present harm risks repeating the same mistakes that brought us here in the first place. This community has heard assurances before. We were told things were safe before. And we know how that turned out. If expansion is to move forward, public health must not be treated as secondary or optional. That means stronger — not weaker — environmental monitoring, independent oversight residents can trust, and full transparency, even when the information is uncomfortable. Residents must be informed in real time, not after decisions are made. Community voices must be meaningfully included, not simply acknowledged. And health concerns must be met with action, not just words. This board also has a responsibility to recognize that the harm from PORTS is not limited to the past. Exposure does not end when operations change names or missions. The effects live on in our bodies, our families, and our community. Before asking this community to accept expansion, there must be a clear commitment that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated — and that protecting residents is not negotiable. Pike County has already sacrificed enough. We deserve honesty, accountability, and a future where development does not come at the expense of our health. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.