



February 19, 2026

**Chair**  
Ben Stinnett

**Vice-Chair**  
Gaye Brewer

**Board Members**  
Eric Butterbaugh  
William Robert Clark  
Clint Combs  
Gaylon Grubbs  
Reese Henderson  
Joycelyn Lightfoot  
Myron Wessell  
Riley Willett

April Ladd  
*DOE DDFO*

**Board Liaisons**

April Webb  
*Division of Waste Management*

Brian Begley  
*Environmental Protection Agency*

Mike Hardin  
*Fish and Wildlife Resources*

**Support Services**

EHI Consultants, Inc.  
Emerging Technology Center  
5100 Alben Barkley Dr.  
Paducah, KY 42001  
Phone 270.554.3004

[www.energy.gov/pppo/pgdp-cab](http://www.energy.gov/pppo/pgdp-cab)  
[info@pgdpcab.org](mailto:info@pgdpcab.org)

## February 2026 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

### 5:30 pm

Call to order, introductions  
Review of agenda

### DOE Comments

### Federal Coordinator Comments

### Liaison Comments

### Administrative Issues

### Presentation

Funding and Budget Process

### Public Comments

### Final Comments

### Adjourn



## PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025, CAB BOARD MEETING • 5:30 PM.

**Location:** Emerging Technology Building, WKCTC, Paducah, Kentucky

**Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Members Present:** Chair Ben Stinnett, Vice-Chair Gaye Brewer, Eric Butterbaugh, Billy Bob Clark, Reese Henderson, Myron Wessel

**CAB Members Absent:** Gaylon Grubbs, Joycelyn Lightfoot, Riley Willett

**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Contractors:** DOE: Greg Simonton; MCSA: Rob Gentry; ETAS: Zachary Boyarski; EHI Consultants: Hayly Wiggins, Julie Galloway (TEAMS)

**Liaisons:** Kentucky Dept. of Energy and Environment: Mary Evans, Brian Lainhart (TEAMS), Brandon Marshall (TEAMS), Sonja Smiley (TEAMS); Environmental Protection Agency: Brian Begley (TEAMS), Bart Schaffer (TEAMS)

**Attendees:** Don Barger, Darla Bowen, Robert Hernandez, Larry Hill, Darrell Sullivan, Molly Thompson

**Facilitator:** Eric Roberts, EHI

Approved by Ben Stinnett, Board Chair

Signature on file

Ben Stinnett

**Call to Order:** 5:30 pm Ben Stinnett, CAB Chair.

Attendees introduced themselves.

**DOE comments provided by Greg Simonton:**

There have been significant changes to the PPPO Organizational Chart. Joel Bradburne has been promoted from Portsmouth Paducah Project Office (PPPO) Manager in Lexington to Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Management (EM2) in Washington, DC. April Ladd is still Paducah Site Lead, but she has also been appointed Acting Interim Deputy Manager of PPPO.

**Liaison Comments:** Brian Begley: Decision 2029 strategy is well underway. We hold weekly status meetings with DOE and contractors and allow them to submit draft sections of future documents to Kentucky and EPA for high-level review for anything that might warrant changes or additions. This is all to expedite the process. The cleanup was initially scheduled for completion in 2065 and is now scheduled for 2045. The savings from this acceleration were initially estimated at \$10 billion and are now estimated at \$14 billion. Economic redevelopment opportunities are also being realized. General Matter is leasing Parcel A. This lease was the first of its kind in EM history to use the Hall Amendment, under which DOE maintains the property, but the land is leased to private industry. A typical land transfer can take up to 2 years, but this lease took only 4 months.

**Presentation- Greg Simonton, DOE**

Budget Process

<b>Question/Comment:</b>	<b>Answer:</b>
<b>Hernandez:</b> Do the 18 months overlap?	<b>Simonton:</b> Yes, they do. We can be in final negotiations on next year’s budget while we are planning the next year’s budget and in high-level discussions for the year after that.
<b>Hill:</b> If you don’t spend all the money on your budget, where does the extra money go? If a project comes in under budget, is there any financial gain for the contractors?	<b>Simonton:</b> Any funds that would be realized would be used for the following year’s projects.
<b>Stinnett:</b> What is currently on the priority list?	<b>Roberts:</b> There are sections of the priority list: immediate health needs, like a potential disaster on site (Imminent Threats), safeguards, security, maintaining the workforce, etc. (Base Operations), and then you get down to the project level, like

<p><b>Roberts:</b> Recommendations are now more values-based than numbers-based, since budget numbers are embargoed for longer. Can you tell us what you think DOE looks for in a budget and funding request? How does that help DOE?</p> <p><b>Stinnett:</b> How does the request for interest in private industry for Data Centers change our approach?</p>	<p>what April has been sharing in past meetings. Prep work for a potential waste cell, etc. It's all going to get done; it's just a matter of the order in which it happens, based on the budget. (Other Priorities/Planning Packages).</p> <p><b>Simonton:</b> To get D&amp;D running fast, you work on preparing the area of the site for this. Let's say you think there is an area of the site you are considering redeveloping, maybe you work on this area first. It's good to know what the community values, so April can prioritize the right project. In Portsmouth, the community prioritizes a steady workforce. We need jobs there, so maintaining a steady workforce is a top concern of the community, and the board's recommendation helps us validate our decisions with DOE.</p> <p><b>Simonton:</b> Community values and priorities being included in the recommendation to DOE are invaluable. In Portsmouth, a steady workforce was the highest priority, so the Portsmouth SSAB resolutions focused on maintaining a steady workforce and preparing for potential redevelopment. You don't want these decisions to take place in a vacuum. You want your values considered. This is an important part of having these Advisory Boards: ensuring the community's values are taken into account when DOE makes budgetary and project decisions.</p> <p><b>Simonton:</b> I don't exactly know how that will change things; it could change the order in which some things are completed, but your community priorities should still be on record with DOE.</p> <p><b>Roberts:</b> The value of the CAB is to provide direct input to DOE on funding, and they must respond. You don't place a dollar amount on what needs funding; you can just say, we don't care how you do it,</p>
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<p><b>Butterbaugh:</b> What is the accountability of our recommendation? So ultimately, can this board continue to ask about our recommendations and hold DOE accountable?</p>	<p>but this project is the community’s priority, so make it work. You get to create a wish/want list to put on April’s desk, and they can use this in budget negotiations with DOE. It’s a powerful document April has to go and say we have to make sure we meet this community need.</p> <p><b>Roberts:</b> That’s a great question. There have been instances with other boards where items of interest to the community took longer than they wanted, but behind the scenes, DOE was working on the regulatory pieces to make their priorities a reality. In the meantime, all DOE could say was we’re working on it. As a board, you get to raise your voice and let DOE know what matters to you and the community. I have never seen DOE fail to take public comment, especially advisory board comments, into consideration when making final decisions.</p> <p><b>Begley:</b> The Integrated Priority List (IPL) has four sections: First, Imminent Threats. There are none in Paducah. Second, Base Operations. Things like security, surveillance &amp; maintenance, environmental monitoring, site operations, and emergency management. All the daily things to keep everything operational, safe, and secure. Third, Federal Facility Agreement Enforceable Commitments. This is a master plan of what are enforceable milestones the regulators at Kentucky and EPA, along with DOE, agreed to. This plan encompasses the current year and the next two years. The fourth category is any activities that can be accelerated if you have additional dollars in the budget. This fourth area is where DOE will be expecting letters from EPA, Kentucky, and the CAB to let DOE know their priorities for any additional funding.</p>
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**Roberts:** Are there any public comments? <none>

Stinnett adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.



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**Office of Environmental Management**

*Portsmouth Paducah Project Office*

# **Federal Budget Process**

Feb. 19, 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.

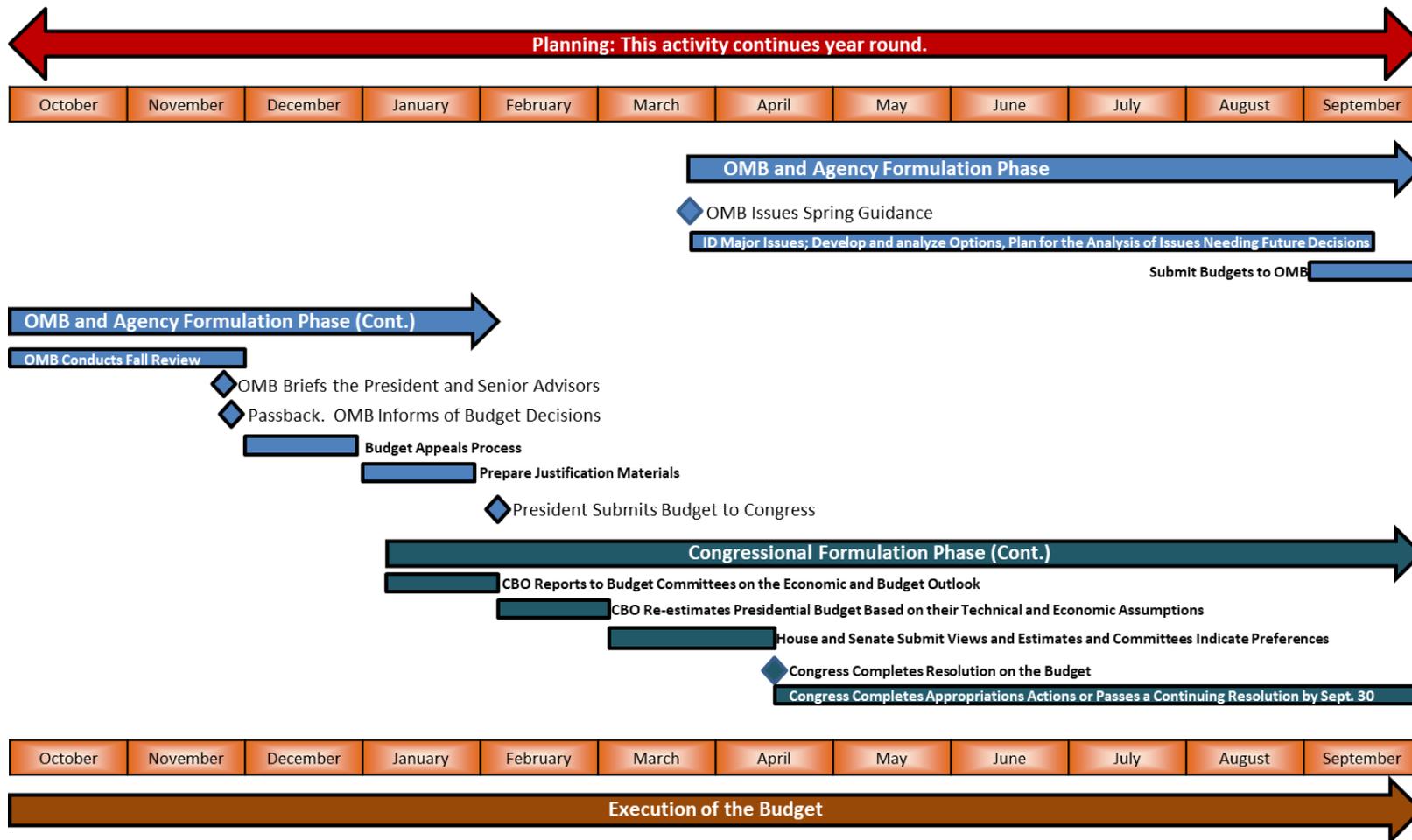


# *Continuing Resolution*

- 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

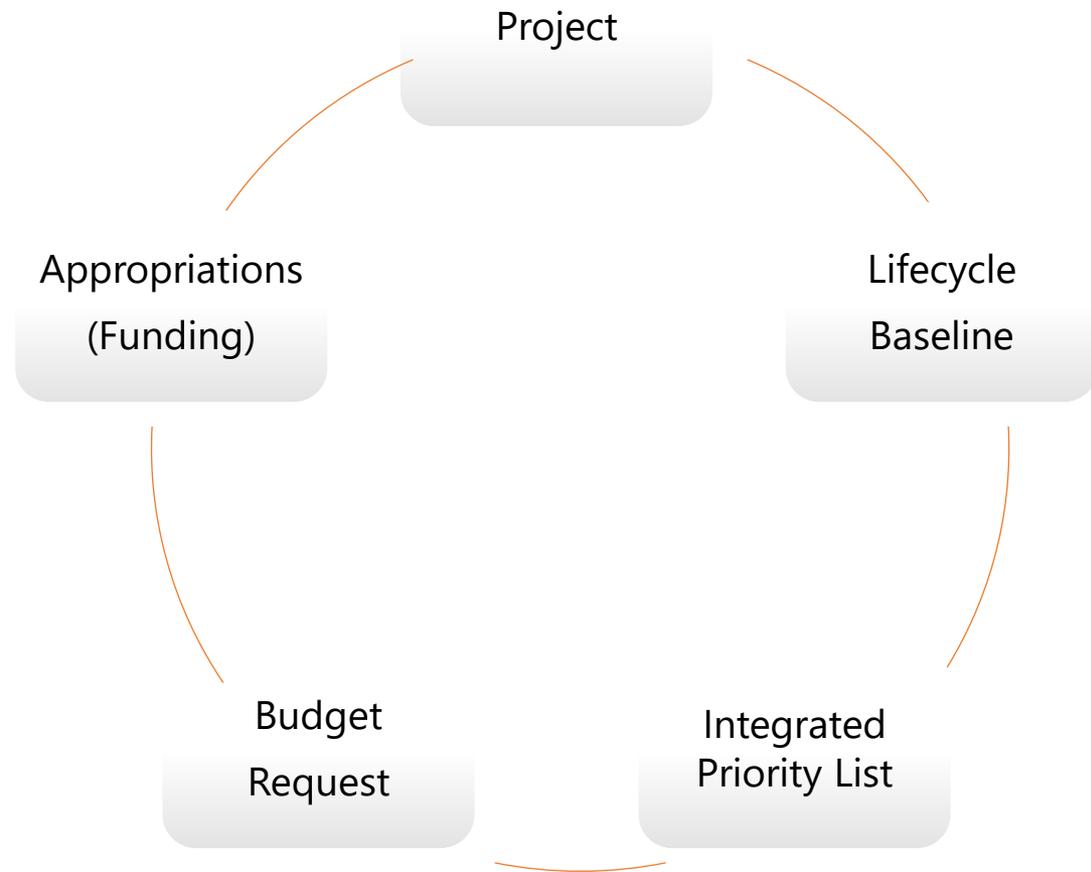


# Three Fiscal Year Budget Push: Status

- **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.



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# Site Budget Development

- 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.

