



PORTSMOUTH EM SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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

Proposed Agenda for April 21, 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

- **Draft Budget Recommendation 26-01**

15 Minute Public Comment Period

Final Comments from the Board

Adjourn

Deputy Designated Federal Official

DOE Federal Coordinator
Greg Simonton

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PORTSMOUTH SITE ADVISORY BOARD

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2026**

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

*The following minutes of the Portsmouth SSAB
board meeting are certified by*

Donna Carson, Board Chair
Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASER – Annual Site Environmental Report
D&D – Deactivation & Decommissioning
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 Presentation: Environmental Monitoring and 2024 ASER

Appendix 2 Presentation: Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)

Appendix 3 Recommendation 26-01 Budget and Funding Priorities to Support Coordinated Cleanup, Reindustrialization, and Regional Planning in Response to Emerging Large Scale Energy and Data Infrastructure Development

Appendix 4 Written Statement submitted by Lee Blackburn

Appendix 5 Written Statement submitted by Gina Doyle

PARTICIPANTS

Site-Specific Advisory Board: **Donna Carson**, Chair; **David Adams**, Board Member; **Tonia Brown**, Board Member; **Chandler Grooms**, Board Member; **Angel Glass**, Board Member; **Mike Milam**, Board Member; **Lisa Pfeifer**, Board Member; **Beth Workman**, Board Member
Absent **Herman Potter**, Vice-Chair; **Sam Brady**, Board Member; **John Hemming**, Board Member

U.S. Department of Energy: **Jud Lilly**, Acting Portsmouth Site Lead; **Greg Simonton**, Designated Deputy Federal Officer

Department of Energy Contractors: **Melissa Green**, Enterprise Technical Assistance Services (ETAS); **Julie Galloway**, Staff; **Cindy Lewis**, Staff; **Eric Roberts**, Meeting Facilitator; **Shawn Jordan**, Southern Ohio Cleanup Company (SOCCo); **Steven Thompson**, SOCCo; Bob Purtee, SOCCo

Board Liaisons: **Sean Kubera**, Ohio Department of Health (ODH); **Grace Stutler**, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA); **Tom Snyder**, OEPA; **Harry Kallipolitis**, OEPA
Public: **Lee Blackburn**; **Gina Doyle**, Don't Dump on Us; **David Manuta**; **Diana Cahall**; **Trena Ward**; **Pat Marida**; **Scott Bender**, UA577; **Genoma Bender**; **Joe Ledford**, Boilermakers 105; **Adrian Harrison**, Laborer 83; **Keven Shoemaker**, Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)

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 under the requirements of 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

Opening Remarks:

Ms. Donna Carson, 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.

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:

Mr. Greg Simonton, we held our ASER annual student presentation and poster session today. Two schools participated: Portsmouth West in Scioto County and the local CTC, with involvement from a science class and a chemistry class. As in past years, students had a unique opportunity to engage with site subject matter experts and university PhD instructors on topics like radiation, site history, and redevelopment. They presented their work through posters and are rewriting an executive summary to make the data more accessible to the public. It was a valuable experience that exposed students to industry perspectives. Notably, three students said the program inspired them to pursue environmental science in college an exciting outcome that highlights its impact. They also demonstrated a strong understanding of complex topics, showing clear growth in their knowledge and confidence.

Mr. Jud Lilly, this spring has been productive. We're dismantling the second of our three major process buildings, using a newly delivered large shear to take it apart piece by piece. At the same time, we're shipping waste to the on-site disposal facility. With both demolition and waste removal underway, there's a strong sense of progress and positive momentum on site this season.

Liaison Comments:

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

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

Ms. Grace Stutler, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), said she had no comments.

Mr. Harry Kallipolitis, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), said he had no comments.

Presentation:

Environmental Monitoring and 2024 ASER: *Please refer to Appendix 1*

Mr. Mike Milam, when you collect an air sample, you measure flow rate and total volume to quantify the amount detected. That allows you to calculate the concentration of a specific component, correct? I assume the same general approach applies to soil as well. You'd send a soil sample and quantify how much of a substance like uranium-235 is present, not just whether it exists, correct?

Mr. Steven Thompson, you take the flow rate over a set period daily, weekly, or similar to determine the volume sampled. Then you calculate a rate per sample and combine those to get a quantitative result for the specific component. Soil sampling is purely quantitative. A physical sample is collected, placed in a container, and sent to a lab for analysis. Unlike air sampling, there's no flow rate involved. So, it's more about presence. When you send a soil sample to the lab, they take a small aliquot from the jar and analyze that portion.

Mr. David Adams, is this environmental summary an annual report that's been done for several years? How many years? In 2024, there were two violations. How does that compare to prior years? When will 2025 be available?

Mr. Steven Thompson, yes. I think the earliest ones go back to around 1989, and I've seen records from the late 1980s into the early 1990s. Correct; two NOV's (Notice of Violation). It's similar to OEPA, which conducts multiple inspections each year. In 2024, they did four, usually around the same time annually. Occasionally, issues come up, like something with a drum, and every so often there's an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) -related item. So typically, it's around two findings per cycle. 2025 will be available in September or October of this year.

Mr. Eric Roberts, that leads to an important question. We're looking at 2024 data for a reason. Can you walk us through the timeline?

Mr. Steven Thompson, Data is collected throughout the year, through the end of December. Lab analysis takes about 30 days, so results come back by late January. We then complete verification and validation before drafting the report. The annual groundwater summary, due around March or April, is also incorporated. With all data compiled and summarized, the final report is typically completed by September.

Ms. Angel Glass, for the crop samples provided voluntarily by nearby residents, primarily fence-line neighbors, does everyone have the opportunity to participate, or are samples collected only from selected locations?

Mr. Steven Thompson, Participation is open to anyone—anyone can call and offer a sample, and we welcome it. It can be challenging to get samples, especially in dry seasons, so we often return

to the same participants who've helped before. That said, we're always glad to receive new samples from additional residents.

Mr. Eric Roberts, next on the agenda, is Kevin Shoemaker with the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI). As a reminder, the SSAB advises DOE on environmental cleanup goals, recognizing that "clean" can mean different things. The community plays a key role in defining that, especially based on the site's future use. While we're not an economic development board, we partner with local groups like SODI to help align DOE's cleanup efforts with community and economic development goals. As noted in *The Politics of Cleanup*, successful communities align cleanup, economic development, reuse, and political efforts toward a shared vision. We all have a role, and that alignment is critical to creating a positive future for the site. With that, Kevin, I'll turn it over to you.

SODI Presentation: *Please refer to Appendix 2*

Mr. David Adams, why no groundwater?

Mr. Kevin Shoemaker, there are on-site plumes being managed by the department. During reindustrialization planning, it was recognized that soil would be needed for the on-site disposal cell. The department and community agreed to use contaminated soil from inside the perimeter road for that purpose. This avoided the need to source additional soil and supported more cohesive redevelopment, rather than leaving scattered, unusable areas. Work is ongoing to address former landfills and remaining plumes.

Mr. Mike Milam, my understanding is that small modular reactors are around 50 megawatts or less, so it would take multiple units to reach a gigawatt-scale output.

Mr. Kevin Shoemaker, I believe they are about 75 megawatts. Our understanding from discussions is that they're considering about 12 to 16 small modular reactors for the site, since these units don't require much space.

Mr. Chandler Grooms, on the last map, the generation area mainly reflected discussions with Oklo and Trillium. I assume the natural gas power plant is outside that footprint, correct?

Mr. Kevin Shoemaker, it's hard to say exactly right now, but we do know the companies have secured a significant amount of property, likely through options.

Ms. Beth Workman, I was just wondering about the gas. I've heard there isn't enough pipeline capacity in this area.

Mr. Kevin Shoemaker, there isn't enough gas capacity there right now. There's only about a six- to eight-inch line serving the site, so any gas-fired project would require expanded infrastructure. While I'm not an expert, it's likely the developers have considered this, and future plans may include transitioning to nuclear or another energy source as economics evolve.

Administrative Issues:

Draft Budget Recommendation 26-01: *Please refer to Appendix 3*

Mr. Eric Roberts, next on the agenda is a draft budget recommendation, located behind the yellow sheet in your packet, with copies available on the back table for the public.

Greg, before we begin, two quick questions: What is the value of the SSAB providing advice and recommendations to DOE? And more specifically, how have past budget and funding recommendations made an impact?

Mr. Greg Simonton, First, board recommendations give DOE confidence that cleanup efforts align with the agreed end state and community expectations. They also show that funding supports both cleanup and redevelopment, including leasing. This helps DOE demonstrate community support and gives elected officials a basis to support the plan. As for why recommendations matter, consider the ASER Student Project. About 15–18 years ago, the board recommended stronger outreach to students. That led to programs like the Science Bowl, Science Alliance, and the ASER student executive summary efforts, which have continued to grow each year.

Mr. Eric Roberts, you should all have a copy of draft Recommendation 26-01 on budget and funding priorities to support cleanup, reindustrialization, and regional planning tied to emerging energy and data infrastructure. I'll read the recommendation into the record, then we'll open it up for questions, comments, or suggested changes. Donna, since you helped develop this, I'll ask you to provide some context. If the board is ready to proceed, we'll take a motion and vote by a show of hands. Any questions about the process?

Ms. Donna Carson, After the announcement, we met to discuss the expected growth in the community and how to support its healthcare, roadways, and other infrastructure needs. It's a lot to take in; I hadn't fully grasped the scope until Greg outlined many of the additional demands.

Ms. Angel Glass, are there any existing or planned committees or collaborations to address the expected economic growth and its impact on housing, roads, and other infrastructure? Are DOE or the counties currently involved in those discussions?

Mr. Greg Simonton, I'm not aware of anything formal right now, but this recommendation points to existing efforts we can build on. For example, about 15 years ago, Ohio University worked with the community to define the site's desired end state. That process led to strong support for economic redevelopment, which guided cleanup planning starting around 2012–2013. From there, efforts shifted toward reindustrialization—identifying site assets and target industries, in coordination with Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative, which explored an integrated energy future. This recommendation could help continue and expand that work, ensuring the community stays engaged and positioned to benefit from future growth rather than missing the opportunity.

Ms. Angel Glass, my concern is that while this growth is very positive for the community, it's happening quickly and on a large scale. The earlier collaboration with Ohio University was valuable, but it was a long time ago. Given the pace of current developments, I'm concerned the language here is still somewhat vague. Are there plans to establish a local collaboration or formal process to ensure planning is in place to keep up with this growth?

Mr. Greg Simonton, we're required to formally respond to submitted recommendations, and that response will help define our role going forward. Once we receive it next week, we'll begin developing that response and exploring what actions we can take. This recommendation reflects the fast-changing conditions on the ground. The goal is to minimize burdens and maximize opportunities for the community, and we'll take that intent seriously in our response.

Mr. Jud Lilly, your question was whether any planning is underway for the community. While that was mentioned in the announcement, a formal recommendation from the board could help elevate the issue. As federal representatives, Greg and I would respond to the recommendation, but it would also be seen by the private company leading the project. That visibility could encourage them to engage more directly with the community and begin developing concrete plans and partnerships.

Mr. Chandler Grooms, does this board or this recommendation ever include specific funding amounts? For example, in item one, it says “provide funding,” but could that be tied to a specific dollar amount to better demonstrate the level of need, as has been done with groups like SODI or other initiatives?

Mr. Eric Roberts, Historically, we’ve avoided specifying dollar amounts for a couple of reasons. First, funding levels are ultimately determined by DOE we focus on clearly communicating needs and expectations. Second, putting a specific number can shift the discussion away from the need itself and onto debating the amount, which can hinder funding. So, our approach has been to define what’s needed and let DOE determine the appropriate funding level, though the board can choose a different approach if desired.

Mr. Greg Simonton, to clarify, this isn’t about DOE directly funding things like housing; it’s about helping the community prepare for the growth that’s coming. The discussion referred to projects such as Intel, in which the State of Ohio provided significant support and leveraged federal funding. The idea is to position this community similarly for future development. While SODI and DOE are playing roles, there’s a gap in coordinating efforts off-site. This recommendation aims to highlight the need to connect those pieces so the community can fully benefit from upcoming opportunities. We’ll need to respond to this recommendation, though the level of detail is still to be determined. The focus is on regional coordination, not just the local community, since the impact will be widespread. For context, there were about 22,000 workers here in 1954, and projections suggest up to 50% more. That kind of growth would have significant effects across nearly every aspect of the region.

Mr. Mike Milam, the county commissioners, and engineers from the surrounding counties should be brought into these discussions. I’m not sure who has been included so far.

Mr. Greg Simonton, the recommendation suggests that Ohio University help convene this effort. Jud and I aren’t experts on who all should be involved; we can see the opportunities and some risks, but not everything. The idea is to bring in people who specialize in large-scale development. That would likely include commissioners, engineers, and others, along with expertise in housing, schools, and broader community planning.

Ms. Donna Carson, I believe SODI has already started some of this work. They’re holding weekly steering committee meetings that include Ohio University, county commissioners, and regional economic development representatives, so coordination is already underway to some extent.

Mr. David Adams, this may not directly relate to the recommendation, but on page two it mentions continued support for environmental remediation. If I heard correctly, the data center company is aiming to be here by the third quarter of this year.

Mr. Jud Lilly, we're continuing the cleanup, and in some areas the private company is interested in coming in behind us as those areas become available. Those discussions are already happening, and there's interest in coordinating the sequence of cleanup and redevelopment. My role isn't to direct the private company, but to provide cleanup progress updates and validation data so they can plan accordingly as they set up operations. We're essentially working in parallel: we continue remediation, and they plan investment based on what becomes available. Unlike the original federal project in the 1950s, this project involves significant private investment, so coordination across the community and surrounding counties will be important for aligning priorities. This is a non-governmental project, though there is ongoing communication with government entities. It's a different dynamic, and Greg and I will act within our respective roles and responsibilities, which do have limits. At the same time, everyone is working toward the same goal. The board's voice is important because it represents an established community body with direct input from the region. That perspective will be recognized as an official voice of the community in this process. Apologies for the long explanation, but it is a complex and unique situation.

Mr. Eric Roberts, David, to your point, the bullet points at the top of page two summarize prior board recommendations. Greg, if you want to add anything, this reflects a long-standing discussion between the board and DOE about defining our priorities leading up to this point.

Mr. Greg Simonton, one of the long-standing priorities, has focused on the relationship between funding and cleanup speed; more funding enables faster cleanup and earlier redevelopment. The board has consistently encouraged increased funding, along with inflation adjustments, so cleanup isn't slowed by budget constraints and can be done safely and in compliance. That guidance has helped us accelerate work where possible and make areas available for redevelopment sooner, rather than waiting until full completion. We've tried to integrate cleanup and redevelopment to support community benefit, even if it adds complexity. At this point, the recommendation continues with the same theme, providing the community with tools to partner in future development. While cleanup sequencing may shift based on opportunities, all work still needs to be completed, and timing can be important for reuse even if it's less critical to the cleanup operation itself.

Mr. Jud Lilly, People reading this recommendation who aren't familiar with the situation will be learning about it for the first time. It helps clarify what's happening: the private company is coming in, investing in the site, and potentially helping accelerate cleanup so DOE can transition out of certain areas sooner. In that sense, the recommendation has an educational value and adds substance beyond what may have been heard through informal channels or rumors.

Mr. Eric Roberts, any other questions? If not, I'm looking for a motion to either proceed with the recommendation or to not proceed.

Mike Milam moved to accept Recommendation 26-01, and *Lisa Pfeifer* seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

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 it's an open public comment period. You can talk about whatever you would like. We have several folks who have signed up to speak tonight.

Mr. Lee Blackburn, Contrary to what the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) would lead you to believe, PORTS and the surrounding areas are among the most radioactively contaminated sites in America. Study after study of the community has consistently found above background levels of plutonium, neptunium, and uranium, as well as other highly radioactive elements. In a March 2024 study done by the governmental Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), ATSDR found that the average annual net concentration of Neptunium-237, Plutonium-239/240, and all variants of Uranium isotopes from DOE's air monitor A41A, across from Zahn's Corner Middle School, were all above background levels for the entire five-year period from 2016 to 2020. The ATSDR report followed the April 2019 findings by Dr. Michael Ketterer of plutonium, neptunium, and uranium in dust samples taken from Zahn's Corner Middle School, leading to its closure. During the Cold War, PORTS enriched uranium to the highest level and for the longest period of time of any enrichment facility in the U.S., enriching well above weapons grade. No U.S. enrichment facility turned out a greater amount of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) than PORTS. The extensive production of this High Enriched Uranium led to more than 10 tons of radioactive and toxic gases being intentionally pumped into the atmosphere in what has been referred to as "Midnight Rockets". These high-pressure purges were done to remove uranium hexafluoride (UF6) and other radioactive impurities from the system. The gases often settled nearby, causing environmental contamination as well as major health hazards and doing irreparable harm to community residents. They don't want the public to be able to say you're living in that contaminated sacrifice line.

Ms. Diana Cahall, I am from Brown County. We are receiving not butterfly wings of what's going on up here. We're receiving the stomping and roaring, snorting of dinosaur-sized movements from this immense site. They want to do data centers in Brown County. I am going to finish Lee's statement. Although the ATSDR has never performed even one epidemiological study, multiple such studies of the Piketon area by the Radiation and Public Health Project have found among other things, cancer death rates 50% above the national average and the highest of all 88 Ohio counties, all-cause mortality 85% above the U.S. rate, with those between 25 and 54 being more than double the U.S. average (106%). Yet, even before a clean-up of the PORTS site is complete, DOE is at it once again, enriching uranium to the highest level in the U.S., encouraging the creation of multiple nuclear reactors, and generating tons of uranium oxide to be used in the production of nuclear weapons. Clearly, DOE finds the Piketon community to be an acceptable sacrifice zone!

Ms. Gina Doyle, tonight, I'm not here for another update. I'm here because this community keeps asking questions, and we are not getting answers. At every meeting about the progress with the gaseous diffusion plant, we hear the same things. Everything is safe, everything is monitored, and everything is under control. But if that's true, then why can't you answer the questions that matter the most? Why hasn't there been a full individual cancer cluster investigation in this community? Why are agencies not using the real data that families and groups here have spent years compiling on my group? Data includes names, timelines, schools, and exposures. Why do we keep hearing there's no evidence when no one has done the lower-level investigation needed to find it? That's not an answer, that's avoidance. Because while reports are being received and presented in this room, people outside of it are living in a very different reality. We are watching friends, neighbors, and family members get sick. We are attending funerals. We are being told at the same time that everything is fine. Those two things don't match. Until they do, trust does not exist. Yet, despite that, demolition continues, waste is handled, and new missions, including nuclear-related expansion, are being discussed as if this community has no unresolved concerns. So let me say this directly to the decision-makers in the room: that's DOE, EPA, or anyone involved. You cannot move forward responsibly while ignoring the very real concerns about the health of the people who live here. If you want trust, then earn it. Do the independent study. Use this community's data, answer the hard questions, not just the easy ones. And until that happens, every claim of safety will continue to be questioned. Not because people don't understand, but because they do. We're not asking for reassurance anymore. We're asking for the truth back by action. Thank You.

Ms. Pat Madria, Lee and I came down from Columbus tonight to talk for two minutes. We're not paid, and we don't have a vested interest in what's going on here. I just want to say we have a huge amount of alarm as to what our government is doing in the national arena when we see these headlines and so forth about the warmongering. I handed these handouts to show that, well, this is why we have no money for health care, education, or social services. I'll start with what was discussed in this meeting about the ASER, the air monitors. It came out a couple of years after the fact, and the DOE was very quiet about it. It was not called to anyone's attention until Dr. Ketterer, as Lee mentioned, read the ASER report, which drew people's attention to it, and, indeed, the school board shut the school down. Then we talked about the missing drum label. Well, that was not reported by the DOE either. That was reported by Jason Sally, a local reporter here. The demolition on this project should have been covered. All that dust went out. Dr. Ketterer followed the monitor air monitors during that time when it was shut down for COVID, when the demolition was shut down, but all was covered. coming out of those air monitors was far, far less. And you can all see that. That's all recorded. This Site Specific Advisory Board is our community watchdog over the DOE, reflecting community concerns. It's fine to ask hard questions of the DOE, but the SSAB should be running this meeting. Why is it that the Department of Energy is setting limits on what you can hear from the public? Isn't this supposed to be your meeting? And you could ask the public for as much as you want. This community reorganization, which involves the reuse organizations, was created by the Department of Energy

to save the site for more use. Or if the site isn't wanted, you can turn it over to a nature preserve. Well, you ought to be careful where you go on these nature preserves because a lot of them around the country are contaminated with radioactivity, and nothing is going to come here except a filthy industry. You're not going to get an organic food company to come here and locate here. So, some of the projects that are here are very scary. You ought to think about what you're talking about, the new people coming in and so forth. It's going to be a real nightmare. I come from a small farm in a rural community, and it changes the whole dynamic of the community. Thank you.

Dr. David Manuta, I am a former Chief Scientist, Research Dep Member II at the site. A few quick comments. Mr. Thompson spoke about the average amount of radiation; radiation that had been monitored at 0.088 millirem. That's an extremely tiny number. And it's also the 100 millirem limit that DOE counts are 1200 times higher. Now, the issue that I have. When we call a number like 0.088, it's as if this is the gross reading that your instrument sees, and this is your background; the difference is the number that's reported. But the higher up that background is, the smaller the net amount is. And the smaller the net amount, the greater the uncertainty in the measurement. And this is why much of this needs to be peer-reviewed. I also bring up, with the air sampling, the critical nature of the sampling time. Keeping the device on for an hour, when you might not see many particles, may mollify people who don't understand the science and medicine. But it drives people like me crazy because to get good sampling data, you need to monitor for days, sometimes weeks. Last two points. HALEU fuels are used to operate the small modular reactors. made here, yet we have no health and safety data on the exposures that future generations of workers are likely to face. And then you mentioned indemnity, Trillium makes hydrogen. I've investigated many hydrogen explosions over the years. The storage issue is normally what stops those. With Oklo, the small modular reactor is small enough not to go critical, but the issue is the fuel they're going to use, because it's going to come from HALEU. I don't know how DOE can go forward without any safety data on the HALEU.

Final Comments from the Board: None

Donna Carson closed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Appendix 1

Environmental Monitoring and 2024 ASER

Portsmouth SSAB

Steven Thompson, Environmental Remediation Deputy Director

April 21, 2026

2024 Annual Site Environmental Report

- In accordance with DOE Order 231.1B, *Environment, Safety and Health Reporting*, DOE prepares an Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER), which offers a detailed overview of environmental activities at the Portsmouth Site
- Monitoring is conducted to determine if cleanup activities are impacting the workforce, environment or site neighbors
- The ASER is a key public outreach effort to publicize the environmental conditions at the Portsmouth Site

US Department of Energy
Portsmouth Gaseous
Diffusion Plant

2024



U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

Environmental Sampling Includes...

Each year more than 100,000 sample results are utilized from both on- and off-site sources



Crops



Surface Water



Groundwater



Ambient Air



Soil



Wildlife

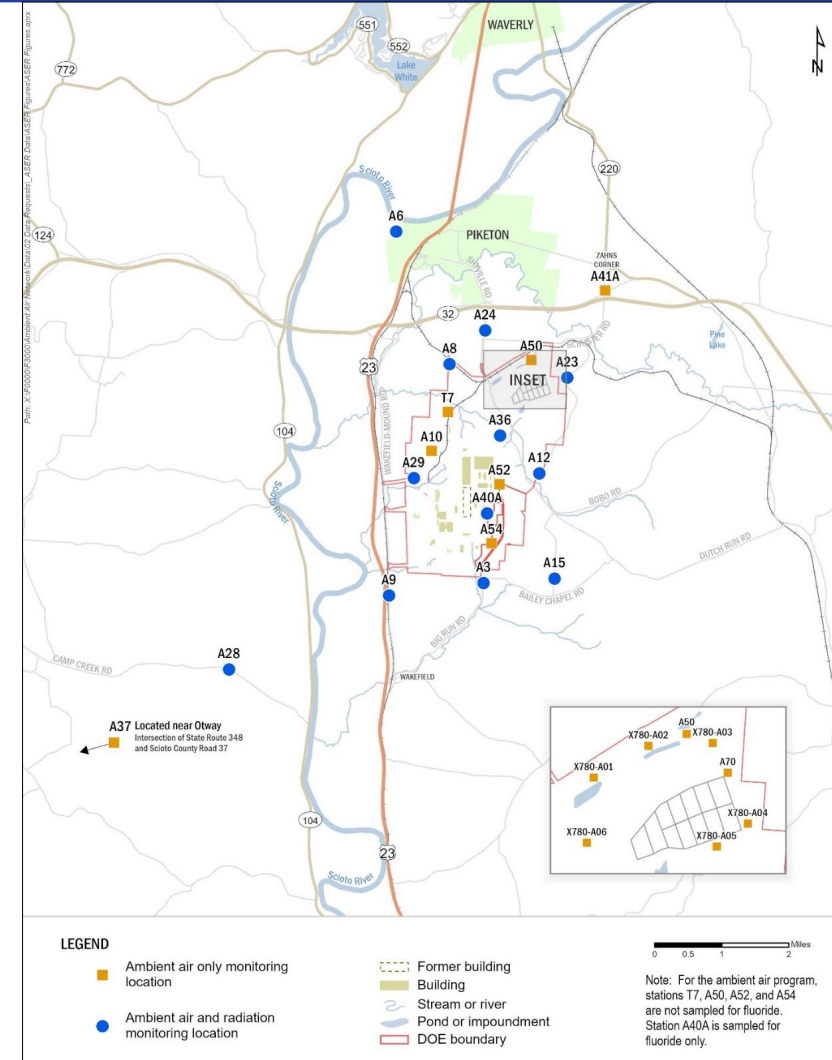


Ambient Air Monitoring

Ambient air stations monitor for:

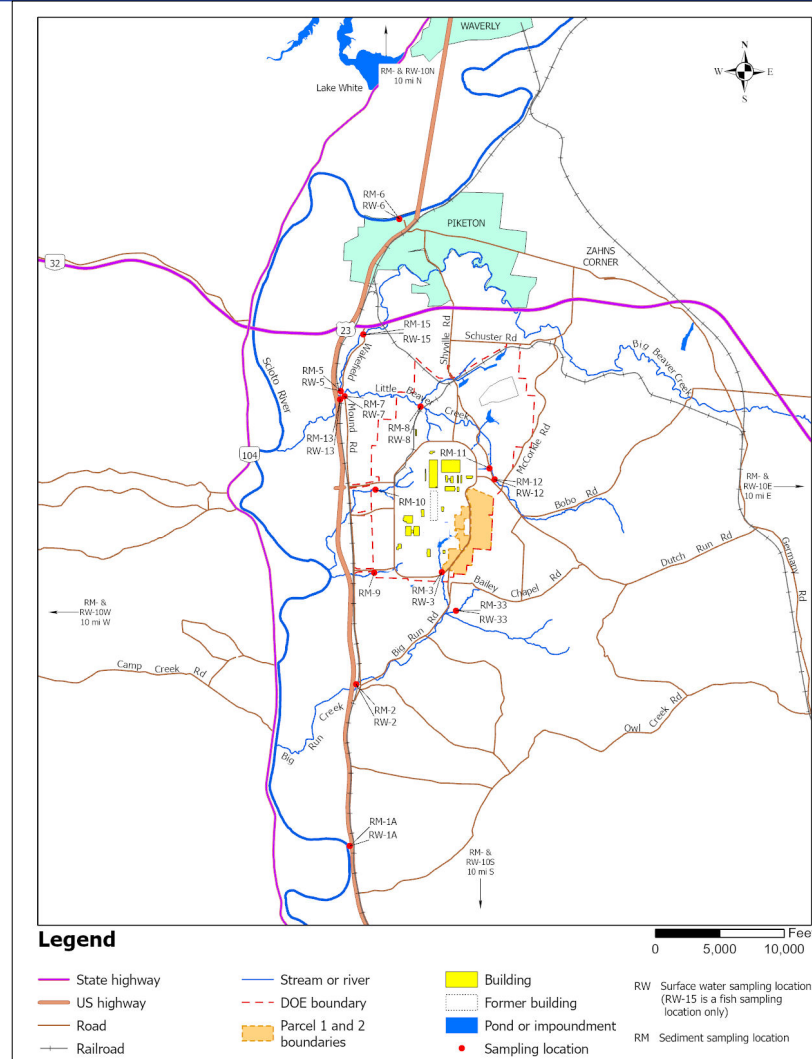
- Radionuclides from U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) activities
- Fugitive air emissions
- Background levels of radionuclides

Figure 4.3. Ambient air and radiation monitoring locations from 2024 ASER



Surface Water and Sediment

- Surface water and sediment samples measure radionuclides from DOE and/or naturally occurring radionuclides
- Samples taken from Scioto River, local creeks, and background locations



Soil Samples

- Soil samples measure radionuclides from DOE and/or naturally occurring radionuclides
- Soil samples are collected at the ambient air monitoring locations

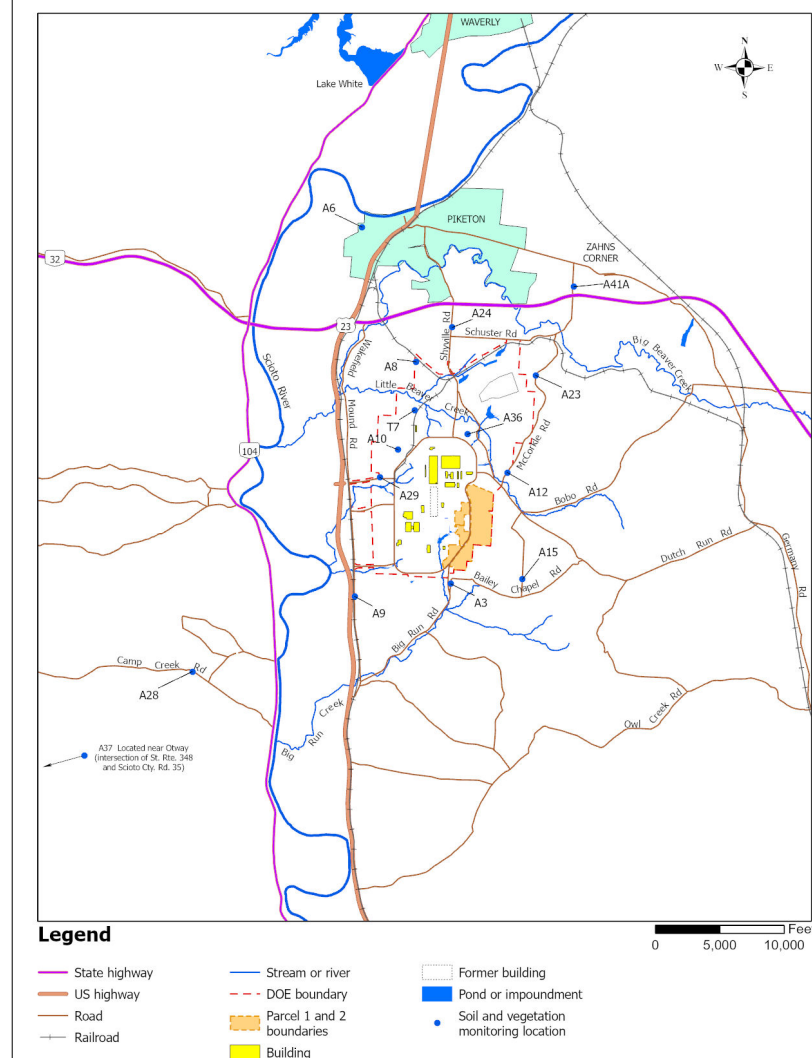


Figure 4.7 Soil and vegetation monitoring locations from 2024 ASER



Crops and Wildlife

- Crop samples are provided on a voluntary basis by neighboring residents
- Local wildlife samples are obtained when available
- Detailed results can be found in Section 4.7 of the ASER with results broken down by vegetation, deer, fish, crops, eggs and milk, aquatic and riparian animals, and terrestrial plants and animals



Integrated Groundwater Monitoring Plan

- Approximately 300 groundwater monitoring wells are periodically sampled.
- Areas monitored include
 - Four groundwater plumes contaminated with Trichloroethene
 - Other areas monitored for organics, metals, and/or radionuclides

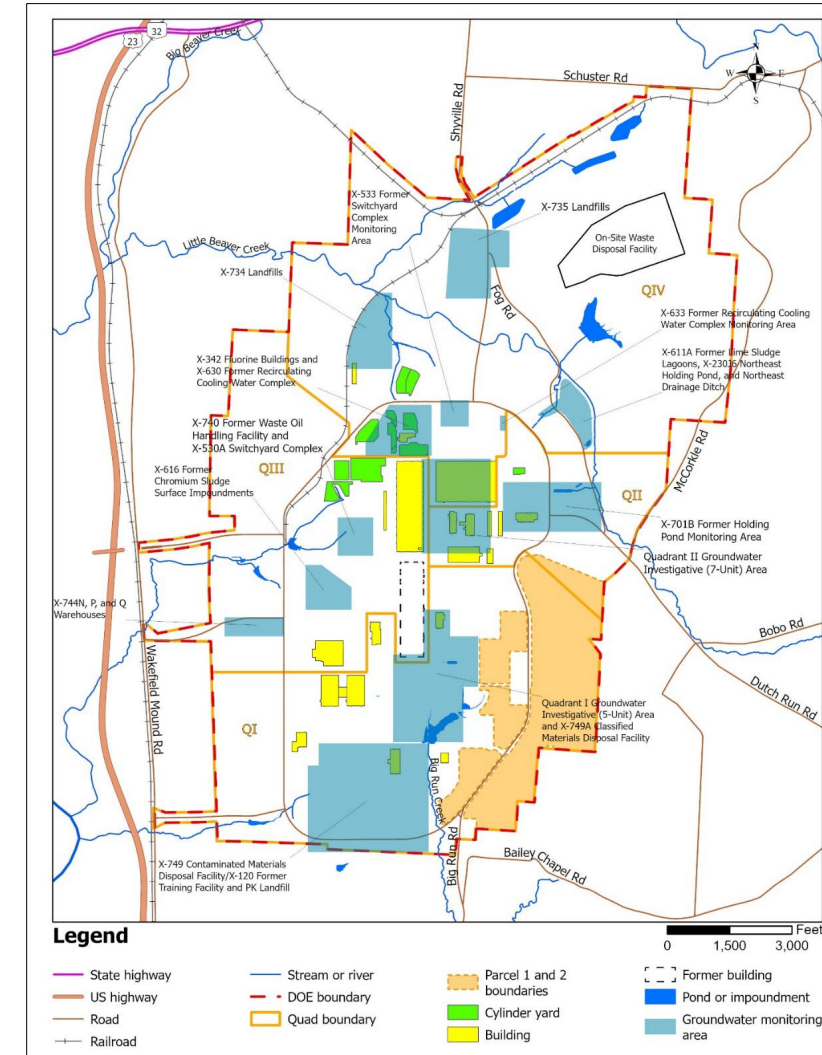
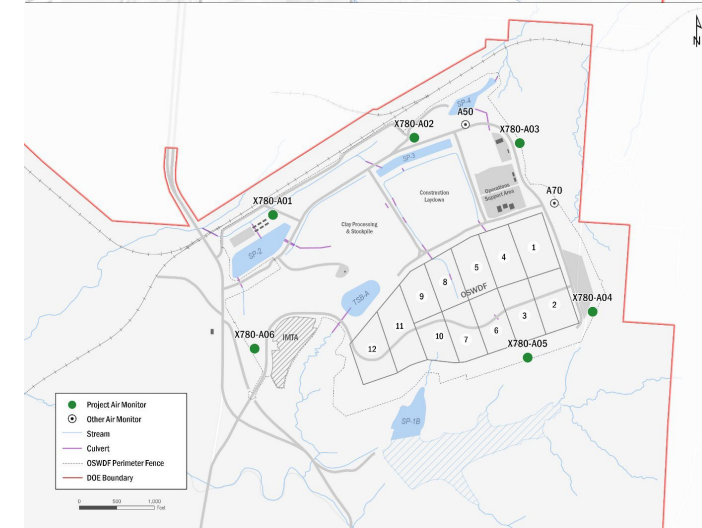
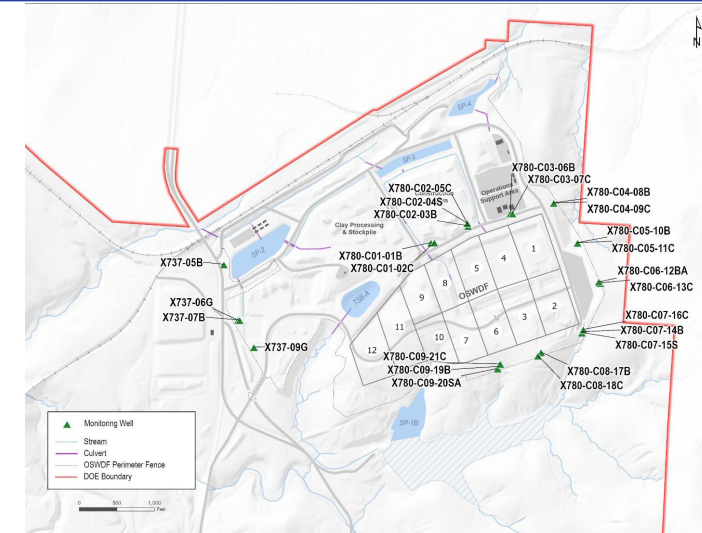


Figure 6.2 Groundwater monitoring areas from 2024 ASER



OSWDF Sampling

- Samples are collected to monitor the On-Site Waste Disposal Facility (OSWDF)
- Leachate management systems in operating cells
- Groundwater
- Surface water
- Storm water discharges from sediment ponds
- Ambient air
- External radiation



Figures 4.2 and 6.1 from 2024 OSWDF Annual Project Status Report



2024 Environmental Risk Summary

- The sampling results are compiled for a dose calculation
- The calculated radiation dose that could be received by a member of the public from activities at the Portsmouth Site was 0.088 millirem (mrem), compared to the DOE annual dose limit of 100 mrem

RELATIVE DOSES FROM RADIATION SOURCES

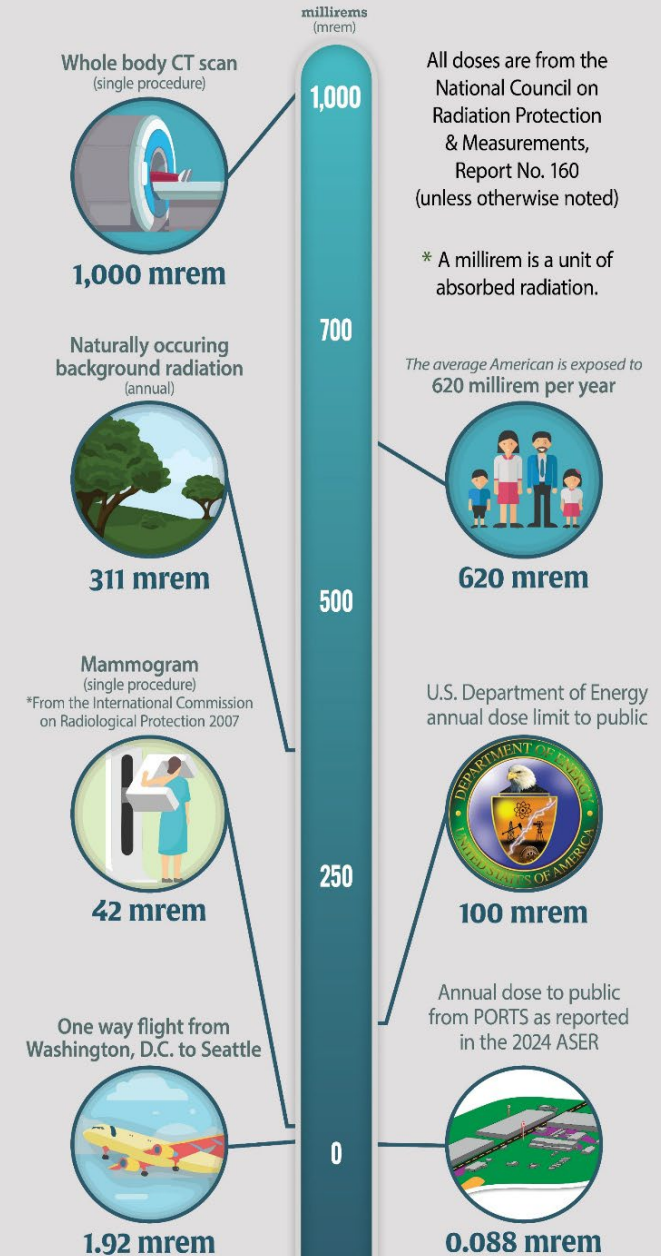


Figure ES.2. Relative doses from radiation sources from 2024 ASER

2024 Environmental Summary

- Notice of Violation from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency – June 27, 2024
 - Additional drum labeling was required and added as needed.
 - Determined the violations were resolved and no further actions necessary
- Notice of Violation from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency – September 26, 2024
 - Exceedances of the daily and monthly permit limitations for total suspended solids at NPDES Outfall 005
 - Remediations were applied and determined that the issue was addressed

Date	DOE Contractor	Agency	Type	Notice of Violation
June 27	FBP	Ohio EPA	RCRA compliance	Yes
July 11	FBP	Ohio EPA	Closed solid waste management units and solid waste landfills	None
September 26	FBP	Ohio EPA	NPDES compliance	Yes
November 7	MCS	Ohio EPA	RCRA compliance	None

Table 2.6 Environmental inspections of DOE activities at PORTS for 2024 from 2024 ASER



Public Outreach – ASER Summary Mailer

Protecting Our Employees, Community, and Environment

The U.S. Department of Energy is dedicated to ensuring cleanup of the former U.S. Department of Energy Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) is safe for our workers, neighbors and environment.



The Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) summarizes the environmental monitoring and compliance activities at the PORTS Site for 2024.

The U.S. Department of Energy is responsible for the environmental cleanup of the former gaseous diffusion facility which enriched uranium for defense and commercial uses.

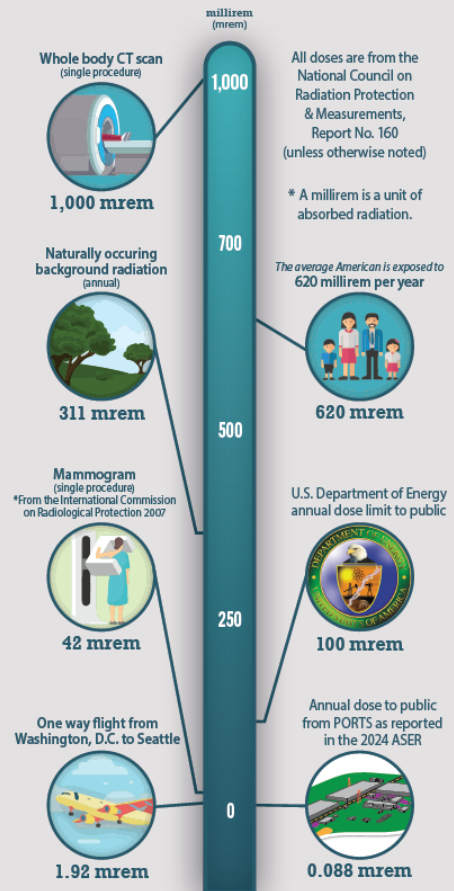
ASER Summary

Information on more than 5,000 samples that provide over 100,000 environmental sampling results collected on and around the PORTS Site.

- All radiological results are below limits set by U.S. and Ohio environmental laws.
- Includes data from air, water, soil, sediment, vegetation, wildlife, crops, milk and eggs.
- The average American receives 620 millirems of radiation in one year from natural and man-made sources; the annual dose from the Portsmouth plant is 0.088 millirem.



RELATIVE DOSES FROM RADIATION SOURCES



What did sampling find?

Environmental data published in the 2024 ASER is consistent with previous years indicating that radionuclides, metals, and other chemicals released by PORTS have minimal effect on human health and the environment. All radiological results found are below the limits set by state and federal environmental laws.

But radiation levels are not zero?

That's right, because radiation occurs everywhere. Most occurs naturally, it's called background radiation. Some sources of background radiation include natural minerals, radon in the air and potassium in food.

According to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, the average American is exposed to 620 millirem per year. About half of that comes from background radiation, the rest comes from human-made radiation like diagnostic medical tools and equipment, even some watches, clocks and smoke detectors.

The Department of Energy has established a total public annual dose limit of 100 millirems per year above background.

The 2024 ASER reports the total annual dose was much less at 0.088 millirem per year.



Public Outreach – Print

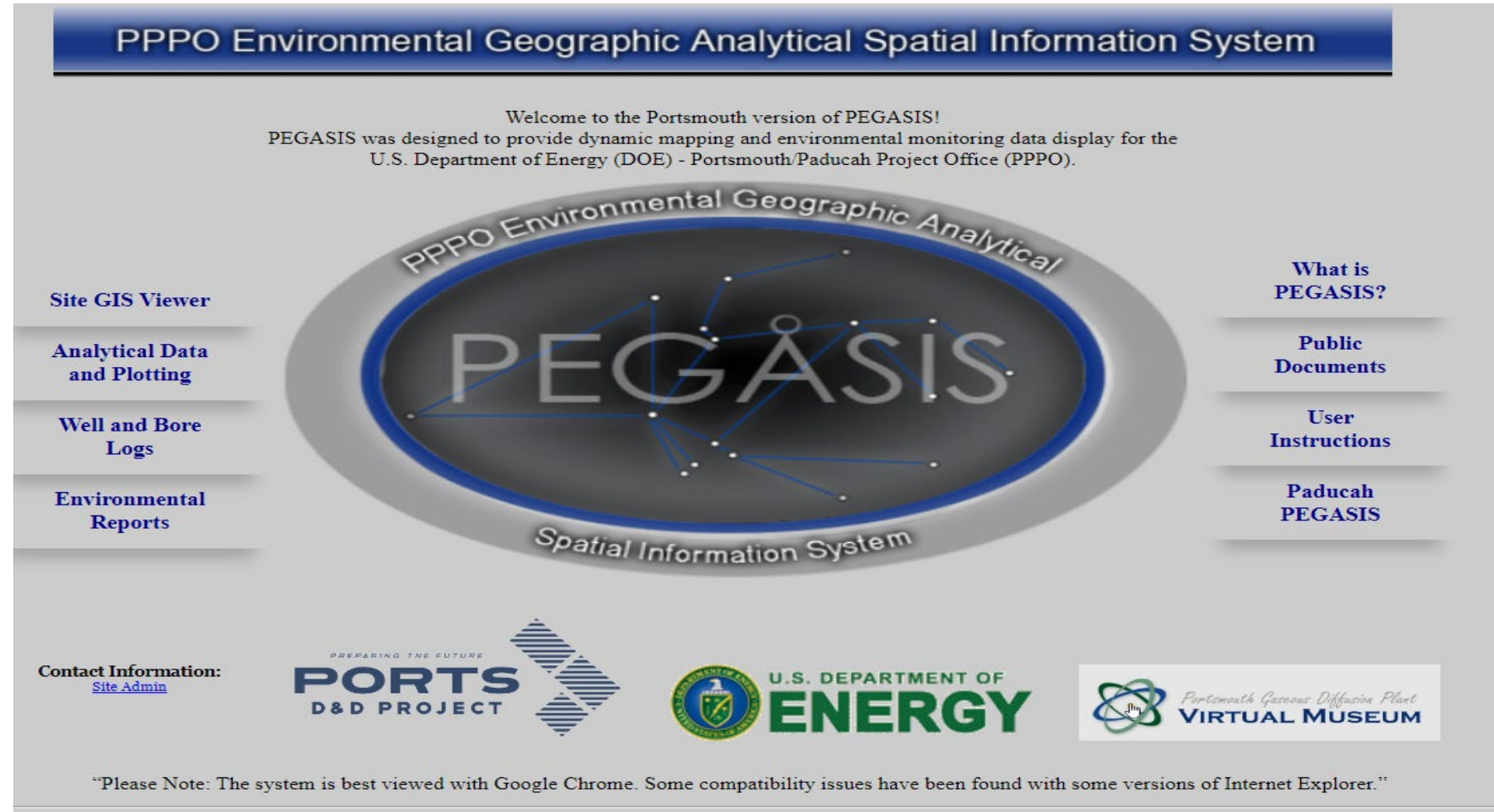
Printed copies of the full ASER report available at:

- Public libraries in Pike, Ross, Jackson, & Scioto counties
- DOE Environmental Information Center at the OSU Endeavor Center



Public Outreach – Online

- Online version:
energy.gov/pppo
- Detailed data:
pegasis.ports.pppo.gov/pegasis



PPPO Environmental Geographic Analytical Spatial Information System

Welcome to the Portsmouth version of PEGASIS!
PEGASIS was designed to provide dynamic mapping and environmental monitoring data display for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) - Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (PPPO).

Site GIS Viewer

Analytical Data and Plotting

Well and Bore Logs

Environmental Reports

What is PEGASIS?

Public Documents

User Instructions

Paducah PEGASIS

Contact Information:
[Site Admin](#)

PORTS D&D PROJECT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant VIRTUAL MUSEUM

“Please Note: The system is best viewed with Google Chrome. Some compatibility issues have been found with some versions of Internet Explorer.”



Student ASER

- Partnership with Ohio University (OU) Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service to summarize 2024 ASER
- Pike County Student ASER – 15 years
 - Pike County CTC
- Regional ASER – 3 years
 - Portsmouth West High School

*2025 U.S. Department of Energy
PORTS Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER):
Student Summary*



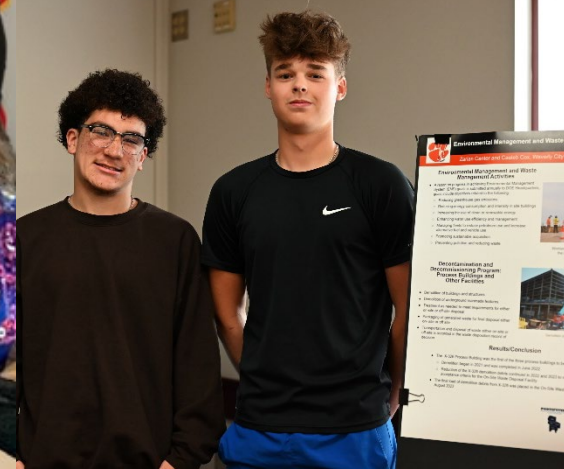
Student ASER

- Goals:
 - Educational Outreach
 - Skill Development
 - Environmental Awareness
 - Career Exploration
 - Community Engagement



Student ASER Expo

- Students create academic posters and present to the public
- Visit OU to perform testing in their laboratory and to visit an OU Student Expo





U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY

Appendix 2

Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)

Kevin Shoemaker



SODI's Mission

- SODI is the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative
- Community Reuse Organization (CRO) for the DOE Reservation at Piketon
- Regional Impact
- Develop Partnerships
- Jobs/Wealth Creation
- Site Re-use

Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)

Developing an overall plan for site reindustrialization

Coordination of all activities at the site

Optimize the parcel transfers and launch pilot projects that will commence the development of an Integrated Energy System (IES)



Infrastructure

- Regional
 - Plant rests at the intersection of two major four-lane divided highways
 - U.S. 23 is a national north-south highway
 - Ohio 32 is a substantial corridor from Cincinnati to Parkersburg, W.Va.
- On-site
 - Substantial network of roads connecting all portions of the plant site
- Rail
 - Twelve miles of rail line on site
 - Connects to Norfolk Southern Heartland Corridor main line



Infrastructure

- Power
 - Connection to the national grid
- Natural Gas
 - Connected to the main transmission line to Pike Natural Gas
 - 8-inch line
- Water
 - Raw water
 - Two well fields
 - Designed for ~40 million gallons per day
 - Site usage is less than 2 million gallons per day
- Potable water
 - On-site system designed for 5 million gallons per day

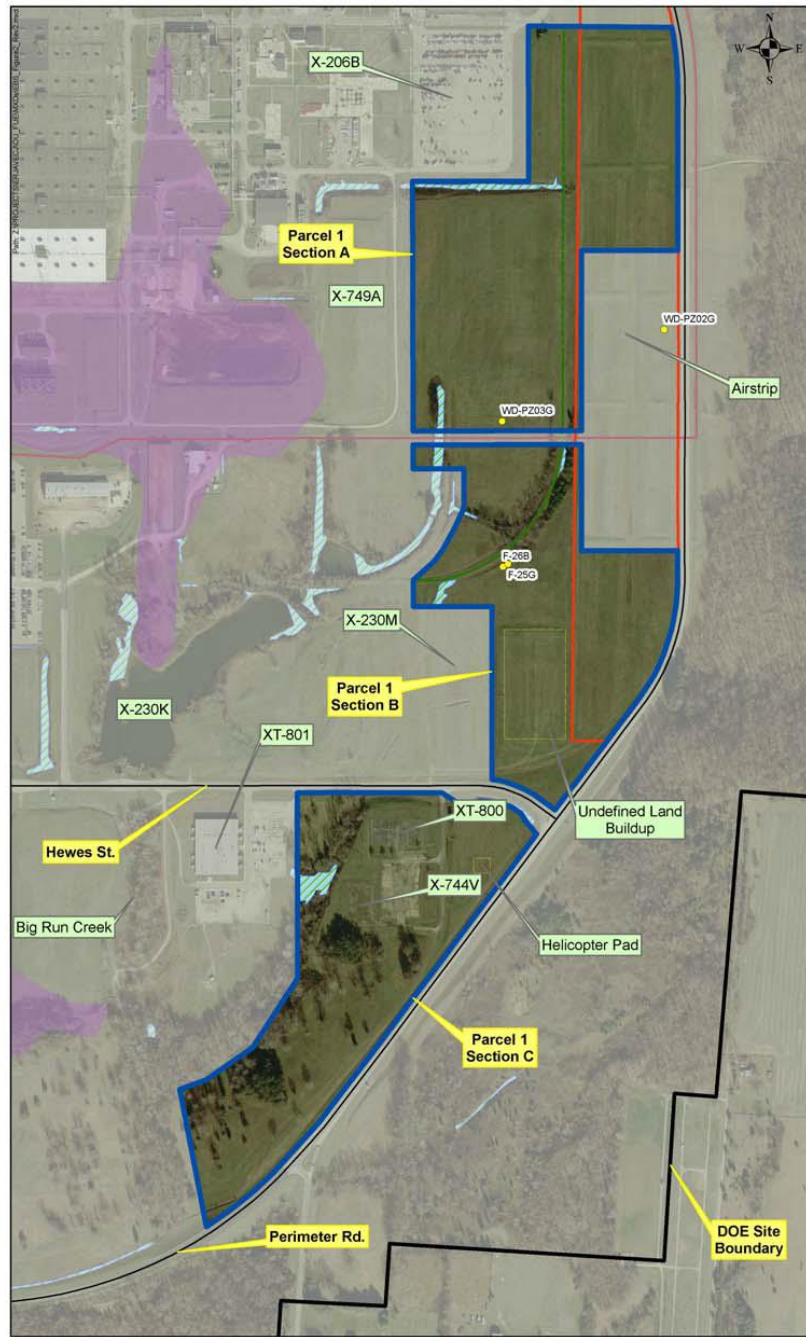
Operational Readiness



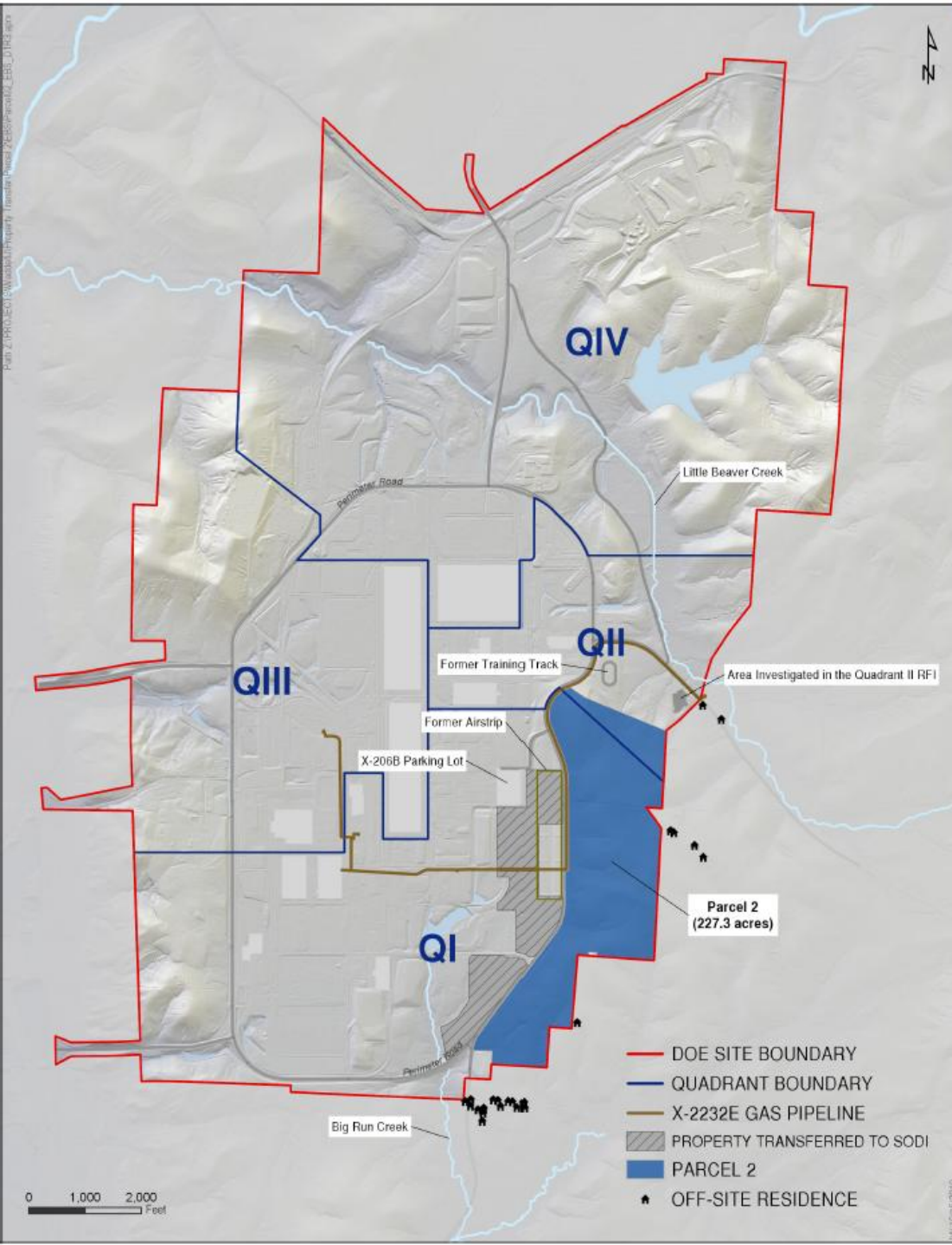
- The Portsmouth Site has an established Emergency Management Program:
 - Dedicated Emergency Operations Center
 - Designated Joint Public Information Center
 - Established procedures and training program
 - NRC-required biennial exercise
 - On-site security personnel
 - Guard force
- Other attributes related to nuclear readiness include:
 - Nuclear-trained workforce
 - Active on-site DOE and NRC nuclear operations
 - On-site, nuclear-trained fire protection personnel
 - On-site, nuclear-trained EMS personnel
 - Mutual Aid agreements in place with local first responders



Parcel 1: 80 acres

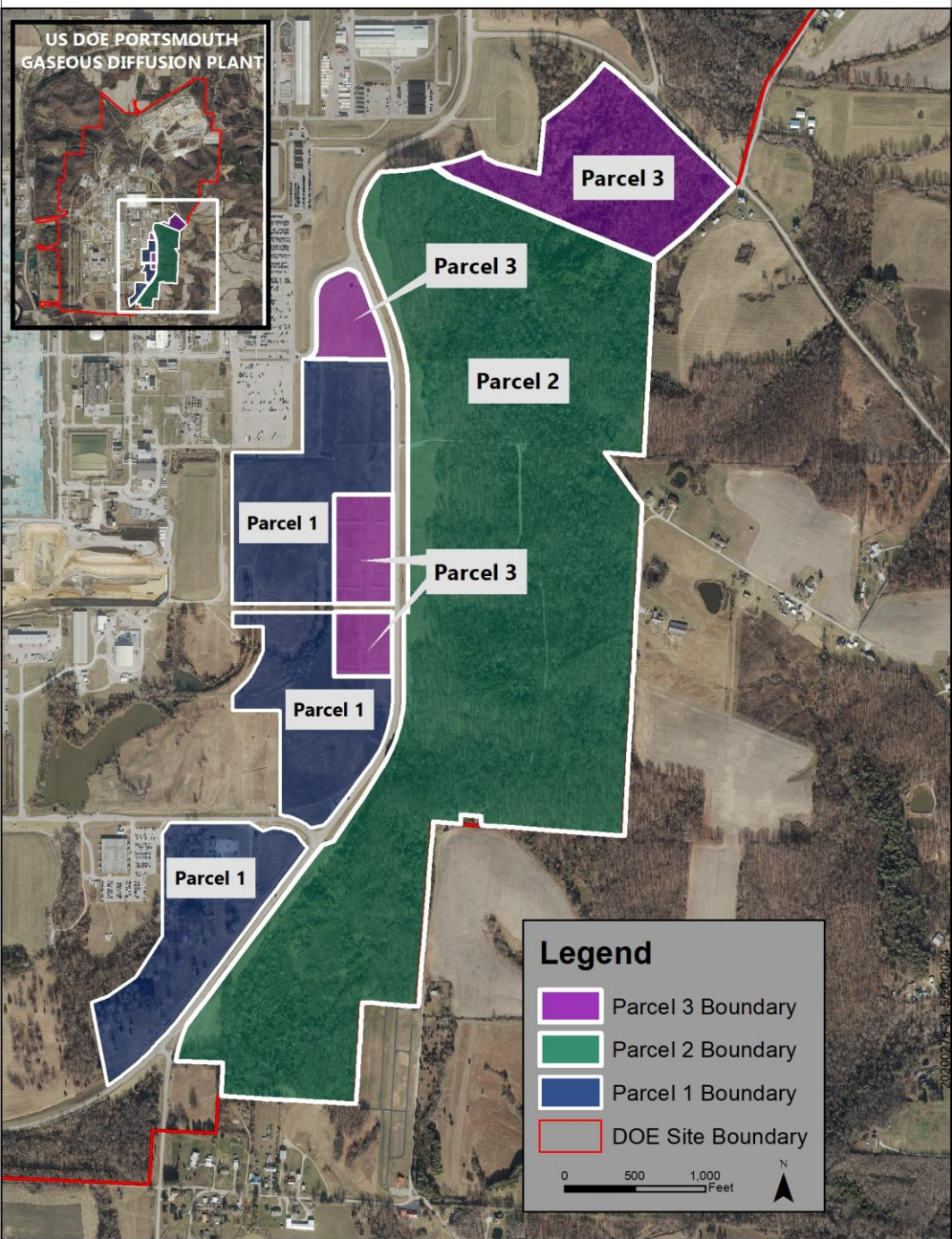


Parcel 2: 226 acres



January 2023





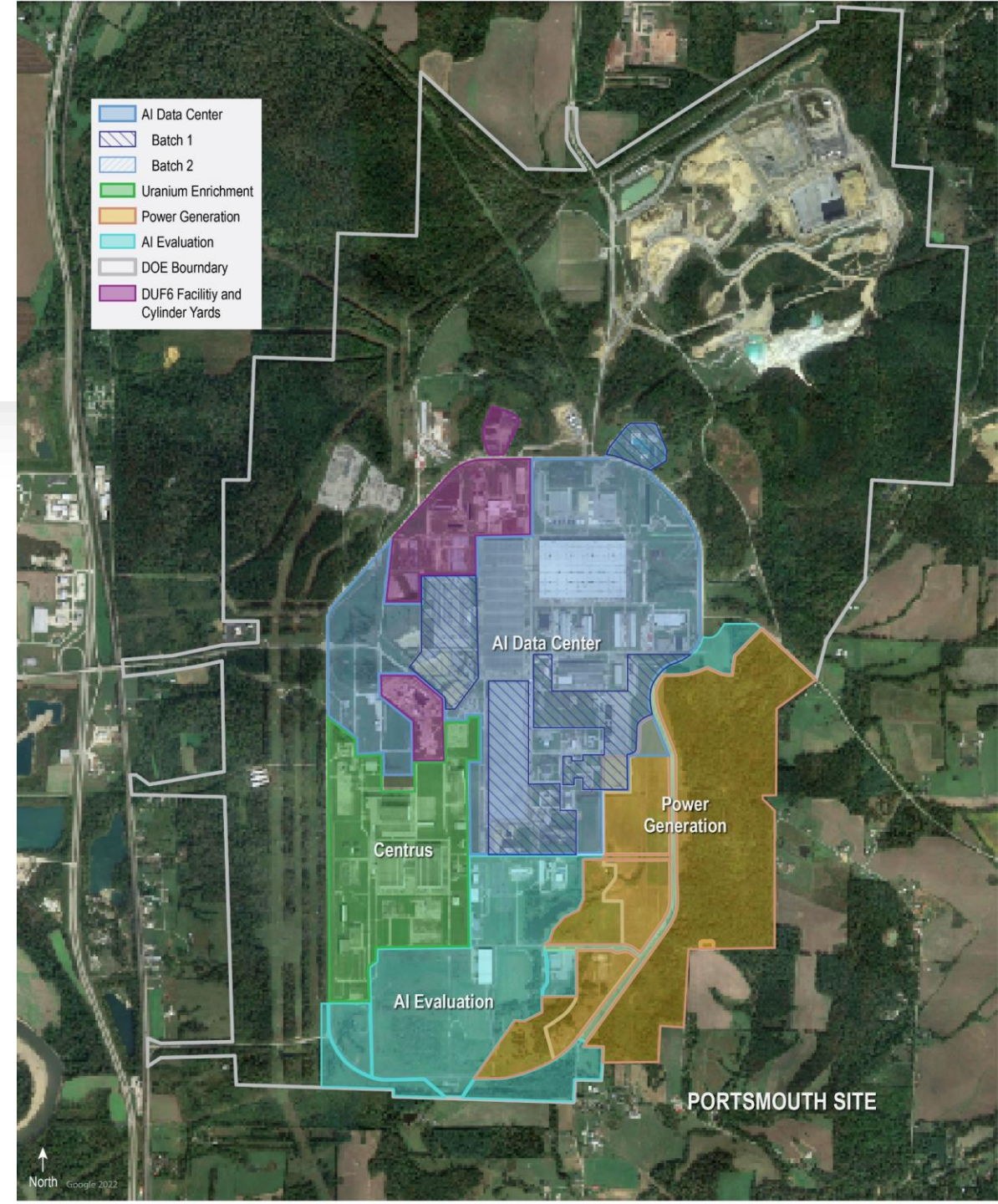
Parcel 3: April 2025



January 2023

Future Vision

- Utilize lease options
- Combining AI data center energy needs with power generation
- Nuclear remediation to nuclear renaissance



Questions

Kevin Shoemaker

Phone: 614-327-3391

Email: sodilaw@outlook.com

Appendix 3



*Portsmouth EM Site Specific
Advisory Board*

Chair

Donna Carson

Vice Chair

Herman Potter

Board Members

Dave Adams
Sam Brady
Tonia Brown
Angel Glass
Chandler Grooms
John Hemmings
Mike Milam
Lisa Pfeifer
Beth Workman

Deputy Designated

Federal Official

DOE Federal Coordinator

Greg Simonton

SUPPORT SERVICES

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Recommendation 26-01: Budget and Funding Priorities to Support Coordinated Cleanup, Reindustrialization, and Regional Planning in Response to Emerging Large-Scale Energy and Data Infrastructure Development

BACKGROUND:

The Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB) continues to provide advice and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) regarding community priorities relevant to Jackson, Pike, Ross and Scioto counties as site budgets are developed. As outlined in Recommendation 24-01, the Portsmouth Site is in a historically economically challenged region of Southeastern Ohio where workforce continuity, infrastructure readiness, and long-term economic diversification remain critical.

The Board is grateful to DOE and the current Administration for their leadership in helping to position the Portsmouth Site for large scale reindustrialization and for supporting the conditions that have enabled transformative private-sector interest in the region.

While planning and preparation for reindustrialization have been underway for more than a decade, no economic development organization or local government could have anticipated the sheer magnitude of the currently proposed investment associated with a large-scale data center campus and supporting energy infrastructure at the Portsmouth Site. This development, described by some as potentially one of the largest projects of its kind in the world, represents a generational opportunity for Southern Ohio.

At the same time, the scale and pace of this potential investment introduce significant challenges that require immediate attention and coordinated action.

The PORTS SSAB reaffirms the priorities outlined in Recommendation 24-01 and offers the following updated and expanded recommendations for DOE consideration in future budgeting and funding decisions.

The Board continues to support the following long-standing priorities concerning the environmental remediation program and future use of the DOE site:

- Continue to investigate a path forward for metals recycling, including building upon successful nickel recovery and segmentation activities.
- Maintain and update infrastructure to support future reindustrialization.
- Transfer or lease property and establish utility use agreements to support development including the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI).
- Prepare for modification of the DOE baseline to align cleanup activities with the PORTS Site Strategic Plan and redevelopment opportunities.
- Continue recycling efforts through the DOE-SODI Asset Transition Agreement.
- Support workforce development and training programs for D&D, energy, environmental technology, and future site uses.

The Board also reiterates its support for DOE's continued involvement in growing the region by utilizing its resources to help plan for future growth, continuing to promote collaborative work between federal, state and local parties; and facilitating preparation for future workforce and site development needs both on and off site:

- Accelerated funding approaches for the Portsmouth Site.
- Inflation-adjusted funding to maintain stable project execution.
- Continued investment through Community Commitment Plans.
- Coordination with state agencies, economic development entities, and labor organizations.
- Recognition of the four-county regional economic development collaboration.
- Expedited property transfer or lease to sustain development momentum.

Recommendation: In response to the scale of future development planned for the Portsmouth Site and the need to position the region as a partner in the developments including the acceleration of cleanup to meet the needs of the private investors looking to reindustrialize the site, the PORTS SSAB recommends:

1. Allocate Dedicated Funding for Immediate, Fast-Moving Regional Planning

Where applicable, DOE should provide funding to enable immediate and coordinated regional planning efforts across Scioto, Pike, Ross, and Jackson counties; ensure planning efforts move at a pace consistent with private-sector development timelines; and utilize DOE's long-standing relationship with Ohio University and other regional institutions to help lead and support these planning efforts.

2. Support Infrastructure Expansion Beyond the Site Boundary

Board members recognize that while on-site infrastructure may be addressed by DOE and private developers, off-site infrastructure needs present significant challenges. DOE should support planning and funding strategies to improve roadways and transportation corridors to accommodate an estimated 30,000+ construction workers. DOE

has shown the ability to coordinate with federal and state agencies to access infrastructure funding and grants which would help expedite this project.

3. Prepare Communities for Rapid Population and Workforce Growth

DOE and its contractors should support regional strategies to ensure adequate community anchor institutions are available to support construction and employment needs for the large-scale projects slated for the Portsmouth Site. A regional plan is necessary to support adequate available housing, healthcare capacity, educational resources and school system readiness, law enforcement and public safety services, and food access and commercial services. It's imperative that all stakeholders work together to ensure communities are appropriately "right-sized" to manage this influx while maintaining quality of life for existing residents.

4. Enable Coordinated Regional Economic Planning

As new industries enter the region, it's critical that DOE, along with its regional partners, promote high-level, collaborative planning across jurisdictions to ensure the region shares in the success of the project. Such coordination includes alignment between DOE, state agencies, local governments, and economic development organizations and supports access to federal and state grant funding to implement regional strategies.

5. Expand Workforce Development for Both Construction and Long-Term Operations

DOE should be an active participant in preparing local high school students, displaced workers, and young adults to take advantage of near-term construction employment opportunities simultaneously developing training pipelines for long-term operational roles associated with data center and energy facility operations, and coordinating workforce initiatives with unions, educational institutions, and state workforce programs to maximize local participation.

6. Protect Community and Environmental Outcomes

As the Department has done throughout the last several decades, DOE should continue to ensure continued coordination between site cleanup activities and new industrial development. With expanded environmental monitoring and public transparency as a cornerstone, DOE should evaluate and mitigate cumulative impacts to protect the health and well-being of residents in Scioto, Pike, Ross, and Jackson counties.

Appendix 4

SSAB STATEMENT

April 21, 2026

Contrary to what the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) would lead you to believe, PORTS and the surrounding areas are among the most radioactively contaminated sites in America. Study after study of the community has consistently found above background levels of plutonium, neptunium and uranium, as well as other highly radioactive elements.

In a March 2024 study done by the governmental Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), ATSDR found that the average annual net concentration of Neptunium-237, Plutonium-239/240 and all variants of Uranium isotopes from DOE's air monitor A41A, across from Zahn's Corner Middle School, were **all above background levels** for the entire five-year period from 2016 to 2020.

The ATSDR report followed the April 2019 findings by Dr. Michael Ketterer of plutonium, neptunium and uranium in dust samples taken from Zahn's Corner Middle School, leading to its closure.

During the cold war, PORTS enriched uranium to the highest level and for the longest period of time of any enrichment facility in the U.S., enriching well above weapons grade. No U.S. enrichment facility turned out a greater amount of High Enriched Uranium (HEU) than PORTS.

The extensive production of this High Enriched Uranium led to more than 10 tons of radioactive and toxic gases being **intentionally** pumped into the atmosphere in what has been referred to as "Midnight Rockets". These high-pressure purges were done to remove uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) and other radioactive impurities from the system. The gases often settled nearby, causing environmental contamination as well as major health hazards and doing irreparable harm to community residents.

Although the ATSDR has never performed even one epidemiological study, multiple such studies of the Piketon area by the Radiation and Public Health Project have found among other things, cancer death rates 50% above the national average and the highest of all 88 Ohio counties, all-cause mortality 85% above the U.S. rate, with those between 25 and 54 being more than double the U.S. average (106%).

Yet, even before a clean-up of the PORTS site is complete, DOE is at it once again; enriching uranium to the highest level in the U.S., encouraging the creation of multiple nuclear reactors and generating tons of uranium oxide to be used in the production of nuclear weapons.

Clearly, DOE finds the Piketon community to be an acceptable sacrifice zone!

Lee Blackburn
Former member,
PORTS SSAB

Appendix 5

APPENDIX

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Gina Doyle, and I'm here representing Don't Dump On Us and concerned members of this community. We are here because what is happening at this site is not just about cleanup—it's about our health, our families, and the future of this community. And right now, there is a clear gap between what is happening and what the public is being told. We are watching demolition move forward, and we are hearing real concerns about dust, airborne contamination, and how materials are being handled. Yet we are expected to trust that everything is safe without clear, consistent, and timely communication. That is not acceptable. Trust must be earned through transparency—and right now, that transparency is not where it needs to be. At the same time, we are seeing properties being bought out in connection with this site. That raises serious concerns. Buyouts don't just affect individual properties—they change communities. They impact families, stability, and the long-term footprint of this site. And many residents feel like these conversations are happening around them, not with them. If expansion is part of the plan—whether directly or indirectly—then the public deserves to hear that clearly and upfront. We should not have to piece this together. We deserve to know what the long-term plan is, what this site is becoming, and how it will impact the people who live here. Our concerns are not complicated: We want to know what is in the air during demolition. We want to know what is staying here and what is leaving. And we want to know that monitoring and emergency systems will work when it matters most. So here is what we are asking for: Clear, plain-language communication. Real transparency about current actions and future plans. Independent verification where possible. And meaningful public involvement before decisions are made—not after. We are paying attention. We are showing up. And we are not going away. Because even if this board is advisory, your recommendations carry weight—and we will hold you accountable for how you choose to use that influence on behalf of this community. Thank you. Gina Doyle DDOU ADM
PIKETON OHIO 740-935-9776 doylegina157@gmail.com