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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Construction and Operation of an Industrial Solid Waste Landfill
at Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Piketon, Ohio**

AGENCY: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ACTION: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has completed an environmental assessment (DOE/EA-0767) of the proposed construction and operation of an industrial solid waste landfill at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS), Piketon, Ohio. The proposed action would involve construction of an area-fill design landfill using a phased approach. The new landfill would be located within the boundaries of the PORTS and would receive paper products, demolition debris, plastics, garbage, yard wastes, wood, fly ash, and asbestos. Based on the results of the analysis reported in the EA, DOE has determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not necessary, and DOE is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF EA AND FONSI: Copies of the EA and FONSI may be reviewed at the following address and obtained from:

Mr. Eugene W. Gillespie, Site Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 700
Piketon, Ohio 45661-0700
Telephone: (614) 897-5010.

INFORMATION ON THE NEPA PROCESS: For information on the NEPA process, please contact:

Ms. Patricia W. Phillips, NEPA Compliance Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Protection Division, SE-311
200 Administration Road
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830-8739
Telephone: (423) 576-4200.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Waste Management, proposes to construct and operate a solid waste landfill within the boundary of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS), Piketon, Ohio. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide PORTS with additional landfill capacity for non-hazardous and asbestos wastes. The proposed action is needed to support continued operation of PORTS, which generates non-hazardous waste on a daily basis and asbestos waste intermittently.

ALTERNATIVES: Three alternatives are evaluated in this environmental assessment (EA): the proposed action (construction and operation of the X-737 landfill), no-action, and offsite shipment of industrial solid wastes for disposal.

If no action is taken, the landfill presently in use, X-735, would continue to operate until it has reached capacity; at the current waste generation rate, this is estimated to be late in 1996. At that time, X-735 would be closed, and PORTS would lack a disposal facility for its non-hazardous and asbestos wastes. (Closure of X-735 is would be the subject of a future environmental review and is not part of this proposed action.) Offsite disposal would require that wastes be shipped separately to a non-hazardous waste disposal facility and an asbestos disposal facility. A potential drawback to offsite shipment is the cost associated with screening PORTS wastes for specific contaminants prior to shipment in order to meet offsite facility disposal criteria.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: Results of impacts analyses are as follows:

Land Use

There would be no adverse impacts because the landfill would be constructed and operated in an industrial area.

Geology and Soils

Development of the landfill would alter local topography. Based on consultation with the Pike County office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, no prime farmland would be affected by the proposed action.

Air Quality

Fugitive dust and gaseous exhaust would result from vehicles, heavy equipment, and traffic during construction and operation of the landfill. Impacts would be short-term, sporadic, and localized in the immediate area of the landfill. Pollutants would dilute and disperse in the atmosphere as they

travel offsite. Thus, offsite ambient air quality would not be adversely affected.

Water Resources

Minor erosion and sedimentation could occur from soils disturbance. Siltation could temporarily increase suspended solids in Little Beaver Creek and nearby tributaries. The proposed landfill would be lined and would have a leachate collection system, in accordance with State of Ohio regulations. Therefore, leachate migration to surface waters and groundwater would not be expected to result in adverse impacts.

Biota

Less than 1% of forested land within a 5-mile radius of PORTS would be removed by the proposed action. Wildlife at the proposed landfill site would be displaced to nearby similar habitat, which is abundant. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicates that no threatened or endangered species or critical habitat would be affected by the proposed action.

Floodplain/Wetlands

The proposed site is not located within a floodplain, and no wetlands would be affected.

Cultural Resources

The proposed project would not affect any sites on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or archaeological resources. Concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officer was obtained.

Socioeconomics

The local economy and infrastructure would not be impacted by the proposed action because force would come from the current PORTS work force.

Environmental Justice

The proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts, and thus would not disproportionately affect minority populations near Portsmouth.


Health and Safety

PORTS workers would be exposed to standard industrial hazards associated with the operation of heavy machinery and landfill equipment. The proposed

action would not present any unique hazards to occupational health and safety.

DETERMINATION: Based on the findings of this EA, DOE has determined that the proposed construction and operation of an industrial solid waste landfill at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant would not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the context of the National Environmental Policy Act. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Issued by the U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, this 25th day of October, 1995.



James C. Hall
Manager, Oak Ridge Operations Office