



Department of Energy

Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office
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JUL 31 2014

DISTRIBUTION LIST

PPPO-03-2392594-14

Dear Madams/Sirs:

**TRANSMITTAL OF THE PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORTS ON
SELECTED AREAS RESULTING IN IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
AT THE PORTSMOUTH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT, PIKE COUNTY, OHIO**

One archaeological report is enclosed for your information: *Phase II Archaeological Investigations of 33PK347, 33PK348, 33PK349, 33PK371, and 33PK372 within the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS), Pike County, Ohio.*

Beginning in 1996, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has conducted a number of cultural resource surveys at PORTS. The surveys were conducted for purposes of identifying historic properties, pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In 2011, DOE initiated additional archaeological surveys with the intention of completing a uniform identification process for the PORTS reservation. The field work was completed in late 2012.

For survey management purposes, PORTS was divided into six areas (areas 1-6) with further subdivision of areas 4, 5 and 6 into areas 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, and 6B. The survey work resulted in preparation of six Phase I prehistoric survey reports for survey areas 1-6, as well as one Phase II prehistoric survey report on survey areas 2 and 6B. The Phase II summary report for Area 2 and Area 6B is attached.

As indicated above, historic properties were identified in the areas surveyed and documented in the enclosed summary report which exclude sensitive archaeological site location information. Since 2011, DOE has been evaluating waste management solutions for PORTS and one of the alternatives being analyzed (using the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act [CERCLA] process) involves on-site disposal. The most technically suitable location for a potential disposal cell is near two of the historic properties. Project conceptual engineering design has taken the presence of the historic properties into consideration, should an on-site disposal cell be the selected remedy, and design changes have been made to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects.

In one instance, the conceptual engineering design change has enabled the historic property to be avoided. DOE employed information from the archaeological surveys and investigations to avoid direct effects to this property. Concerning the other historic property, avoidance is not practical and mitigation measures are being developed should an on-site disposal cell be the selected remedy. The conceptual engineering design in consideration of the presence of historic properties was discussed in the December 10, 2012 consulting party meeting, in the February 2013, and the June 2014 National Historic Preservation Act Activity Update Newsletter.

A discussion of the cultural resources in the potential disposal cell area, the potential effects, and the proposed mitigation to address those effects will be included in the *Proposed Plan for the Site-wide Waste Disposal Evaluation Project* waste management project, should an on-site disposal cell be the selected remedy. The Proposed Plan is a public document, currently in development, and is planned for release for public review in the late summer/fall of 2014. DOE will notify members of the public, including the consulting parties, about the availability of the Proposed Plan, the public review period, and how to provide comments.

Additionally, information, data, interpretations, and conclusions concerning identified cultural resources contained within these reports, as well as earlier PORTS cultural resource reports, are being incorporated into a *Comprehensive Summary Report of Cultural Resource Investigations Conducted at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS Facility), Scioto and Seal Townships, Pike County, Ohio*. The above referenced report, which is in development, will include information on all temporal aspects of PORTS, from the prehistoric period to the historic-era to the DOE-era, and will be submitted to the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and consulting parties in the near future. This Comprehensive Report should be a useful resource in understanding and interpreting the overall history of the PORTS site.

The enclosed report is being provided to assist in your understanding of these survey areas and their resources, and to supplement the information that will be included in the forthcoming Proposed Plan and the Comprehensive Summary Report described above.

The SHPO and DOE have discussed the approach of providing this summary report to each of you in an effort to share archaeological information but also protect confidential site location details. We hope that you will find the summary report useful and helpful as you participate in the CERCLA process. Maintaining open lines of communication is a priority for DOE and SHPO. We believe that working together, DOE and SHPO can facilitate a strong engagement with all parties interested in historic preservation as we consider the Proposed Plan for the Site-wide Waste Disposal Evaluation Project and the effects to cultural resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Lawson at 740-897-2112.

Sincerely,



Dr. Vincent Adams
Portsmouth Site Director
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office



Dr. David Snyder
Archaeology Reviews Manager
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosure:

Phase II Summary Report for the Archaeological Investigations of 33PK347, 33PK348, 33PK349, 33PK371, and 33PK372 within the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS), Pike County, Ohio

cc w/enclosure:

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