



Recommendation 09-01
January 8, 2009

Approved by majority at the Site Specific Advisory Board Meeting, January 8, 2009

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*Support provided by
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RECOMMENDATION: PROPOSED REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROVISIONS IN THE PORTSMOUTH DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING

BACKGROUND

As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) commitment to remediate the former Portsmouth (PORTS) Gaseous Diffusion Plant (GDP) in Piketon, OH, DOE is preparing a Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Management and Integration Solicitation for the Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) of the GDP. The objective of this acquisition is for the D&D of the GDP as it transitions from Cold Shutdown to the D&D Project. DOE has stated that the scope of the contract will include the following: environmental investigation, characterization and remediation; waste management planning and disposition; Surveillance and Maintenance, D&D and remediation of approximately 40 initial facilities, including the X-333 process building; management and disposition of DOE nuclear materials; regulator and stakeholder involvement; and remediation of soils and groundwater.

RFPs and subsequent contracts at other DOE facilities often include a provision for community investment that is included in the contract. This is a common tool that is already in place in Los Alamos, Hanford and Oak Ridge, which have aided in the economic stabilization within these communities. Communities where DOE has consistently included these contract provisions demonstrate a marked difference in unemployment and poverty rates when compared to the local counties of Pike, Scioto, Ross and Jackson. The local community carries the ongoing environmental responsibility for hosting a nuclear site and should also experience the continued socioeconomic gains from hosting a site.

Currently the D&D of the PORTS GDP is funded in part by fees levied on utilities companies. In order to fund community investment contract provisions, monies beyond those currently planned should be made available to accelerate the cleanup of the site. Acceleration of the cleanup of the site is shown to significantly reduce overall costs of the DOE Environmental Management Program.

RECOMMENDATION

The Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) recommends that DOE's Draft RFP for D&D of the GDP provide support to the local community for regional economic development. The SSAB recommends:

- 1. DOE supplement its current revenue stream to accelerate the cleanup schedule for the PORTS GDP in order to strengthen the workforce and bolster the economy of Southern Ohio.**
- 2. As contracts and procurements come up for renewal, DOE will review the scopes of work to determine how best to meet mission requirements, while taking the local economy and the local business community into consideration.**
- 3. The following provisions be included and made an integral part of the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) and/or the final RFP and resulting contract issued by DOE site for the D&D project at the DOE site in Piketon, Ohio.**

A. Employment Continuity

In keeping with the intent of the Section 3161 of the Fiscal Year 1993 Defense Authorization Act to minimize the impact of changes to the workforce at DOE Sites, the contractor will retain the existing (non-managerial) workforce, maintain existing wage and benefit programs, provide pension continuity; and recognize the collective bargaining agreement for the hourly workforce. The local workforce is highly trained to work in the nuclear industry and has consistently operated the facility in a safe, secure, efficient and cost effective manner. Any disruption in transitioning the workforce could result in compromising the health and safety of the community.

B. Regional Purchasing Program

In an effort to build a strong supplier base with southern Ohio businesses (within a 50 mile radius) to purchase goods and services, DOE shall direct contractors to provide substantive preferences to southern Ohio businesses, such as pricing preferences, supplier assistance, regional procurement advisory efforts, and a sustainable procurement strategy.

The Regional Purchasing Program shall include:

- A 5% adjustment factor added to the proposed total evaluated bid/cost of those qualified suppliers whose businesses do not meet the definition of a southern Ohio business.
- Contractors will actively participate with the local business alliances and associations, such as the Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Development Centers, and the Entrepreneur Signature Program, to help prepare southern Ohio businesses to compete effectively for subcontracts and purchase orders.

C. Community Support

Because DOE is committed to being a good steward of its host community, direct community investments are targeted toward the critical areas of economic development and charitable giving to the community in which the contractor works. Southern Ohio, and Pike County in particular, represents a low-income population that carries the federal Appalachian Regional Commission designation of “distressed county” and leads the state of Ohio in unemployment. Community support under this plan will strengthen the region, build capacity, and stabilize the economy which, in turn, will create a sustainable environment for ongoing DOE activities.

Economic development support shall include:

- Engineering and Design support to the Economic Development Community
- Short-term and Long-term Planning Assistance
- Reindustrialization Resources and Support
- Property Transfer Resources and Support
- Infrastructure Enhancement
- Project Development Assistance
- Funds for Economic Development Projects valued at \$800,000 per year for the length of the contract
- Placement of two Renewable and Alternative Energy Research, Development, Technology Transfer, or Component Manufacturing Programs in the southern Ohio region, preferably one at The Ohio State University South Centers at Piketon and one within an industrial park funded in part by the DOE 3161 program.

Charitable giving shall include the donation of time and services from the contractor’s employees to support community projects, such as school construction projects, community centers, libraries, recreation and parks facilities, youth development and mentoring programs, and community recycling programs.

Charitable Services/Giving shall include:

- **Project Management Services**
- **Short and Long-Term Plan Development, Project Development, Technical Assistance, and Engineering and Design**
- **\$1 for \$1 match of employee contributions toward worthwhile organizations such as United Way, the local food pantry and homeless shelter, gifts for foster children and senior citizens center activities.**

D. Education Outreach

Through the creation of the PORTS Site Specific Advisory Board, the DOE is determined to integrate public participation in its environmental management program operations, planning activities, and decision-making processes. Educational outreach programs can build the capacity of the local community to become informed participants in DOE's environmental decision making, a mutual benefit for the community and DOE. With only 14% of Pike County residents pursuing higher degrees, mostly due to financial barriers, direct investments in education can develop the people of southern Ohio into professionals, technical experts, and skilled laborers, a labor pool that can in turn fill the positions that will come available as a result of the D&D project.

Educational Outreach shall include:

- **10 scholarships awarded per year to local students for the length of the contract valued at \$10,000 per student accepted at a southern Ohio accredited college/university in an undergraduate degree program**
- **Adult workforce development programs to create the human resources necessary to support ongoing operations and clean-up activities at the PORTS**
- **Local secondary and higher education programs and training modules that focus on preparing local students for tomorrow's global and technical workforce**
- **Establish a partnership with the local school districts to advance math and science education by hosting field trips, conducting demonstrations, mentoring students, sponsoring teacher training programs, enhancing the curriculum, providing educational technology, software, and lab equipment, and participating in career awareness programs.**