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RECOMMENDATION: INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

BACKGROUND: Three process buildings of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Buildings X-326, 330 & 333) ceased operations in 2001 and went to cold standby mode. The cold standby phase of these facilities is now moving toward a cleanup and reuse phase. Also, in recent months, various ancillary sites such as the X-533 Switchyard, X-701B Groundwater Source Removal, X-633 Cooling Tower Complex, and several other sites have been razed and/or Decontaminated and Decommissioned (D&D). This accelerated D&D activity at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Reservation near Piketon, Ohio, has generated considerable demolition waste, hazardous waste, low-level radioactive waste, and mixed hazardous and radioactive waste. This has required the shipment of various types of wastes to selected sites in Nevada, Ohio, Texas, and Utah. Future D&D activity will also create considerable volumes of waste and debris with possibilities for recycling, or reuse of certain materials. There is also the possibility of future onsite disposal of some types of wastes and debris. As the D&D projects are completed, certain areas of land at the 3,700 acre Reservation may become suitable for other uses.

This accelerated D&D activity with increased temporary employment and opportunity for various reuse applications with significant economic potentials creates the need for all community leaders to be aware of what is happening and the potential for this site in future development. Any action taken will have impact on employment, business, and community services in at least the five county areas of Adams, Jackson, Pike, Ross, and Scioto for the next several decades.

There is a need for County Commissioners, Mayors, Township Trustees, and other community leaders to be aware of the DOE's Environmental Management (EM) strategy for D&D activities, future waste disposition, cleanup standards, and future land use since this can have community impact. The purpose and activities of the citizen EM Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) is to represent community interest and make recommendations to DOE. There is a need to establish periodic meetings with local officials to gain input and provide updated information as part of the SSAB Subcommittee function.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE EM SSAB recommends that a meeting be held with official representatives of all counties, cities, villages, and townships within the five county areas of Adams, Jackson, Pike, Ross, and Scioto to discuss the current D&D activities and future land use possibilities to help insure that constructive public comments are obtained.



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