PORTS SSAB

Portsmouth EM Site Specific Advisory Board

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SSAB Support for Enhanced Recycling Efforts:

The PORTS SSAB would like to thank the members of the Department of Energy, Fluor B&W and the various subcontractors for their assistance thus far. We find ourselves at a crossroads the likes of which Southern Ohio has not seen in well over 60 years. The local community rallied behind the Federal Government to manufacture a state of the art Gaseous Diffusion Enrichment facility and had a tremendous sense of pride in playing such a vital role in our nation's security. These efforts led directly to the end of the Cold War, producing vital components and materials that continue to protect our way of life through low cost energizing nuclear power generation and propelling the United States Navy to protect our military and commercial trade interests abroad.

We continue to urge transparent sharing of information in a straightforward manner on the part of the Department of Energy and the various contractors as we move through the Decommission and Demolition process. We realize these efforts are taking place at a transitional time and in a dynamic environment with political, economic, socio-economic and environmental interests at play. All of which may impact the total cost of any and all options being considered.

One of the main concerns we have is minimizing the footprint of any potential onsite disposal cell, while returning financial benefit and sustainable infrastructure to the local community. We believe large scale recycling to be a viable and realistic endeavor which will reap massive benefits to the taxpayer for generations to come. We recommend an aggressive and innovative recycling program as well as possible segregation of high value materials which current technology may not be able to recycle, but could potentially create a resource for future generations.

An aggressive recycling and reutilization effort on the part of the Department of Energy at the Portsmouth site could be used as the model, by which all future Decommissioning and Demolition projects would be measured. The economic benefit of infusing much needed development dollars should not be undersold as shown recently through the cooperative efforts to recycle materials from the switchyards and other facilities within the reservation. These efforts led to over $300,000 of grants being awarded by SODI to local communities to support much needed infrastructure improvements.

The many benefits of a state of the art recycling program include: reduction of any potential disposal cells footprint, reduced site legacy costs, more land available for potential redevelopment, reduction of tipping fees associated with disposal, reduced cost of liner materials, potential reduced production cost and environmental impact of newly manufactured materials as well as being able to fund a portion of the project through the revenue generated.

For all of the above mentioned reasons we strongly urge the Department of Energy to make recycling efforts the cog that the Decommissioning, Demolition and Disposal efforts will revolve. These efforts must include the following: 100% of recyclable materials shall and must be safely recycled in an environmentally considerate fashion, with particular focus on metals within the Portsmouth reservation. Only when direct costs of recycling these materials exceeds the cost associated with offsite disposal by more than 150% per ton, should recycling be considered cost prohibitive and no longer viable. Under these circumstances an exemption to a recycling requirement would be agreeable.

Both restricted and free release reuse options must be considered and fully utilized. Further we would like to see research and development efforts to uncover ways to remove the surface contamination on materials that if decontaminated could be reused in their existing form with little to no remanufacture or redesign allowing them to be released without restriction for commercial reuse, reducing costs and limiting any environmental impact.

These efforts must fully utilize economies of scale including possible massing of recyclable materials to reach the volumes of materials to maximize the return to the taxpayer, while providing an attractive business proposition to potential recyclers of these materials. There may be opportunities to bundle recyclable materials together to greatly increase the benefits and we strongly encourage these types of efforts to think outside the box. We would support the concept of a cutting edge recycling process facility onsite and would consider allowing recyclables from other sites being transported here for processing and rapid disposition back into the supply chain. Any storage of materials for processing should be kept to a minimal amount and should not exceed more than thirty days of feedstock on site.

To benefit recycling efforts across the Weapons Complex we strongly urge the Department of Energy to provide funding for research and development into recycling technologies that have shown themselves to be readily implementable and assist in the associated start up costs of these potentially viable recycling capabilities with the expectation that any funding to this end be provided to companies within close proximity to the Portsmouth site.

We look forward to working closely with the Department of Energy and the various contractors to make these recommendations reality.