



*Portsmouth EM Site Specific
Advisory Board*

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RECOMMENDATION 13-04: Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Input Providing Specific Guidance in the Creation of a Final Land Use Plan for the Entire Portsmouth Reservation that Incorporates Green Space, Aesthetics, and Future Reuse into the Entire Portsmouth Reservation.

BACKGROUND: The PORTS EM SSAB wishes to support the redevelopment and reuse of the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (GDP) site. Economic development and diversification is a goal endorsed by the community and members of the PORTS EM SSAB.

Nearly 60 years have passed since the construction of the PORTS GDP. Whether by purpose or accident, a greenbelt was left encompassing nearly the entire perimeter of the 3,700 acre reservation. Throughout the years, a rich and dynamic mosaic of habitats has developed (refer to the Ohio University [OU] habitat study and resulting map). Many of these habitats are critical to the flora and fauna found in them. Most notable are the mature hardwood forests, including groves of old growth trees, some several hundred years old. The PORTS EM SSAB believes it is important to the community and beneficial to maintain such habitat areas as green space and potential conservation areas.

RECOMMENDATION: The PORTS EM SSAB recommends that U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) fund an implementable land use plan for the entire reservation, as was done for the Miamisburg Mound Complex, resulting in a usable end state for a variety of reuse opportunities. It is important to establish clear goals for reuse while providing critical habitats for plants and animals. We request that this plan incorporate green space and potential conservation areas adding to the aesthetics as a component of design, and include, but not be limited to:

- A) Utility infrastructure and access.
- B) Identification of areas outside the perimeter road best suited for redevelopment.
- C) Preservation of sizable portions of the reservation as green space and potential conservation areas (*Results of the OU habitat study should be considered in the prioritization and consideration of such areas.*) *It is desirable to retain a more or less contiguous "green belt" whenever possible and avoid habitat fragmentation.*

- Old growth and mature hardwood forests
- Areas of high plant diversity and quality
- Critical habitat for wildlife and rare plants
- Wetlands
- Areas of cultural significance

D) Identification of areas where habitat restoration or enhancement (e.g., tree planting, high diversity prairie establishment and wetland creation) may benefit wildlife and adjacent habitats in conjunction with economic development opportunities.

E) Incorporation of plume excavations and borrow pits into the drainage plan and green space where practical and considerate of redevelopment.

We believe such a plan will benefit the community and DOE. By establishing clear, implementable goals now, costly future changes to the infrastructure may be avoided and the site may be left in a more attractive state for prospective tenants. A plan that will accommodate wildlife and preserve quality habitats could also provide areas for environmental mitigation and offsets.

Your consideration of this recommendation is appreciated and we anxiously await your response.

Thank you.