



Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant
Citizens Advisory Board

Recommendation: 10-05

Approved at the Citizens Advisory Board Meeting, July 15, 2010

Title: Further Path to Increase Public Education by Holding a Public Meeting at Heath High School Concerning Waste Disposal Options

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Background:

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1994. As a consequence of being placed on the NPL, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was required to commence cleanup of PGDP, in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Kentucky entered into the Federal Facility Agreement for PGDP in 1998 that established the regulatory framework for CERCLA projects at the PGDP. A variety of CERCLA waste is expected to be generated throughout the cleanup process. DOE is currently evaluating waste disposal alternatives to handle wastes generated under CERCLA actions at the PGDP. The disposition options include off-site disposal, on-site disposal or a combination of both on-site and off-site disposal.

The CERCLA cleanup process designates specific times where public involvement is required. DOE presented its plan for public involvement in the CERCLA waste disposal alternatives evaluation at the March, 2008 Citizens Advisory Board Working Session which included two additional public education opportunities. DOE has asked the CAB for recommendations to improve public involvement and communication. In July, 2008 the CAB issued Recommendation 08-05: **Path to Increase Public Education and Information Gathering Concerning Waste Disposal Options.** In that Recommendation, the CAB outlined a plan for conducting multiple public meetings to enhance the public understanding and input for waste disposal options in addition to the meeting originally listed in DOE's Public Involvement Plan. Since then, the Department of Energy held public meetings at the Cherry Civic Center in November, 2008 as well as in March, 2009 at Maiden Alley Cinema concerning waste disposal options at the PGDP and has plans to conduct another public meeting on waste disposal options in 2010 to be held at Heath High School.

Recommendation:

The Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE continue their public education effort by soon conducting the planned public meeting at Heath High School. Such a meeting would ensure that those most affected by a potential CERCLA cell have access to information and materials with which to educate themselves about the impacts associated with construction of such a cell in a venue that is comfortable and proximate to those living nearest the PGDP site. Further, the CAB recommends:

- 1. That informational fliers be mailed to those living in homes in the immediate neighborhood of the PGDP site, so those closest to the area are certain to be informed of the date and time of the public meeting.**
- 2. That attendees be given the opportunity to voice their opinion as to whether they are in favor of a cell and, if so, at which of the four possible locations.**
- 3. That the public comments received at the Heath High School meeting be compiled and communicated to the CAB.**

The CAB would like to commend the Department of Energy on their work to educate the public about waste disposal options at the PGDP site up to now and believes it is of vital importance to the community that these efforts continue.