

Department of Energy

Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office
1017 Majestic Drive, Suite 200
Lexington, Kentucky 40513
(859) 219-4000

FEB 24 2011

Ms. Judy Clayton, Chair
Paducah Citizens Advisory Board
111 Memorial Drive
Paducah KY 42001

PPPO-02-1141274-11

Dear Ms. Clayton:

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATION 11-01: SOUTHWEST PLUME SOURCES PROJECT

The Department of Energy (DOE) is in receipt of Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Consensus Recommendation 11-01 dated February 3, 2011. The CAB recommendation states:

“Recognizing that making any kind of change after a consensus has been reached by DOE and the regulators is difficult, the CAB supports DOE’s decision to delay the submittal of the Southwest Plume Sources D2/R1 Proposed Plan pending further evaluation of proposed remediation alternatives. With the data collected to date for the C-400 project, we concur with the DOE that this technology may not be the best treatment option for the southwest plume sources. The CAB also supports DOE’s decision to re-evaluate their options before resubmitting the Southwest Plume Sources Proposed Plan to the regulators.

While we understand that it is important for the DOE to aggressively implement technologies that will address environmental risks found at the PGDP site, we also feel it is important to make practical decisions using tax payer dollars for these remediation efforts. We encourage DOE to continue to be diligent in the use of cleanup funds at the site. The CAB understands that delaying the CERCLA process is frustrating and costly for all concerned, but in this case, we feel the delay is justified.

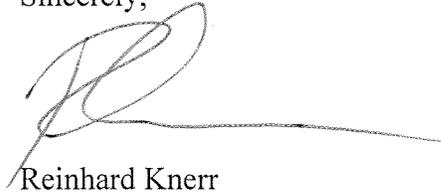
As the CAB considers the project timeline, the remediation process has been delayed by an estimated eight months, which in the overall scope of the cleanup process, is insignificant. The lessons learned from this action will be beneficial to future cleanup actions at the site, and could result in expedited decisions. We look forward to continuing our work with the DOE on this project, including learning more about the alternatives being considered for treatment of the southwest plume sources.”

DOE appreciates affirmation from the CAB that it is in the best interest of the cleanup program to further evaluate the proposed remediation alternatives for the Southwest Plume Sources. In light of data recently collected from the nearby C-400 project, which implemented Electrical Resistivity Heating (ERH) technology, DOE believes ERH, in its current application, may not provide the best cleanup alternative for the Southwest Plume Sources.

DOE agrees with the CAB that the “lessons learned from this action [C-400] will be beneficial to future cleanup actions at the site, and could result in expedited decisions.” To reduce further schedule delays, DOE is actively seeking alternatives that will meet the needs of the Southwest Plume Sources project.

DOE appreciates the CAB support as we work to expedite work effectively, in the best interest of the site, the community and the taxpayers. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Buz Smith at (270) 441 -6821.

Sincerely,



Reinhard Knerr
Paducah Site Lead
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

cc:
DMC/Kevil

e-copy:
ballard.turpin@epa.gov, EPA/Atlanta
barbara.mazurowski@lataky.com, LATA/Kevil
bill.franz@lataky.com, LATA/Kevil
dave.dollins@lex.doe.gov, PPPO/PAD
edward.winner@ky.gov, KDEP/Frankfort
eric@pgdpcab.org, EHI/PAD
gaye.brewer@ky.gov, KDEP/PAD
jeffrey.gibson@ky.gov, KDEP/Frankfort
leo.williamson@ky.gov, KDEP/Frankfort
reinhard.knerr@lex.doe.gov, PPPO/PAD
rob.seifert@lex.doe.gov, PPPO/PAD
robert.smith@lex.doe.gov, PPPO/PAD
todd.mullins@ky.gov, KDEP/Frankfort