



Paducah Citizens Advisory Board

"working for the future"

111 Memorial Drive
Paducah, Kentucky 42001
(270) 554-3004

Recommendation 12-02: Support of Pro Nuclear Future Uses at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP)

Background

Part of the mission of the Citizens Advisory Board at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) is to make recommendations on site clean-up and other factors that will make it more attractive to future uses. PGDP has been a major economic driver for Western Kentucky and for the state as a whole, for over 50 years. Because the uranium enrichment facility will be shutting down in the near future, 1200 workers employed in the nuclear industry will be available for redeployment. While some of these workers will be transitioning to other jobs, the nuclear skills, training, and experience of these workers may be lost. Over the years, the Paducah nuclear workforce has had an outstanding safety record. One of the results of this strong safety performance is that the Paducah community has a very strong, positive attitude towards the nuclear workforce. Recent public surveys and the positive public response to the 50th anniversary celebration at the site are further evidence of the widespread public support for nuclear activities at the plant.

Having the ability to reuse the site for the widest range of uses, including nuclear, will be important to the area and local economy. A nuclear option for future use of the site is an important option to the local economy and maximizes reuse opportunities and flexibility. Because DOE is legally committed to restoring the site to a useable condition for future reindustrialization and/or recreational uses, the CAB feels strongly that it is important to keep all the options open for the site. Having a nuclear use option for future use of the site is also consistent with DOE's Asset Revitalization Initiative.

Recommendation

The Citizens Advisory Board feels that the present Kentucky Revised Statute does not support the clean-up and future site use of Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. These conditions furthermore interfere with site clean-up goals and place the economic viability of the PGDP site in question.

Given these conditions, the Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE work with the Kentucky legislature during the 2012 session to provide facts and underlying research that will lead to the repeal of the statute. We also recommend that DOE increase its communication with stakeholders, regulators and others, including elected representatives, to explain the asset nature of the site, its economic impact to the area, DOE's safety record, and the record of its contractors. We believe that all of these facts will substantiate the clear message that nuclear-related activities at PGDP will not impose any additional risk to the environment or the health and safety of the workers or citizens in our region.