PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT
SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

padssab@apex.net *www.oro.doe.gov/pgdpssab/*

2000 McCracken Boulevard • Paducah, Kentucky 42001 • (270) 744-9010

Chair

Craig Rhodes

Board Members

Kit Atkinson
Nola Courtney
Mark Donham
Edward Duff
Angela Farmer
David Fuller
Judy Ingram
Vicki Jones
Merryman Kemp
Ronald Lamb
Linda Long
Douglas Raper
Craig Rhodes
Rosa Scott
Jim Smart, Ph.D.
Pat Stephenson
Bill Tanner
Rev. Gregory Waldrop

***Ex Officio* Members**

Carl Froede, Jr.
Environmental Protection Agency

Wayne L. Davis
Fish and Wildlife Resources
(Kentucky)

Tuss Taylor
Division of Waste Management
(Kentucky)

John A. Volpe, Ph.D.
Radiation Control Branch
(Kentucky)

Dale Jackson
Department of Energy

DOE Federal Coordinator
John D. Sheppard

Additional information about contacting board members directly can be obtained from the SSAB web site or by contacting Shirley Speer at (270) 744-9010.

Agenda for the February 17, 2000, meeting:

5:30 Informal Discussion

6:00 Call to order
Review of Agenda
Minutes from November, December meetings

Public Comments and Questions (15 minutes)

Site Manager's Comments (20 minutes)
ES&H Issues
Site Office Personnel
Other

SSAB Recommendations Status (5 minutes)

Project Status Updates (20 minutes)
EM&EF Projects – Handout
Scrap Metal/Drum Mountain – M. Redfield/R. Castaneda
Reactive Treatment Zones – Fact Sheet
ITRD

Presentation (20 minutes)
Waste Shipment – G. Shaia

Administrative Issues (15 minutes)
Review of the SSAB Draft Workplan
Financial Update

SSAB Subcommittee Reports (15 minutes)
Community Relations—Judy Ingram
Consultant—Bill Tanner
Membership—Nola Courtney

Public Comments and Questions (15 minutes)

Executive Session to consider applications

Adjourn

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DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Paducah Site Specific Advisory Board
February 17, 2000

The February 17, 2000, Paducah Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting took place at the Paducah Information Age Park Resource Center in Paducah at 5:30 p.m.

The following board members were present: Nola Courtney, Mark Donham, Vicki Jones, Merryman Kemp, Ronnie Lamb, Doug Raper, Craig Rhodes, and Jim Smart. Ex officio members present were Carl Froede, Dale Jackson, Tuss Taylor and John Volpe.

The facilitator was Steve Kay. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) federal coordinator present was John D. Sheppard. Mike Guffey and Jon Maybriar of Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM) and Jim Lane of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife were present. Also present were the following members of the public and employees, contractors, and subcontractors of the DOE: Gaye Brewer, J. Raul Castaneda, Greg Cook, Joilley Dortch, Gordon Dover, Bruce Gardner, Kristi Hanson, Norm Jetta, Sam Leone, Walter Perry, Al Puckett, Myrna Redfield, Nita Bean-Rose, G.L. Shaia, Shirley Speer, M'Balia Tagoe, and John Tilson. Others were present but did not sign in.

Call to Order

Craig Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and explained that decisions could not be made because a quorum was not present

Minutes

The minutes from the November 18, 1999 and January 16, 2000, SSAB meetings could not be amended or approved and will be held until the March meeting.

Public Comments and Questions

There were no comments.

Site Manager's Comments

Jackson announced that Don Seaborg, the new site manager, would be here in March. He also explained that funding will be significantly increased.

Jackson said that the Investigation Team would be in Paducah on February 23 for a Public Meeting to report on the details of the Phase II Investigation and present a briefing on weapons work. He said DOE is continuing to work with the Department of Justice (DOJ) as concerns come forth.

Donham asked if the board could be notified before major news is released in the newspapers. He asked if others had the same concern. Kemp said that many people do not receive the *Courier Journal* or the *Paducah Sun*. The State and EPA also commented that they would like to hear of notices before they hit the press. Walter Perry, of DOE's Oak Ridge Public Affairs office, said that he would work to provide prior notification.

Rhodes asked if the EH Team was aware of all the new information. Jackson said the team could answer this question at the board's meeting with the team. He added that DOE is trying to understand what work was done at this site. Donham asked if weapons with warheads were brought to this site. Jackson said not to his knowledge. Donham asked what the highest assay material is on site. Jackson said that he did not know and that more tests were going to be run.

Donham proposed that the board extend the time for discussion on this subject for another 15 minutes. There was no dissent.

Donham asked if there was a high alpha emitter on site. Jackson said he did not know but would find out. John Tillson, a former employee, said he believed there could be a high alpha source in the C-405 buildings. Al Puckett, another former employee in the audience, asked why DOE did not ask the workers for information. Jackson said that is what DOE and DOJ are doing. Smart asked why DOE did not talk to the board. Jackson and Sheppard both added that as new information is developed the interviewers would have new questions. Nita Bean-Rose said that when her father had worked at the plant information was handled on a "need to know" basis. She asked why DOE did not explain it all and clean it up. Jackson said DOE is working on that. Donham asked if there is ash from the feed plant still on site. Dave Massey of Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC said he believed there is still some. Donham asked why there is still so much classified

information and why things remain a big secret. Jackson said that some things are still classified and should stay that way because of concerns over making parts of the enrichment technology public knowledge. He said DOE had concerns about that leading to nuclear proliferation.

Environmental Management and Enrichment Facilities Projects

Donham asked if someone was present to talk about the Reactive Treatment Zone idea. Tuss Taylor said that the system is just now being evaluated by the state. Sheppard said a copy of a fact sheet about a bench test was included in the handout packet.

Scrap Metal/Drum Mountain

Donham asked how many comments were received about Drum Mountain and whether the Board could be sent copies of the comments. Jackson agreed to send comments to the board. Myrna Redfield of DOE said that sediment traps are being considered and measures will be taken to control sediment. Donham questioned the size of Drum Mountain. Redfield said it is less than an acre. Rhodes asked how much is buried underneath. Redfield said that it would be investigated.

Lamb asked whether some of the test wells are being removed. Dover said well MW181 was being replaced.

ITRD

John Sheppard asked whether the board had suggestions regarding the ITRD. DOE is evaluating the value of ITRD. Donham asked when the next meeting was scheduled. John said that someone from Sandia would be at a meeting on Feb. 29, 2000.

Presentation

Greg Shaia of Bechtel Jacobs Company did a presentation on Waste Shipments. Hard copy handouts were provided. Donham asked if every shipment had been done with categorical exclusions. Shaia said that they had in the nine years he had been here. Raper asked where documentation was kept and for how long. The answer will be researched and provided to the board.) Donham asked who signed off on Oak Ridge shipment. Jackson said Rod Nelson out of Oak Ridge.

Sheppard told the board that DOE, the state and EPA have held a preliminary meeting to talk about the viability of an onsite disposal facility at Paducah. He said one of the major results of that meeting was to continue obtaining information and to solicit the board's opinion. He said a presentation would be scheduled for March to give the board more information. Smart and Rhodes said they would like to travel to Fernald and Oak Ridge to gather information about how those sites opted to construct an onsite facility. Board members were referred to a website, www.em.doe.gov/profiles, for more information now.

Lamb asked if an onsite cell would cause other waste to be sent here. Jackson said the board's opinion on that would make a difference.

Review of SSAB Workplan/Administrative Issues

Steve Kay asked how the board wanted to make the best use of time at the meetings. There was discussion about how time should be allocated to cover the board's business and meet the public's need for comments and questions. It was suggested that the meeting be divided into three sections; site manager's comments/questions and comments from the public, followed by a break, then updates, followed by presentations. Presentation methods were commented on and Jackson challenged Dover to come up with presentations that are effective. Each session would allow time for questions and answers.

Sheppard said the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) had asked about making a presentation at the March meeting. Courtney suggested the agency present just a fact sheet. Members present all concurred.

Rhodes said that the DOE EH team had contacted him and that board members could meet with the team before the public meeting on February 23. It was decided that those members who could attend would meet with the EH team at 4:15 p.m. for 45 minutes. The public meeting would start at 6 p.m.

Sub-Committee Reports

Membership

Craig read a letter from Angela Farmer, who requested that she be allowed to stay on the board despite having to miss the next three meetings because of a class she is taking. Members also were told that David Fuller's term has expired.

There was discussion about absenteeism and the fact that a quorum is essential to carry out the board's business. Several members noted that this was the second straight month without a quorum. Courtney said she would contact members who have been missing meetings to determine if they want to stay on the board. The board has two applications to consider at present.

Financial Update

There were no questions or comments on the update provided in the handouts.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be March 16, 2000, at the Information Age Park Resource Center at 5:30 p.m.

Shipment Process for DOE Waste in Paducah

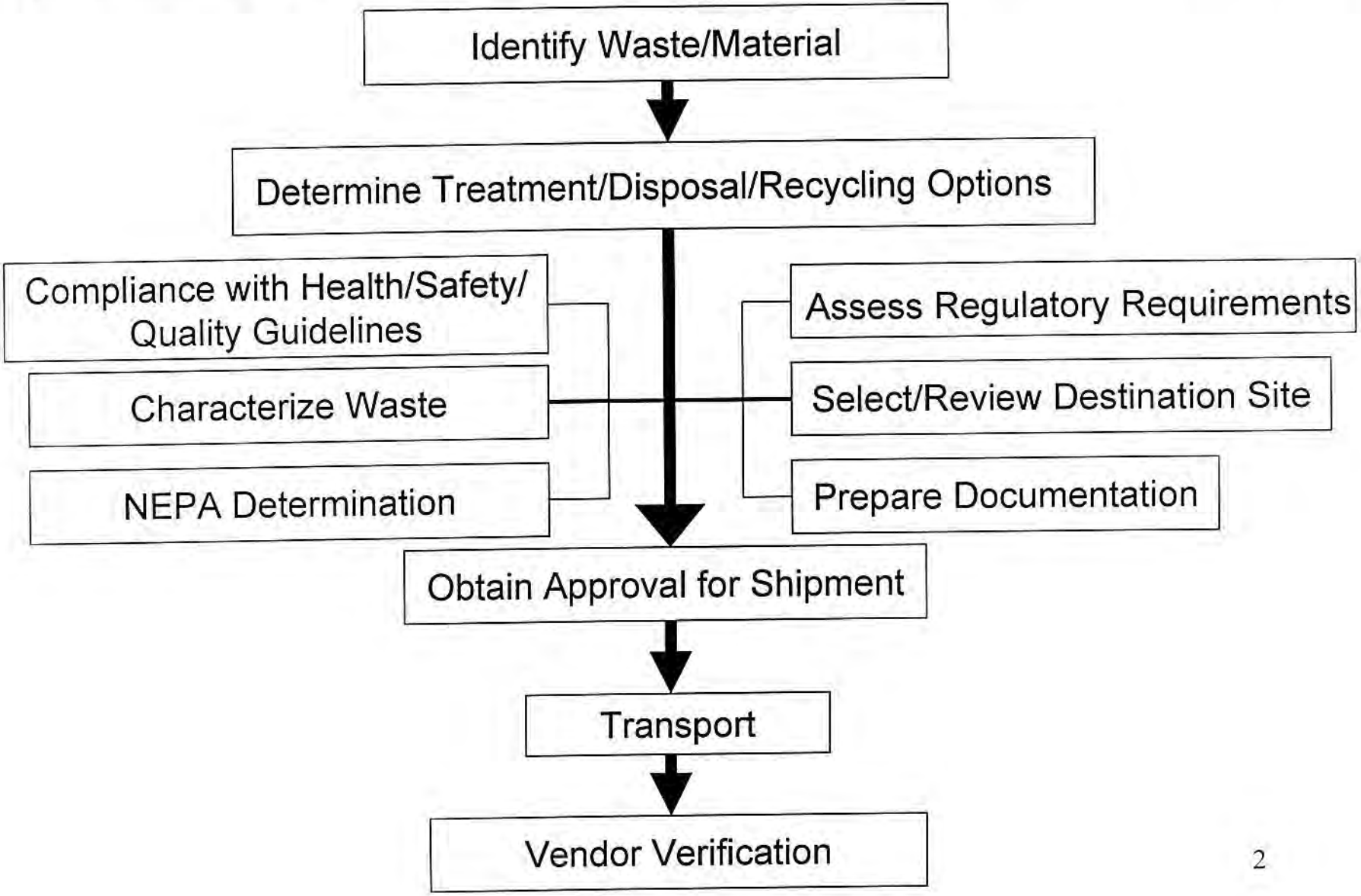
Prepared for

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Citizens Advisory Board

February 17, 2000

Waste Shipment Process



Shipment Process Goals

- That each shipment leaving the site has been correctly characterized in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations
- That waste meets all acceptance criteria defined by the receiving facility's permits, licenses or other acceptance protocol

✓ *A checklist and documentation package are used to verify that requirements are met and to document the rationale for various decisions*

Identify Waste/Material

- Description
- Amount
- Category (mixed, low-level, hazardous, etc.)

✓ *In most cases, there is some knowledge of the waste available from generator's records, storage records, etc.. This is needed to identify a suitable destination facility*

Determine Options for Treatment/Disposal/Recycling

- Determine facility
- Make initial contact with facility
- Determine steps to comply with facility's acceptance criteria
  - Use of available information
  - Obtain additional information needed to comply

Compliance With Health/Safety/Quality Guidelines

- Use trained personnel to perform work
- Documented work plans and permits, hazard assessments, health and safety plans, procedures
- Quality assurance project plans
- Project surveillances

Assess Regulatory Requirements

- Determine appropriate regulatory status (RCRA, TSCA, CERCLA, NESHAP, DOE Orders, NRC, etc.)
- Applicable EPA codes
- Radiological levels, including surface and volumetric
- Applicable treatment/disposal requirements and standards
- Applicable release criteria from site
- Applicable DOT packaging

Assess Regulatory Requirements

- RCRA - 40 CFR 262, 264 - 268
- TSCA - 40 CFR 700 - 789
- CERCLA - 40 CFR 300.400
- NESHAP - 401 KAR Chapter 57; 40 CFR 61
- DOE Orders - 5400.5, 435.1
- NRC - 10 CFR 20 and 61
- DOT - 49 CFR 172
- NEPA 10 CFR 1021; DOE Order 451.1A
- KAR 32 and 34
- IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations

Characterize Waste

- Purpose
  - Identify contaminants
  - Determine concentration levels
  - Regulatory determination
  - DOT determination
  - Evaluate suitability/need for treatment, storage, disposal or recycling at a specific facility
- Tools
  - Process knowledge (existing information)
  - Sampling and analysis
    - EPA SW-846 and ASTM Standard Methodologies
    - Use of qualified laboratory
    - Data assessment/validation

Select/Review Destination Site

- Review controls, permits, licenses, insurance
- Environmental compliance history of the site
- EPA/state concurrence on shipping to the site (if required)
- Vendor concurrence to accept waste
- Facility audit/inspection (when needed)

NEPA Determination

- Existing determination
  - Categorical Exclusion or CERCLA action
  - Waste shipments typically accomplished under B6.1 or B1.30 Categorical Exclusion
- New determination
  - A review indicating a waste shipment is outside of existing determination will result in new documentation

Prepare Documentation

- Disposal Facility Profiles
- Shipping papers (manifests, bills of lading, LDR forms, nuclear materials transaction report)
- Waste Stream Certification
- Pre-shipment notices (state, EPA, facility)
- Drum labels and marking

Obtain Approval for Shipment

- DOE authorization for disposal
- Exemption from DOE Order 435.1 to dispose at commercial facility

Transport

- DOT compliant transport and driver
- Load truck
- Tie down
- Placard
- Health physics survey on load and truck
- Sign shipping papers

Vendor Verification

- Waste arrival
- Waste acceptance
- Waste matches profile
- Certificate of disposal

FY 00 Off-Site Waste Shipment to Disposal Schedule

Mixed Combustible Debris to INEEL	January
PCB Capacitors to Safety Kleen	February
Mixed Combustible Liquids to ETTP	March
Mixed Combustible Solids To ETTP	March
Mixed Combustible Solids To ETTP	April
Mixed Combustible Solids to INEEL	May
Activated Carbon for Recycling	May
Mixed Combustible Solids to INEEL	June
Mixed Combustible Solids To ETTP	July
MLLW to Envirocare	July
Mixed Combustible Solids To ETTP	August
Mixed Combustible Liquids to ETTP	August

Paducah Site-Specific Advisory Board
FY 2000 Costs

Item	Budget	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	YTD	Remaining
General Support to SSAB															
Office Rental	5,000.00	776.00			776.00									1,552.00	3,448.00
Member Travel	33,000.00													0	33,000.00
Admin. Support	72,331.00	3,438.00	4,988.00	3,330.00	4532.00									16,288.00	56,043.00
Information & Communication	45,090.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	720.00									2,160.00	42,930.00
Support to Subcommittees															
Community Outreach															
Travelling Exhibit	9,000.00													0	9,000.00
Exhibit Revisions	900.00													0	900.00
Media Announcements	3,630.00		484.00											484.00	3,146.00
Newsletter	6,658.00													0	6,658.00
Fact Sheets	1,440.00													0	1,440.00
Mailing List Maintenance	1,824.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00									608.00	1,216.00
Web Page Maintenance	1,500.00													0	1,500.00
Policy & Personnel															
Technical Advisor	25,000.00													0	25,000.00
Total	205,373.00	4,846.00	6,104.00	3,962.00	6,180.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,092.00	184,281.00

Notes:

Reactive Treatment Zone Bench Test

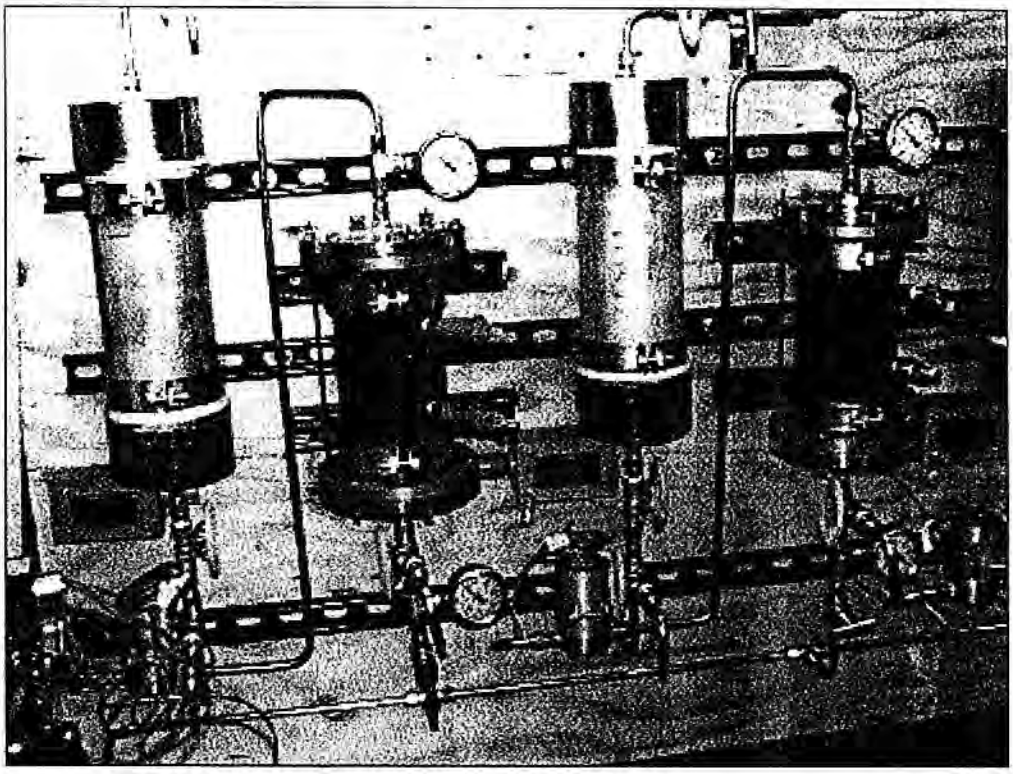
BACKGROUND —The U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection are testing a method for treating contaminated groundwater.

Through DOE's Innovative Treatment Remedial Demonstration effort, promising alternatives to conventional pump-and-treat technology are being analyzed.

One of those technologies is the permeable, Reactive Treatment Zone. When the water moves through the zones, the contaminants are removed or destroyed. The treatment zones offer the possibility of cleanup with low operating costs.

A test of materials that trap and/or degrade contaminants began at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant on Feb. 2, 2000.

Results of the 120-day bench test help determine which material would be most suitable to remediate TCE and TC-99 contamination in groundwater at the PGDP.



Test Objectives and Operations

A bench test is being conducted in the C-612 Building. Contaminated groundwater is pulled from the ground and pumped through cylinders containing iron filings or a resin-like material called Humasorb.

There are two cylinders each of iron filings and Humasorb involved in the test so absorption can be tested at different flow rates.

The lighter colored cylinders in the picture above are used to collect and draw samples for testing.

Following the completion of the test, the ITRD team, which includes DOE, EPA and the state of Kentucky, will analyze the iron filings and the Humasorb.

The collected data will be used to support decisions to select remedial actions for Paducah groundwater contamination.

FACT SHEET PGDP Citizens Advisory Board 2/17/2000

Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Paducah Site Office
P.O. Box 1410
Paducah, KY 42001

COPY

February 3, 2000

Mr. Carl R. Froede Jr., P.G.
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
DOE Remedial Section
Federal Facilities Branch
Waste Management Division
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Michael V. Welch, P.E.
Manager
Hazardous Waste Branch
Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
14 Reilly Road, Frankfort Office Park
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Mr. Froede and Mr. Welch:

WASTE AREA GROUPING 23 PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN, PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT, PADUCAH, KENTUCKY, RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT PERMIT NUMBER KY8-890-008-982 (DOE/OR/07-1771&D2)

As discussed during the November 8-9, 1999, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Kentucky, and Department of Energy Senior Management Meeting in Paducah, DOE is hereby officially requesting the withdrawal of the subject document from the regulatory review process. It is DOE's understanding that withdrawing this document will terminated the dispute resolution process that is currently underway with respect to the document. As agreed during the meeting, DOE is committed to addressing the Waste Area Grouping 23 Solid Waste Management Units Polychlorinated Biphenyls cleanup levels during the Remedial Action process for the Paducah Surface Water Operable Unit currently under review by your respective organizations.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Myrna E. Redfield at (270) 441-6815 or John Sheppard at (270) 441-6804.

Sincerely,

J. Dale Jackson, Acting Site Manager
Paducah Site Office

cc:
DMC/Kevil
G. L. Dover, Bechtel Jacobs Company/Kevil
P. A. Gourieux, Bechtel Jacobs Company/Kevil
C. A. Hudson, CJE/Kevil

Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Paducah Site Office
P.O. Box 1410
Paducah, KY 42001

COPY

August 27, 1999

Mr. Carl R. Froede Jr., P. G.
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
DOE Remedial Section
Federal Facilities Branch
Waste Management Division
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Michael V. Welch, P.E.
Manager
Hazardous Waste Branch
Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
14 Reilly Road, Frankfort Office Park
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Mr. Froede and Mr. Welch:

PADUCAH FEDERAL FACILITIES AGREEMENT-NOTIFICATION OF EXTENSION OF INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PERIOD FOR WASTE AREA GROUPING 23 AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 OF WASTE AREA GROUP 27, POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL SITES, AT THE PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT

Pursuant to Section XXV(A) of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA), the Department of Energy (DOE) is providing notification of a fifteen-day extension of the period for informal dispute resolution with respect to the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet's (KNREPC) disapproval of DOE's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for Waste Area Grouping (WAG) 23 and Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 1 of WAG 27 (DOE/OR/07-1771&D2). The period for informal dispute resolution is now extended to September 11, 1999.

DOE, KNREPC, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, (EPA) have discussed and clarified significant issues that are the subject of informal dispute. The extension in the period of informal dispute resolution will afford opportunity for the agencies to continue site-specific risk assessment discussions.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact John Sheppard at (270) 441-6804.

Sincerely,

Jimmie C. Hodges, Manager
Paducah Site Office

cc: N. L. Carnes/R. Blumenfeld, CC-10
DMC/Kevil
J. C. Massey, Bechtel Jacobs Company/Kevil
L. K. Price, EM-91
T. Taylor, KDEP/Frankfort

Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Paducah Site Office
P.O. Box 1410
Paducah, KY 42001

COPY
John Sheppard

July 27, 1999

Mr. Carl R. Froede Jr., P.G.
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
DOE Remedial Section
Federal Facilities Branch
Waste Management Division
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Michael V. Welch, P.E
Manager
Hazardous Waste Branch
Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
14 Reilly Road, Frankfort Office Park
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Mr. Froede and Mr. Welch:

PADUCAH FEDERAL FACILITIES AGREEMENT–NOTIFICATION OF INVOCATION OF INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR WASTE AREA GROUPING 23 AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 OF WASTE AREA GROUP 27, POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL SITES, AT THE PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that pursuant to Section XXV(A) of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA), the Department of Energy (DOE) is invoking informal dispute resolution with respect to the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet's (KNREPC) disapproval of DOE's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for Waste Area Grouping (WAG) 23 and Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 1 of WAG 27 (DOE/OR/07-1771&D2). The Department submitted the D2 PRAP to KNREPC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV on May 27, 1999. KNREPC's letter of June 29, 1999, transmitting KNREPC's disapproval of the Proposed Plan stated that DOE's "No Action" preferred option was "inconsistent with the Department for Environmental Protection's position on remedial options for PCB/dioxin contamination."

DOE and KNREPC have had discussions with respect to the Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) cleanup level within WAG 23 both prior to and after June 29, 1999. Those discussions have not resulted in DOE and KNREPC reaching agreement with respect to this issue. Section XX(H) of the FFA provides that dispute resolution is available for D2 Primary Documents in accordance with Section XXV (Resolution of Disputes) of the FFA. Accordingly, pursuant to Section XXV(A) of the FFA, DOE is now invoking informal dispute resolution with respect to the WAG 23 PRAP.

Nature of Dispute

DOE has proposed to take no action to address remaining PCB concentrations less than 25 ppm in WAG 23 and SWMU 1 of WAG 27. This proposal is consistent with EPA policy and regulations implementing the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) [40 CFR 761.125 and 40 CFR 761.61(a)(4)(I)(B)] and with Guidance on Remedial Actions for Superfund Sites with Polychlorinated Biphenyl Contamination, EPA, 1990 (EPA/540/G-90-007).

KNREPC has taken the position that additional cleanup of PCB contamination at WAG 23 is required.

The following work is affected by this dispute:

1. Completion of the WAG 23 PRAP;
2. Completion of the draft and final WAG 23 Record of Decision;
3. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) D1Workplan, and follow on documents, for the Surface Water Operable Unit; and
4. RI/FS D1Workplan, and follow on documents, for the Surface Soil Operable Unit.

Pursuant to Section XXV of the FFA, "the time period for completion of work affected by ... [an ongoing] dispute shall be extended for a period of time usually not to exceed the actual time taken to resolve any good faith dispute ...." Therefore, dispute of this matter may affect the enforceable commitments of Appendix V of the Paducah Site Management Plan for each of these activities.

DOE's Position With Respect to the Dispute

The EPA policy and regulations implementing the TSCA PCB Spill Cleanup Policy (40 CFR 761.125) requires cleanup of PCB contaminants to less than or equal to 25 ppm for restricted access areas. This policy was modified to address low occupancy areas, rather than restricted

access, in the TSCA regulations commonly referred to as the MEGA Amendments [40 CFR 761.61(a)(4)(I)(B)]. Additionally, the 25 ppm cleanup level for PCBs is consistent with EPA's Guidance on Remedial Actions for Superfund Sites with PCB Contamination (EPA/540/G-90-007). The KNREPC lacks a regulatory or statutory basis for requiring WAG 23 soil cleanup to levels less than 25 ppm PCBs.

PCB concentrations in the soils of WAG 23 and SWMU 1 of WAG 27 are now significantly less than 25 ppm. No additional removal of PCB/dioxin contaminated soil is necessary for protection of human health and the environment for any of the WAG 23 SWMUs. Therefore, the No Action preferred option is appropriate, and no Remedial Design/Remedial Action activities are necessary.

Information Relied Upon in Support of DOE's Position

A non-time critical removal action was conducted in 1997 for WAG 23 SWMUs 56, 57, 80, and 81 and WAG 27, SWMU 1 to remove PCB contamination from soils with concentrations greater than 25 ppm. All subsequent verification samples contained PCB concentrations less than 25 ppm, and the excavated areas were back filled with clean soil. Further, for SWMUs 56 and 80 the concentration of PCBs averaged over all the sample grids of the SWMUs was less than 2 ppm and for the other SWMUs of WAG 23 the average PCB concentration was less than 1 ppm.

While DOE has concluded that it must invoke the informal dispute resolution process to address the issues identified above, DOE desires to work closely with the regulatory agencies to reach timely resolution of the disputed matters. Further, DOE reiterates its commitment to the successful completion of all regulatory matters regarding WAG 23 and other work affected by this dispute. DOE would like to meet with you as soon as possible to resolve this matter in a manner that is acceptable to all three agencies. DOE will be contacting your office within the next few days to arrange a meeting time.

If you have questions or require additional information regarding this matter, please contact John Sheppard at (270) 441-6804.

Sincerely,

Jimmie C. Hodges

Jimmie C. Hodges, Site Manager
Paducah Site Office

cc:
N. L. Carnes/R. Blumenfeld, CC-10
DMC/Kevil
J. C. Massey, Bechtel Jacobs Company/Kevil
L. K. Price, EM-91
T. Taylor, KDEP/Frankfort

Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Paducah Site Office
P O Box 1410
Paducah, KY 42001

COPY

September 27, 1999

Mr. Robert H. Daniell, Director
Division of Waste Management
Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
14 Reilly Road, Frankfort Office Park
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Mr. Richard D. Green, Director
Waste Management Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Daniell and Mr. Green:

PADUCAH FEDERAL FACILITIES AGREEMENT–NOTIFICATION OF FORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR WASTE AREA GROUPING 23 AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 OF WASTE AREA GROUPING 27, POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL SITES, AT THE PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT

Pursuant to Section XXV(B) of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA), the Department of Energy (DOE) is invoking formal dispute resolution with respect to the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet's (KNREPC) disapproval of DOE's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for Waste Area Grouping (WAG) 23 and Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 1 of WAG 27 (DOE/OR/07-1771&D2). The Department submitted the D2 PRAP to KNREPC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region IV on May 27, 1999. KNREPC's letter of June 29, 1999, transmitting KNREPC's disapproval of the Proposed Plan stated that DOE's "No Action" preferred option was "inconsistent with the Department for Environmental Protection's position on remedial options for PCB/dioxin contamination."

In a letter dated July 27, 1999, DOE provided KNREPC and USEPA Region IV a written statement invoking informal dispute resolution with respect to the WAG 23 PRAP. DOE's letter of August 27, 1999, gave notice of an extension of the informal dispute resolution period to September 11, 1999, to allow opportunity for the agencies to continue site-specific risk assessment discussions.

Discussions between DOE, KNREPC, and USEPA Region IV during the informal dispute resolution have not resulted in DOE and KNREPC reaching agreement with respect to Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) cleanup levels within WAG 23. Section XX(H) of the FFA provides that dispute resolution is available for D2 Primary Documents in accordance with Section XXV (Resolution of Disputes) of the FFA. Accordingly, pursuant to Section XXV(B) of the FFA, DOE is now invoking formal dispute resolution with respect to the WAG 23 PRAP.

Nature of Dispute

DOE has proposed to take no action to address remaining PCB concentrations less than 25 part per million (ppm) in WAG 23 and SWMU 1 of WAG 27. This proposal is consistent with USEPA policy and regulations implementing the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) [40 CFR 761.125 and 40 CFR 761(a)(4)(I)(B)] and with Guidance on Remedial Actions for Superfund Sites with Polychlorinated Biphenyls Contamination, EPA, 1990 (EPA/540/G-90-007).

KNREPC has taken the position that additional cleanup of PCB contamination at WAG 23 is required. Specifically, on September 10, 1999, during an informal dispute resolution conference call between KNREPC, USEPA Region IV, and DOE; KNREPC stated that the SWMUs of WAG 23 should be cleaned up to PCB concentrations in soil of 1 ppm average with peak sample concentrations no greater than 2 ppm. KNREPC also stated that any sediment samples from WAG 23 should have PCB concentrations less than 0.1 ppm.

The following work is affected by this dispute:

1. Completion of the WAG 23 PRAP;

2. Completion of the draft and final WAG 23 Record of Decision (ROD);

3. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) D1 Workplan, and follow on documents, for the Surface Water Operable Unit; and

4. RI/FS D1 Workplan, and follow on documents, for the Surface Soil Operable Unit.

Pursuant to Section XXV of the FFA, "the time period for completion of work affected by... [an ongoing] dispute shall be extended for a period of time usually not to exceed the actual time taken to resolve any good faith dispute..." Therefore, dispute of this matter may affect the enforceable commitments of Appendix V of the Paducah Site Management Plan for each of these activities.

DOE's Position With Respect to the Dispute:

The USEPA policy and regulations implementing the TSCA PCB Spill Cleanup Policy (40 CFR 761.125) requires cleanup of PCB contaminants to less than or equal to 25 ppm for restricted access areas. This policy was modified to address low occupancy areas, rather than restricted access, in the TSCA regulations commonly referred to as the MEGA Amendments (40 CFR 761.61 (a)(4)(I)(B)]. Additionally, the 25 ppm cleanup level for PCBs is consistent with EPA's Guidance on Remedial Actions for Superfund Sites with PCB Contamination (EPA/540/G-90-007). The KNREPC lacks a regulatory or statutory basis for requiring WAG 23 soil cleanup to levels less than 25 ppm PCBs.

PCB concentrations in the soils of WAG 23 and SWMU 1 of WAG 27 are now significantly less than 25 ppm. No additional removal of PCB/dioxin contaminated soil is necessary for protection of human health and the environment for any of the WAG 23 SWMUs. Therefore, the No Action preferred option is appropriate, and no Remedial Design/Remedial Action activities are necessary.

Additionally, DOE has prepared a Land Use Control Assurance Plan (LUCAP; DOE/OR/07-1799&D1) to provide effective and reliable land use controls in support of the site remediation conducted under the FFA. The LUCAP requires an approved Land Use Control Implementation Plan (LUCIP) for each SWMU of a ROD. LUCIPs will be developed and approved to be protective of human health and the environment through the unit-specific ROD. The LUCAP requirement will apply to the WAG 23 ROD.

Support of DOE's Position:

A non-time critical removal action was conducted in 1997 for WAG 23 SWMUs 56, 57, 80, and 81 and WAG 27 SWMU 1 to remove PCB contamination from soils with concentrations greater than 25 ppm. All subsequent verification samples contained PCB concentrations less than 25 ppm, and the excavated areas were back filled with clean soil. Further, for SWMUs 56 and 80 the concentration of PCBs averaged over all the sample grids of the SWMUs was less than 2 ppm and for the other SWMUs of WAG 23 the average PCB concentration was less than 1 ppm.

While DOE has concluded that it must invoke the formal dispute resolution process to address the issues identified above, DOE desires to work closely with the regulatory agencies to reach timely resolution of the disputed matters. Further, DOE reiterates its commitment to the successful completion of all regulatory matters regarding WAG 23 and other work affected by this dispute. DOE would like to meet with you as soon as possible to resolve this matter in a manner that is acceptable to all three agencies. DOE will be contacting your office within the next few days to arrange a meeting time.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call John Sheppard at (270) 441-6804.

Sincerely,

Jimmie C. Hodges

Jimmie C. Hodges, Site Manager
Paducah Site Office

cc:
N. L. Carnes/R. Blumenfeld, CC-10
DMC/Kevil
C. R. Froede, EPA/Atlanta
J. C. Massey, Bechtel Jacobs Company/Kevil
L. K. Price, EM-91
T. Taylor, KDEP/Frankfort
M. V. Welch, KDEP/Frankfort

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8909

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 05 1999

Mr. Mike V. Welsh, P.E., Manager
Hazardous Waste Branch
Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
14 Reilly Road, Frankfort Office Park
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Mr. J. Dale Jackson, Acting Site Manager
United States Department of Energy
Paducah Site Office
P. O. Box 1410
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

SUBJ: Paducah Gas Diffusion Plant Federal Facilities Agreement, Modification of Time Period for Formal Dispute Resolution Procedures Relating to Proposed Remedial Action Plan for Waste Area Grouping 23 and Solid Waste Management Unit 1 of Waste Area Grouping 27, PCB Sites

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm and record the agreement by representatives of the three Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) parties to modify, in accordance with FFA Section XXXIX (MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT), the time period during which the FFA Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) may attempt to resolve the above-referenced dispute. Per the parties' telephone conference on October 22, 1999, the period specified in FFA Section XXV.B.3 for DRC resolution of the dispute is being extended by agreement through November 9, 1999, to provide the parties opportunity for further discussion and consideration of the issues raised thereby. During the parties' on-site meetings November 8-9, 1999, the matter of whether further additional time should be afforded the DRC for resolution of this dispute will be considered.

If you have questions or require additional information about this matter, please contact me at (404) 562-8550.

Sincerely,

Carl Froede Jr.

Carl R. Froede Jr., P.G.
DOE Remedial Section
Federal Facilities Branch
Waste Management Division

cc: T. Taylor, KDEP/Frankfort
J. Volpe, CHS/Frankfort
M. Redfield, DOE-PGDP

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Status: Waste Area Groups 3, 8, 28 and Data Gaps

- Remedial Investigation field work for WAG 28, WAG 8 Site Evaluation and Data Gaps have been completed.
- **The Draft (D1) Remedial Investigation Report for WAG 28, was issued to regulatory agencies on Jan. 26, 2000. The D1 Site Evaluation Report for WAG 8 is scheduled for June 2000 and the D1 Remedial Investigation Report for WAG 3 for August 2000.**

February 2000

Status: Waste Area Group 22, SWMU 2

- USEPA directed DOE to issue the (D2) Proposed Plan by 11/16/ 99. The Plan was issued on schedule.
- **This proposed plan has been put on hold pending finalization of a new remediation strategy. Conceptually, this strategy will include excavation of up to four burial grounds.**

February 2000

Status: Northwest/Northeast Plume Groundwater Systems

- **7.7 million gallons of groundwater were treated at the Northwest System during January, with the facility operational 98.2 percent of the time. This brings the total treated to 447.3 million gallons.**
- **6.5 million gallons of groundwater were treated at the Northeast System during January, with the facility operational 98.9 percent of the time. This brings the total to 236.1 million gallons of water treated since the facility opened.**

February 2000

Status: Groundwater Operable Unit/WAG 6

- **Comments from the state of Kentucky on the Feasibility Study Workplan for the Groundwater Operable Unit at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Comments were resolved and incorporated into a D2 version of the document and resubmitted on October 13, 1999. State comments on the D2 scoping document were received on Nov. 12, 1999. The comments contained recommendations for data evaluation for use in the Groundwater Operable Unit Feasibility Study. Additional comments were received from the state of Kentucky in January 2000. A comment response summary was developed and submitted to the state.**
- **The D0 draft of the Paducah Deep Reactive Zone for Groundwater Treatability Study was completed Jan. 20, 2000. Comments are being resolved and incorporated into the D1 Treatability Study Work Plan and will be submitted to the state and U.S. EPA in March. Thirty percent implementation designs have been reviewed internally. Sixty percent designs are being developed. The treatability study will install a 100-foot long test section of a deep reactive zone to determine its effectiveness at removing migrating contaminants from Regional Gravel Aquifer water. Construction is planned for Summer 2000.**
- **Development of the D0 feasibility study for the Groundwater Operable Unit is continuing and will be issued for internal review on Feb. 18, 2000. The D1 version is scheduled for June 2000.**
- **Comments were received Jan. 12, 2000 from the state on the D1 Five-Year Review of the Groundwater Operable Uni. A comment response summary has been developed and submitted to the state. Due to the limited nature of the comments, a D2 version is not planned.**
- **A bench test of potential materials to be used in the Reactive Treatment Zone treatability study began Feb. 2, 2000. Please see the separate fact sheet for more detailed information.**

February 2000

Status: Waste Area Groups 9 & 11

- The D1 Site Evaluation Report was issued December 23, 1998. Any actions beyond these recommendations would be deferred to the Surface Soils Operable Unit.
- The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection provided comments on the D1 Site Evaluation Report on March 26, 1999, and these comments are being addressed.
- The D2 Site Evaluation Report for WAGs 9 & 11, was issued to KDEP on June 24, 1999. The report includes results of the Site Evaluation on seven SWMUs, and makes recommendations for each. No action was recommended for three SWMUs. Any additional work on the remaining SWMUs is expected to be addressed by the Surface Soils Operable Unit Remedial Investigation Work Plan, scheduled to begin development in November 1999.
- KDEP letter of September 24, 1999 allows for one SWMU to be a "No Further Action" and five SWMUs to be deferred to the Surface Soils Operable Unit. The letter requests documentation from DOE that the acid neutralization tank at SWMU 28 is not leaking.
- A test plan and schedule for the acid neutralization tank was sent to the state on November 26.
- **A comment that raised Nuclear Criticality Safety concerns required a resubmission of the test plan to the state on Feb. 4, 2000.**

February 2000

Status: Waste Area Group 27

- Issued D1 WAG 27 Remedial Investigation Report December 23, 1998.
- EPA comments were received March 31, 1999.
- State comments were received on April 5, 1999.
- The D2 Remedial Investigation Report was issued to regulators June 3. The state approved the report on September 27, 1999 after changes were made to the original document. Remedial Investigation data have been incorporated into the Groundwater Operable Unit.
- On September 29, 1999, USEC personnel completed the removal of all sediments and liquids from the abandoned C-720 maintenance facility compressor pit sump. More than 700 gallons of liquid and five drums of sediments were placed in storage pending characterization. After characterization and review, the empty sump will be filled with concrete.
- On October 29, samples of the final rinseate were sent for laboratory analysis to confirm contamination is below TCLP (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure) standards for volatiles, semi-volatiles and metals.
- Lab results reported back December 1 showed the rinseate was below TCLP levels. A letter was sent to the state on December 10 requesting concurrence with this interpretation. The sump will be filled after the Kentucky Division of Waste Management grants approval.
- The state on Jan. 4, 2000 granted approval to backfill the sump.
- **The sump was filled on Feb. 4, 2000. A report will be submitted to EPA and the state in early March.**

February 2000

Status: Surface Water Operable Unit

- Issued the D1 Scoping Document March 29, 1999.
- Data Quality Objective meetings were conducted April 14-15, 1999, with regulators and representatives of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Department, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.
- The Risk Assessment for the SWOU is scheduled to include baseline risk assessments for human health and the environment.
- The D0 Remedial Investigation Work Plan was sent to SWOU team members for comment on July 16, 1999.
- **The D1 plan was transmitted to regulators September 29, 1999. Responses from regulators were due by January 3, 2000, however EPA and the state requested a 30-day extension due to the Department of Justice characterization of the North-South Diversion Ditch. The state responded on Feb. 9, 2000 and the EPA on Feb. 10. 2000.**

February 2000

Status: Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal

- In July, a Request for Proposals was issued by Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC to for a multi-year Waste Operations subcontract. The contract includes waste storage operations, waste characterization, compliance, data tracking and related tasks.
- The Kentucky Division of Waste Management conducted its annual inspection of the C-404 Hazardous Waste Landfill on July 21. The three representatives did not note any findings, but commented the landfill activities were performed well and within compliance of the permit and procedures. A final report will be submitted to DOE within the next few months.
- The contract for waste treatment operations was conditionally awarded in September to Weskem LLC. Weskem is expected to be mobilized for work in March.
- On October 29, a test demonstration of the photocatalytic chemical reactor system for wastewater treatment was conducted in Paducah. The system destroys organic contaminants and may potentially remove some Tc-99 by adsorption. Test results will be evaluated for future use.
- A D1 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the removal of Drum Mountain in the year 2000 was delivered to regulators November 9, 1999.
- The Vortec Vitrification Demonstration Environmental Assessment is under review and a decision is expected soon.
- **Public comments on the Drum Mountain EE/CA received by Feb. 1, 2000 are being addressed. Bid evaluation began the week of Feb. 14 for a subcontract to characterize and remove Drum Mountain. The award will follow after public comments and concerns on the EE/CA are addressed.**
- **A Request for Proposal to treat and dispose of about 275 containers of mixed waste is due to be issued on Feb. 29, 2000. This "Acids and Bases" RFP will concern wastes from several waste streams and sources. Some of the waste may have to be treated on-site before being sent off-site for disposal.**

Status: Surface Soils Operable Unit

- A kick-off meeting for the Surface Soils Operable Unit was held October 29.
- A second meeting was held November 16 and 17 to determine the scope and schedule for D0 SSOU scoping document.
- **Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) issued a D0 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study scoping document for internal comment on Jan. 19, 2000. Comments have been received and the D1 version of the document is due for completion on April 6, 2000.**

February 2000

-END-

The Paducah Sun

February 15, 2000

Colleague doubts DOE site danger

By Bill Bartleman
The Paducah Sun

The radiation safety manager at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant said he has no immediate concerns about the safety of workers or about any possible risk of a nuclear accident caused by classified materials that may be stored at the plant.

The manager, Orville Cypret, said he was shocked when he learned that a colleague filed a whistle-blower disclosure statement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other agencies last week raising new concerns about possible radiation hazards.

Raymond Carroll, a senior manager of health and safety programs, filed the statement, based on a conversation he had last month with Cypret.

Cypret talked to Carroll and others about potential new safety concerns after meeting with a U.S. Department of Justice investigator and the U.S. Department of Energy's Paducah site manager. Cypret said Carroll's statement is not an accurate reflection of the concerns expressed at the meeting. He said some items were embellished.

At issue were comments made to Cypret indicating that up to 1,600 tons of contaminated nuclear weapons material may be stored at the plant, and that tritium may once have been in the plant.

Cypret's job is to ensure that workers for USEC Inc., which runs the nuclear fuel production facilities, are tested for exposure to radioactive materials and chemicals known to be present inside the plant. "If there are radioactive materials here that pose a risk of worker exposure, we need to know about it so we can test for it," Cypret said.

He said not testing would create a health risk for workers and could be a violation of safety regulations enforced by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cypret said all the information he received last month was "innuendo and ambiguous, but enough that I got worried about whether workers were working in a safe environment. I needed to run it by others and get their views of whether there was a risk." He added he talked to Carroll because Carroll is involved in health and safety issues.

"I asked Ray if he thought there was anything we needed to do immediately," Cypret said. "We talked for a long time and concluded there was not anything more we needed to do. We had done an extensive site characterization (study of contamination), and if there had been anything else radioactive, we would have found it."

There had been reports that weapons material may be buried in the plant, Cypret said. However, the extent and exact type of material have never been confirmed because it is classified information deemed related to national security.

Cypret said he consulted with others at the plant, including Security Manager Pat Jenny, who also concluded there was no danger requiring immediate action.

Cypret said the disclosure statement filed by Carroll makes the situation seem more serious. Carroll said that Joe Egan, a Washington lawyer, helped prepare and file the statement. Egan filed a lawsuit last year on behalf of several workers claiming that former operators had falsified records related to the extent of environmental problems at the plant.

Cypret said he learned the disclosure statement was filed when Carroll contacted him on Thursday and advised him to read a Washington Post news story on the Internet. Cypret said he didn't know Carroll was going to file the disclosure statement.

"I was beyond shock when I found out what he had done," Cypret said. "I thought it was the wrong approach and would be counterproductive. It was my decision to work within the system to resolve these issues and concerns. If at any point I felt the system wasn't working, I could have then gone the same route as Ray."

In retrospect, Cypret said he suspected that Carroll had planned to take some action regarding the information they had discussed.

"After we met (in January) ... Ray came to my house and had a two-page document that was a summary of our meeting," Cypret said. "He wanted to make sure it was accurate ... There were one or two issues I suggested he change. I asked him three times what he was going to do with it, and he told me I didn't really want to know."

Carroll said it was that document that Egan used to prepare the final draft of the disclosure statement. Egan, Carroll and Cypret said they don't know who leaked the document to the news media. Carroll said some reporters had it before it was officially filed.

Cypret said some of the wording was changed to embellish some issues and make them sound more serious. In an interview Saturday, Carroll

acknowledged that some wording in the [illegible]
two-page summary he prepared.

One of the issues involved comments from Jenny. As the plant security director, Jenny was quoted in the disclosure statement as telling Cypret that, in regard to releasing information about contaminated materials, "a decision had apparently been made that national security would take precedence over personnel radiological safety."

The two-page summary had a different version of Jenny's comments. It said Jenny had only "indicated to Mr. Cypret that the likely thought process would be that national security would take precedence over personal safety."

A source familiar with security matters who did not want to be identified said Jenny told other workers at the plant Monday that her comment was in the context that national security was of prime concern when some of those materials were brought into the plant during the Cold War of the 1950s, '60s and '70s. She denied saying that national security was more important than the safety of workers.

Jenny was unavailable for comment Monday.

Most of the facts in the document were prepared by Carroll, Egan said, adding that he saw no significant differences between the five-page disclosure statement and the two-page memo that Cypret had reviewed.

Egan said he prepared an introduction that gave some biographical information about Carroll. He said he also changed some of the wording in Carroll's statement to make it more readable.

Egan said he wants to hear from Cypret or anyone who has information related to Carroll's statement.

"If someone has a quibble with the sum and substance of what he is saying, I would be interested to know what it is," Egan said by phone from Washington. "The statement is Ray's, and he stands behind it.

"The prime objective of filing the statement was to try to get the issue on the table, and I think Ray did that."

Egan said filing the disclosure statement was proper because it should ensure that it is dealt with in a serious manner at the highest levels of government.

Cypret said he was told by top DOE officials that to obtain accurate information about classified material buried at the plant, he would have to become a member of a team of high-security-level officials investigating historical information about classified operations at the plant.

That team involves officials with the U.S. Departments of Energy, Justice and

Independent probe sought in Paducah

■ **DOE has** *a conflict of interest in investigating itself, a union official said.*

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

Although uncertain of the extent of nuclear weapons components at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, the head of the plant guards' union said it's time someone other than the Department of Energy investigated Cold War legacy issues at the plant.

John Driskill, president of United Plant Guard Workers of America Local 111, said incessant publicity about past contamination at the plant — much of it based on the leaking of federal documents — has a pall over one of the s largest industrial employers.

"I think the only way we're going to stop this dying of a thousand cuts is to have an independent investigation," he said. "I'm going to continue pushing for that and seeking support anywhere I can find it."

Also, outside investigations into plant activities are apparently expanding. Sources told the Sun that the CIA had an agent at the plant Monday interviewing some employees.

The sources said they didn't know the focus of the questioning on how it was related to other security issues. Late Monday, a DOE spokesman said "it is too late in the day" to track officials who would know whether the CIA was at the plant.

Already involved in investigations at the plant are the FBI the U.S. attorney's office, t partment of Defense and L .

Driskill said DOE, which owns the plant, has lost credibility by investigating itself and the actions of its past contractors.

He said he has seen plant records being taken from the plant to DOE operations offices in Oak Ridge, Tenn., although he does not know what the records contained. Questions arose late last week about whether classified documents related to nuclear weapons components were being taken from Paducah to Oak Ridge.

A solution to Driskill's call for an independent probe may come in Congress. First District Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Hopkinsville, said he hopes to hold congressional hearings within 45 days on revelations in DOE's latest investigative report on past practices at the plant.

Last week, DOE released a report saying, among other things, that workers in the 1950s were exposed to radiation in "experiments" to test how quickly uranium was excreted in the urine. The department said records are unclear if the workers knew they were being exposed.

DOE's report mentioned nothing about potentially highly contaminated nuclear weapons components at the Paducah plant. But a confidential document leaked to the press Thursday — the same day the report came out — said 1,600 tons of nuclear weapons parts were buried at the plant.

Driskill

Ray Carroll, a senior manager of health and safety programs at the plant, wrote the statement, which questioned worker safety and said weapons-related classified documents had been taken from the plant to Oak Ridge.

As publicity about the memo grew Friday, DOE ordered that the shredding of all documents cease and, in concert with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, placed USEC Inc.-employed security guards at the five classified storage areas at the plant. The FBI is a branch of the Justice Department, which is investigating allegations in a federal false claims suit by three plant workers.

"Since Friday, nothing has been done with any of the (remaining) records that I know of," Driskill said. "We had extra security at the plant this weekend. My comfort level now with the evidence being protected is better than it was, but who knows what had been done before Friday?"

Besides expressing serious concerns about worker safety, the memo said Plant Security Manager Pat Jenny told Radiation Protection Manager Orville Cypret that a special vault had been established for classified weapons-related items that were found. She told Cypret the vault held records that were being delivered nightly from Paducah to Oak Ridge, the memo says.

"Ms. Jenny told Mr. Cypret that the decision had already been made that national security took precedence over personnel safety," the Carroll memo said. "It is inconceivable to me that personnel safety cannot coexist with national security."

But Driskill said Monday that Jenny told him her statements had been misconstrued. "I think the comments she may have made were a little less ominous than what was attributed to her," he said.

Driskill said he could not clarify exactly what Jenny said. Attempts to reach Jenny on Monday were unsuccessful.

"As department manager, she would be aware of something like that occurring, but DOE and Bechtel Jacobs (DOE's lead environmental contractor) won't tell USEC security what we're protecting," Driskill said. "They just want us to protect it."

The Paducah Sun

February 13, 2000

Openness urged on DOE burials

By Bill Bartleman
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Raymond Carroll said he hopes that the complaint he filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission results in other federal agencies being more forthcoming about materials stored and buried at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

Carroll, a senior manager of health and safety programs at the plant, filed a five-page whistle-blower disclosure statement with the NRC questioning the extent and hazards of nuclear weapon components that may be stored at the plant.

Copies also were filed Thursday with the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies.

"I have no personal knowledge of what is stored that could cause a criticality accident or the release of high levels of radiation," Carroll told the Sun on Saturday.

"However, when I heard reports that potential problems might exist, I felt they needed to be investigated. If I had this information and didn't do anything about it, I would have a guilty conscience if something happened later to injure someone."

Carroll said his statement was based on comments from another safety worker, who became concerned after he was interviewed by a U.S. Department of Justice investigator who was looking into other environmental complaints at the plant. The investigator made reference to a tritium experiment and "nuclear-related hardware," according to the statement.

Carroll, an employee of the United States Enrichment Corp., which operates the uranium enrichment production at the plant, said his disclosure statement was prepared and filed for him by Washington attorney Joe Egan. Last year Egan filed a lawsuit claiming that former operators of the plant lied about the extent of the plant's environmental problems. The suit seeks to recover millions of dollars paid to the operators based on the alleged false reports.

"I contacted Mr. Egan for help in getting this information to the right agencies because of his reputation and his knowledge of nuclear issues," Carroll said. "I know his reputation based on what I've read in the newspapers. I never talked to him before, and I am not involved in that."

Carroll said that before going to Egan, he considered other options, including reporting the information to his superiors at USEC and reporting it to NRC personnel at the plant.

"I ruled out going to USEC because USEC has no authority or control of the material in question," he said. "Its dog isn't in this fight."

He said the material in question is under the control of DOE, which was in charge of all operations of the plant until the USEC took over uranium production two years ago. DOE continues to manage the storage of environmental waste and cleanup at the plant.

He also ruled out going to local NRC officials because he considered it such an important issue that "it should start at the top. I felt that all of the agencies involved needed to talk and communicate. I didn't want it to get bogged down in bureaucracy."

The Paducah Sun
02/13/00 - P. B8
Original ad 8 ½ x 16

ATTENTION ATOMIC WORKERS

* * *

SEEKING WITNESSES

Were you or an immediate family member employed at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and believe you or they were actively involved in any way in the following activities:

1. Uranium excretion experiments (urine) designed to test the effectiveness of respirators (gas masks, etc.) in filtering out radioactive dust, gas and smoke.

2. Work involving the installation, maintenance or repair of stationary air samplers, located in various production and non-production areas, as well as portable air samplers.

3. Work involving neptunium (code named "trace") recovery operations in Building C-710.

If so, please call or e-mail Attorney William F. McMurry, who is investigating radiation control practices at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant as lead counsel for the plantiffs in the worker lawsuit pending in the United States District Court against Union Carbide, Martin Marietta, Lockheed Martin and General Electric.

WILLIAM F. McMURRY
McMURRY & TALBOTT
4965 U.S. Highway 42, Suite 2800
Louisville, Kentucky 40222
Phone: (502) 326-9000
E-Mail: wmcmurry@msn.com

The Paducah Sun
02/13/00 - P. A8

NRC inspectors to tell of protecting community

Staff report

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's two resident inspectors stationed at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant will discuss the agency's role in protecting the community at Paducah Community College on Thursday.

Senior Resident Inspector Kenneth G. O'Brien and Resident Inspector John M. Jacobson will present a general overview of the NRC's regulatory responsibilities and what the federal agency does to ensure the safety and well-being of the public.

The seminar, part of an ongoing series of health-physics related events sponsored by PCC, will be in Room 101 of Crounse Hall. While there is no admission fee, reservations are requested. They can be made by calling 554-6293.

Kenneth O'Brien
Senior resident inspector

disposal would not be voluntarily shared with the civilians running the plant. The complaint also said that records found during the inquiry would be secured in a vault and that Energy Department personnel from Oak Ridge, Tenn., would drive to Paducah nightly to pick them up.

Carroll quoted Cypret as quoting Pat Jenny, the diffusion plant's security director, as saying " decision apparently had been made that national security would take precedence over personnel radiological safety."

"I find this decision to be unconscionable," Carroll said in the complaint.

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Send questions and comments to the Webmaster

The Paducah Sun

February 12, 2000

Memo cites buried nuclear matter

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

A five-page memorandum from a Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant health physicist questions the extent and hazards of nuclear weapons components stored at the plant, and says the materials could cause a nuclear accident.

Obtained Friday by the Sun, the Feb. 3 memo from Raymond G. Carroll, a senior manager of health and safety programs since 1992, said Carroll was "now deeply concerned about the safety of personnel" at the plant.

Carroll said in the memo that his concerns were based on a Jan. 13 conversation with Radiation Protection Manager Orville Cypret, who said he had met recently with Dale Jackson, former Paducah site manager for the Department of Energy.

Cypret learned that about 1,600 tons of nuclear weapons components had been buried at the plant, including "large quantities" of highly radioactive plutonium and highly enriched uranium, and "a significant amount" of the material was still above and below ground at the plant, the memo said.

According to the memo, Jackson told Cypret that because of national policy, nuclear weapons hardware is unmarked, and some of the material could be in space leased by plant operator USEC Inc. DOE "thinks" it knows the location of most of the material, and a team formed to look into the matter would not "voluntarily" share information with USEC, the memo says.

Jackson could not give Cypret specifics on the material, its hazards, worker groups that handled it or its ultimate disposition, the memo says.

The Carroll memo said the material "could pose nuclear criticality issues" and that health physics personnel could not work effectively without knowing all radiation sources at the plant. It said unmarked materials bearing plutonium and similar radioactive elements are a threat to workers who could encounter them.

Cypret met before Jan. 13 with a Department of Justice investigator who "apparently indicated to Mr. Cypret that he would not ask about a classified tritium project or past nuclear weapons handling at Paducah," the memo says, adding that Jackson had "apparently" disclosed that information to the investigator.

The Justice Department is investigating claims in a federal lawsuit that past contractors defrauded the government by secretly poisoning workers and the public while receiving huge performance fees.

Cypret was "surprised and concerned" that he and USEC management had not been told of the possible presence of tritium or other weapons-related isotopes, the memo continues. Carroll wrote that Cypret was especially puzzled in light of the discovery last April of tritium in the urine of a former health physics employee who had taken a physical to work elsewhere.

The Sun previously reported that USEC and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were not informed of the urinalysis finding - which was below health-risk standards - until October. At that time, 10 Paducah plant health physics employees who had worked with the departed worker were

tested, and no tritium was found.

John Jacobson, NRC inspector at the plant, said then that he did not believe the former employee was exposed at the plant and that he had no knowledge that tritium had been used there.

Tritium is an isotope of hydrogen and also has been used in nuclear weapons, such as hydrogen bombs. It also is used in minute amounts in watches, exit signs and other products to make them glow in the dark.

DOE officials have said there is no evidence that any materials ever brought into the plant contained tritium. Also, NRC and DOE have said that if tritium contamination took place, the tritium would have been there less than 12 years, because after that it loses its radioactivity.

Attempts to reach Cypret and Jackson were unsuccessful Friday. Contacted at his office by The Associated Press, Carroll would not comment further.

Carroll's memo was first reported Friday by The Washington Post. The Post said the document was prepared for the NRC, which regulates areas that USEC leases from DOE, which owns the plant.

Contacted by the Sun, NRC officials said the memo was received Friday - eight days after it was dated.

"We were informed yesterday (Thursday) that it was coming," NRC spokesman Jan Strassma said. "I have not seen the document. This appears to be in the format of allegations, and we don't discuss allegations until we've had a chance to investigate. But obviously we'll be looking into it as far as it affects our jurisdiction."

Jacobson said, "We're not aware of any immediate hazard to the public or the plant staff here. I certainly don't have any detailed knowledge about the history of what may or may not have occurred."

USEC spokeswoman Elizabeth Stuckle said DOE told USEC senior managers that no nuclear weapons components were in the roughly 250 acres of USEC space at the plant.

"Based on information available, we are aware of nothing that adversely impacts our employees," Stuckle said, adding that any new information about "legacy" environmental issues would be included in worker health and safety programs.

DOE spokesman Steve Wyatt issued a statement confirming the presence of a DOE-managed underground classified burial yard at the Paducah plant, which was previously reported by the Sun. The burial ground is covered in routine environmental sampling and radiation monitoring, Wyatt said.

The department has said nuclear weapons components were brought into the 48-year-old plant during the Cold War years and posed a threat to workers who dismantled them for valuable metals and other materials. Several longtime workers have told the Sun that weapons were not made at the plant and the components did not contain warheads or other fissionable material.

But the Carroll memo said the material could pose the risk of a nuclear criticality accident and, despite a widespread belief, is "not all located in the classified burial ground on site."

Questions about the nature, extent and hazards of the material and why a DOE investigative team apparently was not made aware of it were referred through Wyatt to DOE headquarters in Washington. Officials there had not responded to the questions by Friday evening.

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The Paducah Sun

February 12, 2000

FBI tightens security at DOE site

By Joe Walker
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The federal government has stopped routine shredding and disposing of documents and has placed guards at classified storage areas at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

That action took place Friday as word circulated in Washington about an employee memorandum that expressed profound fear about the radiation threat from old nuclear weapons components stored at the plant.

Sources said FBI agents sought tighter security at as many as five facilities at the plant where classified materials are stored. Some are controlled by the Department of Energy, which owns the plant. Others are overseen by plant operator USEC Inc., and some are shared by DOE and USEC.

At the FBI's request, plant security guards, who have higher security clearances than most other plant personnel, were stationed at the classified materials areas.

Also, DOE sent a two-page fact sheet to employees about weapons components stored at the plant and ordered that the shredding of all paper - including draft and final documents, e-mail papers and even paper jammed in office equipment - cease until further notice, sources said. USEC, which has about 1,600 workers at the plant, agreed to comply.

The action followed publicity about a Feb. 3 memo from Raymond G. Carroll, a health physicist who said he helped develop the radiation protection section of the application for the plant's certificate of compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Besides expressing serious concerns for worker safety, the memo said Plant Security Manager Pat Jenny told Radiation Protection Manager Orville Cypret that a special vault had been established for classified weapons-related items that were found. She told Cypret the vault held records that were being delivered nightly from Paducah to Oak Ridge, Tenn. (where a DOE operations office exists), the memo says.

"Ms. Jenny told Mr. Cypret that the decision had already been made that national security took precedence over personnel safety," the Carroll memo says. "It is inconceivable to me that personnel safety cannot coexist with national security."

Reacting to the memo, Sen. Jim Bunning sharply criticized the Energy Department.

"This is just one more example of why, last year, I commissioned a General Accounting Office investigation to specifically identify all the contaminated material at Paducah," he said. "It is obvious that DOE is utterly incapable of conducting its own investigation into the matter."

John Driskill, president of the plant guard workers' union, said "a far-reaching and unbiased investigation" should be done by an independent organization because there is a perception that DOE cannot police itself. He said the memo upholds a "long-held position" by guards that the systematic downgrading of the security force in recent years "has been a potentially tragic mistake."

Word of the memo broke Thursday, the same day DOE released an oversight team's 76-page

investigative report on environmental, safety and health at the Paducah plant from its opening in 1952 through 1989. The report mentioned nothing about highly contaminated weapons parts.

During a telephone press conference about the report, Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of environmental, safety and health programs for DOE, did not mention the weapons materials memo.

Former Paducah DOE Site Manager Dale Jackson, who participated in the conference, acknowledged that Department of Defense personnel were at the plant, but he said they had not told him much about their purpose for being there. Jackson told Cypret about the weapons materials, and Cypret told Carroll, the memo said.

The Sun reported Feb. 2 that Department of Defense personnel were at the plant, although it was unclear why. Some sources said Friday that defense workers were at the plant not in relation to the weapons components, but to help the Department of Justice in its investigation of past plant health and safety practices. Neither department has acknowledged the relationship.

DOE spokesman Steve Wyatt said DOE and the departments of Defense and Justice "are looking at classified national security programs conducted in the past at Paducah, reviewing materials of potential worker exposures, and any safety, health and environmental issues associated with national security programs."

Richard Miller, Washington-based policy analyst for the plant's atomic workers' union, said he understood Michaels was surprised by Carroll's memo.

"It raises the profound question, what is going on that DOE and its folks at the site and at the Oak Ridge Operations level (in Tennessee, which oversees the plant) were withholding this information from the oversight team and its investigators?" Miller said. "How is that possible?"

Officials of the atomic workers' union were "clueless" about the problem, Miller said. "None of our people even knows what areas this involves, and we're traversing the plant all day, every day."

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The Paducah Sun

February 11, 2000

DOE secrecy put workers at risk

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

A "need-to-know" mentality fostered by the Cold War, coupled with a lack of understanding of chemical and radiation hazards, put an unknown number of Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant workers at undue health risks especially in earlier years, the Department of Energy says.

That culture even led to "crude" 1950s experiments in which workers submitted themselves to radiation. Health physics personnel drank and inhaled uranium to see how fast it was excreted in their urine, according to a newly released department study.

"The record is unclear as to whether the personnel involved in the experiments were volunteers or informed participants," the report said.

Although a DOE investigative team found only two documented worker exposures to radiation above allowable limits at the time, records are sketchy, and many others may have been significantly exposed, said Dr. David Michaels, Energy Department assistant secretary for environment safety and health.

"We think worker protection practices there were not as protective as they should have been, even given the limits of the times," he said, "although it's important to remember what the limits of the times were."

Michaels held a telephone press conference from Washington to discuss the findings, released Thursday in a 76-page report covering practices at the plant from its startup in 1952 to 1990. The study was based on a review of thousands of documents, interviews with more than 200 current and former workers, plant tours, and other analyses.

The information will be used in conjunction with projects to track the historical flow of recycled uranium and related contaminants at all DOE facilities; determine the extent of work-related illnesses at uranium enrichment plants here and in Portsmouth, Ohio, as well as at a closed plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn.; and find out how and to what extent those plant workers were exposed to radiation.

Michaels said the findings ultimately will help determine which workers and their families should be compensated for work-related illness under proposed legislation. Workers and families would receive $100,000 each for specific cancers but would not have to prove their exposure to radiation caused their illness.

Earlier, Michaels estimated that 200 current and former employees who worked in certain areas of the plant would be immediately eligible for benefits, and an undetermined number would be eligible during the next 20 years.

One provision of the proposed law is that those compensated will not be allowed to take part in any legal action against the federal government or a current or former contractor. Two federal lawsuits were filed last year alleging that past contractors secretly poisoned workers and the public. One suit seeks to be a class action for as many as 10,000 people.

Despite highlighting past wrongs, the report is not an indictment of the contractors, Michaels said.

"In terms of compensating those workers for past exposures, we don't get into the question of fault because fault isn't really necessary to provide compensation," he said.

The study marked the second phase of a DOE probe into current and past conditions at the plant, which enriches uranium for nuclear fuel. Although the first phase required numerous corrective actions, the department, which owns the plant, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees nuclear safety, have repeatedly said the plant and its environment are safe.

In the 1950s and '60s, workers and management at the Paducah plant held to a "need to know" policy ingrained by the Cold War, the report said. Enriching uranium was the plant's top priority, and many employees were former military people who thought their jobs merely were a continuation of government loyalty. Most interviewed said they were unafraid to ask safety questions and did not fear reprisal, but a few said they had concerns about both.

There was an apparent intent to protect workers from radiological hazards, yet implementation was inconsistent from 1952 to 1989, the study said.

During that time, health physics staffing (two to six employees) was insufficient for a work force ranging from 1,200 to 2,500. Supervisors failed to communicate exposure levels and transuranic (including highly radioactive plutonium and neptunium) hazards to workers and did not enforce controls consistently, the study said, adding that workers did not follow controls or adequately understand and appreciate hazards.

Generally, workers thought uranium was soluble and could be quickly excreted in the urine, the report said. That may not have been accurate for some uranium compounds, particularly aerosols generated in areas where uranium hexafluoride was fed into the processing system and where grinding, buffing and welding took place.

The report said the "comfort level" of exposure and excretion was reflected in 1956 tests that exposed some workers with respirators to known amounts of airborne uranium, and late 1950s experiments in which health physics personnel drank and breathed uranium compounds.

Plutonium and neptunium - contaminants brought into the plant in tiny amounts during the 1950s and early '60s in spent reactor fuel - are far more dangerous than uranium if inhaled or ingested. Workers risked significant exposure in handling the materials, and a March 1960 letter showed that the Atomic Energy Commission (DOE's predecessor), Union Carbide managers and health physics personnel knew workers were not following respiratory protection guidelines.

The letter said 300 workers at Paducah "should be checked out," but management hesitated to do so, fearing that the labor union would demand hazard pay. Asked whether the document suggests the AEC was at fault, Michaels said there is no record of follow-up.

"I think the memo speaks for itself ...," Michaels said. "We could not determine what the response was in 1960 to that memo."

By the mid- to late 1970s, surveys and radiation monitoring were "routinely documented" and health physics employees were aware of the hazards of neptunium, plutonium and a similar substance, technetium, the report said. Respirator use was "actively encouraged," misuse was documented, and other measures to reduce risks were recommended.

Throughout the study period, environmental and safety practices "were generally in accordance" with accepted practices at the time, said Dr. Pat Worthington, Paducah investigative team leader. She said Union Carbide provided quarterly health and safety updates to the AEC, and the team "didn't find any inconsistencies" in the reports compared with other documents and interviews.

Contamination controls were limited even into the early 1980s. Eating, drinking and smoking in areas of radioactivity were common, and workers were not required to wash exposed areas or remove contaminated clothing before entering cafeterias, break areas or the plant theater.

"As a result, plant workers probably took radioactive contamination outside site boundaries," the report said.

The study also looked at potential public risks, noting that before 1975, no evidence was found of measurements or monitoring of venting of process gases, including uranium and toxic fluorine. From 1952 to 1983, an estimated 66 tons of uranium gas were released into the atmosphere, 75 percent of which was before 1965. But because of lack of documentation, "the accuracy and conservatism of past public dose estimates are questionable," the report says.

Radioactive and chemical waste, often mixed with normal refuse, was dumped and buried in many locations inside and outside the plant fence. Large amounts of radioactive materials, including uranium metals and powders and contaminated waste, were packed in metal barrels and buried.

Contaminated concrete rubble and roofing materials were disposed of outside the plant, some in the surrounding wildlife management area. Contaminated sludge and floor sweepings were placed in landfills, and the sludge was applied as fertilizer on lawns.

Michaels said waste areas are being cleaned up by agreements DOE has with state and federal environmental protection agencies. He declined to say what risk the contamination poses to plant neighbors, but said the Atlanta-based Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is expected to issue a report soon on that issue.

"Hopefully, once that examination is completed," Michaels said, "that question can be answer more easily."

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The Paducah Sun

February 11, 2000

DOE: No new hazardous areas at Paducah plant

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

USEC Inc. says it has no evidence that old nuclear weapons components are present in production-related areas of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

An employee complaint reportedly was filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about weapons components' being in USEC-leased space, possibly posing a health hazard. Such reports are held confidential by the NRC.

"USEC senior management has discussed the subject with Department of Energy senior management at Paducah," USEC spokeswoman Elizabeth Stuckle said from Bethesda, Md. "USEC has been assured that DOE is not aware of any conditions that create (radioactive) hazards to USEC personnel at the site beyond those already known and controlled."

She said the firm is unaware of any weapons components in areas it leases from DOE, which owns the plant.

USEC is continuing to work with DOE and other agencies to help with ongoing investigations of "legacy" environmental, health and safety problems at the plant, Stuckle said.

The department's 76-page investigative report released Thursday touched on past work practices. In the 1950s, employees dismantled nuclear weapons components to recover valuable metals and other materials. Although the components posed radioactive hazards, they reportedly did not contain warheads.

On Thursday, DOE Site Manager Dale Jackson confirmed that Department of Defense officials have been at the plant, looking into past work besides uranium that may have been done "for others." He said DOE is supporting that effort but has not been told exactly what the Defense Department is investigating.

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Bomb Part Storage at Ky. Plant Disclosed

Nuclear Agency Is Told of Hazards In Secret Program

By Joby Warrick
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, February 11, 2000; Page A01

More than 1,600 tons of nuclear weapons parts reportedly lie scattered around the Energy Department's Paducah, Ky., uranium plant, a safety manager informed regulators yesterday in a new disclosure of potential hazards unknown to workers or civilian plant supervisors.

Some of the bomb parts are stored in above-ground shelters and could pose a risk of exposure or even an accidental nuclear reaction at the plant, if the components are contaminated with radioactive substances such as enriched uranium and plutonium, the official reported in a signed statement to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The U.S. Enrichment Corp. (USEC), the government-chartered private company that now runs the plant, acknowledged yesterday that its senior officials recently discussed the issue with the Department of Energy.

"USEC has been assured that DOE is not aware of any conditions that create a radiological hazard to USEC personnel at the site beyond those already known and controlled," company spokeswoman Elizabeth Stuckle said.

Energy Department officials involved with the country's classified nuclear weapons program apparently were aware of the shipment of bomb components to Paducah over many years, but the department did not until recently inform the plant's civilian overseers and safety officials who were in charge of evaluating threats to workers.

The statement by Raymond G. Carroll, a senior manager of health and safety programs at the plant since 1992, quotes a conversation with another senior civilian plant official who reportedly told Carroll he was worried about the bomb parts after hearing of their existence from a DOE official.

Carroll also said he was told that DOE officials recently began hauling away documents related to weapons dismantlement.

A DOE spokesman confirmed that the department is investigating "classified national security programs" conducted at Paducah in the past, along with the Justice and Defense departments.

"This review includes the examination of potential worker exposures and any safety, health and environmental issues associated with these national security programs," the official said.

Carroll's statement was obtained by The Washington Post yesterday as the government was making its most detailed acknowledgment to date of historically unsafe practices at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, a hulking industrial complex that has produced enriched uranium for nuclear bombs and power plants since 1952.

The 77-page DOE report faults a "climate of secrecy" for keeping workers and neighbors uninformed and unprotected while radioactive contaminants spread through factory buildings and surrounding areas. A few volunteers were deliberately exposed to uranium in a series of previously undisclosed human experiments, the report said.

The DOE report does not mention nuclear bomb parts. A worker lawsuit against plant contractors last summer revealed that some weapons parts had been melted down at the plant to recover gold and other metals. But details of the scope and purpose of the bomb program have remained shrouded in secrecy.

Both DOE and Justice are investigating whistleblower allegations of improper handling of radioactive waste at the plant.

Yesterday's disclosure by Carroll suggests the bomb program may have introduced yet another unknown hazard at a facility where workers had been lulled by assurances that their jobs were virtually risk-free.

"Personnel could conceivably encounter highly enriched uranium or plutonium (or even tritium) without even knowing it," said Carroll, a 30-year veteran of the nuclear safety field who now works for USEC. Tritium is a radioactive component of the hydrogen bomb.

Carroll, in a five-page memo filed with NRC and DOE officials, said he learned about the bomb parts from a senior USEC supervisor, radiation protection manager Orville Cypret. Carroll wrote that Cypret said he learned about the bomb parts from Dale Jackson, the former DOE manager of the Paducah site.

Carroll said Cypret told him that 1,600 tons of weapons components had been shipped to Paducah since the 1950s. Although some parts were buried, others were dispersed in various storage areas across the

sprawling complex, according to Carroll's statement.

Cypret became alarmed after a Justice Department investigator told him "he would not ask about a 'classified tritium project' or past nuclear weapons handling at Paducah," Carroll wrote in his statment.

In keeping with security policy, the weapons parts were not labeled, though "DOE thinks it knows where most of the material is," Carroll wrote.

Cypret and Jackson did not return phone calls from The Post. A Justice Department official in Louisville said he could not comment on the department's investigation into whistleblower complaints at the plant.

Carroll said he was told that "large quantities" of plutonium and highly enriched uranium had been brought into the plant, and "not just in reactor tails." Last summer, following allegations by current and former workers, DOE acknowledged for the first time that radioactive plutonium and neptunium had entered the plant in uranium "tails," recycled uranium metal from military reactors that produced plutonium.

Carroll said in his statement that Cypret said a team of DOE officials had been assembled to investigate the matter but their findings "would not be voluntarily shared" with the plant's civilian managers. Instead, as records relating to the bomb program were found, they were held in a special vault for classified material.

"Someone from [the DOE's Oak Ridge, Tenn., site] would drive down each night to pick them up," Carroll wrote, quoting Cypret.

Carroll said the new disclosures had left him deeply concerned about the safety of the plant's workers. Besides the risk of radioactive contamination, improperly stored nuclear material could trigger a lethal "criticality," an accidental nuclear reaction.

"A decision had apparently been made that national security would take precedence over personnel radiological safety," Carroll wrote. "I find this situation to be unconscionable."

The risk posed by weapons parts could range from high to minimal, depending on the materials and how they are stored.

DOE's report on historical practices at Paducah wraps up the second of two major probes ordered by Energy Secretary Bill Richardson in August. DOE officials described it as one of the most thorough in the department's history.

The report concludes that the plant's lapses in worker safety in many ways reflected the culture of the time. "The Cold War was a reality," and federal oversight of the plant "was primarily directed at cost, schedule and production," the report said.

Although the "intention to protect workers was apparent," plant managers frequently failed to meet even the relatively lenient safety and environmental standards of the day, the report states.

The risks posed by plutonium and neptunium were "neither fully understood or appreciated," the report states. "The presence of these materials, the increased risks involved and the rationale for additional controls was not shared with workers."

In addition, radioactive and chemical wastes were routinely discharged into the water and air. Investigators documented nighttime smokestack emissions--dubbed "midnight negatives"--involving tens of thousands of pounds of uranium dust and smoke.

Richardson said the findings underscore his efforts to win compensation and other aid for ailing workers.

"I'm going to continue to be up front with the Paducah workers and the community about environmental, safety and health conditions at our sites during the Cold War," he said.

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Final Paducah report Plant kept workers in dark about exposures

Friday, February 11, 2000

BY Jonathan Riskind
Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- For nearly four decades, Kentucky uranium-enrichment workers were exposed to many dangerous radiological and chemical hazards, often without their knowledge, says a report released yesterday by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The final report about Cold War-era conditions at the Paducah, Ky., plant was issued as energy department investigators continue to probe of whether southern Ohio uranium-enrichment workers were exposed to similar conditions.

"Although the intention to protect workers was apparent, their protection programs were not always conservative or consistent," the report said about Paducah between 1952 and 1990.

"Consequently, worker radiation exposures were higher than necessary, and some workers may have been exposed to hazards that were not adequately monitored or understood."

The Clinton administration has proposed giving up to $100,000 each to Paducah workers who held certain jobs and developed cancers and other illnesses.

Energy Department officials say they need to know more about what went on at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio, before reaching any conclusions about whether compensation is warranted for its workers.

Investigators will be at the Piketon plant Monday through Feb. 25. The Piketon report is expected by the end of May.

Many former and current Piketon workers and their families think cancers and other illnesses were caused by years of exposures to radiation and chemicals.

also showed a correlation between disease rates and higher levels of radiation exposure, the study said.

In addition to the epidemiological studies, the report cited data from years of government-ordered medical screenings of former workers, which pointed to higher rates of lung disease and other ailments.

The NEC panel's findings, to be finalized in March, are expected to serve as the basis for an unprecedented, national compensation program benefiting ailing nuclear workers, administration officials said.

The framework of such a program--which would be subject to congressional approval--is far from clear. In recent months, Richardson announced pilot programs to compensate two relatively small groups: uranium workers who were exposed to radioactive plutonium at the government's gaseous diffusion plant in Paducah, Ky., and several hundred others who were exposed to beryllium, a highly toxic metal used in weapons production.

Longtime critics of the government's policy toward nuclear workers welcomed the finding but said it was long overdue. Robert Alvarez, a private consultant and former special assistant to Richardson, noted that uncertainties about radiation risks existed from the beginning. He recalled the words of Robert Stone, the top health official for the Manhattan Project, who in the 1940s described the workplace conditions for early atomic weapons workers as "[illegible] experiment."

"Never before has such a large collection of individuals been exposed to so much irradiation," Stone wrote.

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The Paducah Sun

January 29, 2000

Secretary opposes layoffs, shutdowns

By Bill Bartleman
The Paducah Sun

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said he doesn't want the United States Enrichment Corp. to close either of its gaseous diffusion plants or lay off any employees.

Richardson, however, said he can't control the decisions but can only make USEC live up to the agreement the company signed when it took over the nation's uranium enrichment industry.

The U.S. Department of Energy owns the enrichment plants in Paducah and Portsmouth, Ohio, and leases them to USEC. When USEC was privatized in 1998, an agreement was signed to keep the plants operating until at least 2005 unless certain economic conditions arose. One condition is if USEC's profit margin falls below 10 percent for 12 straight months. Another is if the long-term market price per unit of enriched uranium drops below $80.

Officials of the atomic workers' union at the plants have repeatedly expressed concerns that USEC is meeting some of the criteria, but the firm had not acknowledged that or explained how the criteria are measured.

"I met with USEC officials recently ... and made my position clear, and that was to live up to the agreement and continue all operations until at least 2005," Richardson said Friday during a visit to Paducah.

The USEC board of directors is scheduled to meet next week to consider cost-cutting measures that include closing one plant or laying off as many as 850 workers spread between both plants. Richardson said he encouraged USEC not to lay off any workers.

When the firm was privatized, it agreed to limit layoffs to 600 workers at the two plants (including 100 job cuts through attrition) prior to July 1. Last year, USEC completed about 250 job reductions at each plant. Union officials have said they expect the firm to announce more cuts soon, effective on or after July 1.

Richardson would not say what else was discussed at his recent meeting with USEC executives. He did not say if he was told what the board would decide next week. "That is an announcement they will have to make," he said.

He said the federal government is no longer considering the option to give [illegible] assistance to USEC to make up for losses it is incurring [illegible] reprocessing high-grade fuel purchased from Russia. The weapons-grade fuel is being reprocessed under an agreement between the two governments.

[illegible] for

"Those discussions (of helping USEC to make up for the losses) have ended," he said.

If there are layoffs at the Paducah plant, Richardson said, some of the jobs could transfer to jobs in the cleanup operations.

The Courier-Journal

Saturday, January 29, 2000 LOCAL NEWS

Paducah plant due additional cleanup funds

By JAMES MALONE, The Courier-Journal

PADUCAH, Ky. -- The Clinton administration will propose a sweeping increase in funding to clean up the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and study the health of workers, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said yesterday.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said additional money will be used to clean up the Paducah plant. Behind him is Gov. Paul Patton. C-J Photo: [illegible] Roshan

The budget President Clinton submits to Congress next month will include $109 million for the plant in the next fiscal year, Richardson said during a stop in Paducah. That would more than double the $53 million spent last year.

The administration also will ask Congress next week to increase spending in the current fiscal year by $11 million, bringing the total this year to $79 million, he announced. Much of the money would be used to clean up Drum Mountain, a pile of radioactive steel drums, by the end of the year.

Critics and lawsuits have described the plant's grounds as an environmental nightmare, with towering piles of radioactive scrap metal, older buildings padlocked because of plutonium-painted debris, and radioactive plumes of underground water seeping into streams and toward the Ohio River two miles away.

Gov. Paul Patton accompanied Richardson when he delivered the news to workers and managers. Patton, along with members of Kentucky's congressional delegation, have complained about the pace of the cleanup, and Patton had made two trips to Washington to push the Clinton administration to increase spending to $100 million a year.

Patton said that while the state didn't get everything it wanted, he was pleased with the proposal. He praised Rep. Ed Whitfield and Sen. Mitch McConnell, both Republicans, for working with him in a bipartisan manner to get the money.

Patton and Richardson exchanged warm greetings and met privately with union [illegible] for several minutes before addressing the crowd of about [illegible] people.

"The governor deserves a lot of credit . . . and is responsible in large part for the good numbers we have here," Richardson said.

[illegible] told [illegible] of the [illegible] fuel plants [illegible] were not told until last year that the plant is contaminated with plutonium and other highly radioactive metals.

BIG COG

in far Western Kentucky's economy, the plant provides excellent wages and benefits for about 1,700 and generates additional jobs through outside contractors.

The proposal for the 2001 fiscal year, which will begin Oct. 1, includes $78 million for cleaning up pollution and hazardous wastes; $4.3 million for monitoring worker health and safety; and $3 million to hire and retrain workers who have been laid off from the plant.

It also calls for spending $12 million to paint nearly 40,000 vessels of depleted uranium hexafluoride and $12 million to plan a conceptual recycling plant to convert this mildly radioactive waste product into a material that might have commercial or defense value.

Richardson said a go-slow approach would be taken toward the recycling effort to ensure the health of workers.

However, some said the government did not make a sufficient commitment to the conversion plant, which could provide long-term jobs for 75 to 150 people. Faced with cutbacks by the United States Enrichment Corp., which leases the production facilities, union leaders were counting on the conversion plant to cushion the blow and were looking for $60 million to be set aside rather than the $12 million that Richardson announced.

"The news we heard today was good, and I don't want to detract from that, but we would have liked to have seen more money for the conversion project," said David Fuller, president of the Paper, Allied Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers Union Local 5-505, which has about 800 hourly workers at the plant.

McConnell said in a statement he was pleased with Richardson's request for the $78 million for cleanup next year. "However," he added, "it is apparent, based on DOE's own numbers, that this administration has no intention of building a conversion facility [illegible] the [illegible] of depleted uranium.

Whitfield said, "Not only do we have very serious problems, but we have a community that has been united in trying to solve them," mentioning Patton, the White House and Richardson, as well as the Kentucky congressional delegation.

PATTON SAID

that within a year, the government should know more about the full extent of the problems at Paducah, "and then when we go back to start working on the 2002 budget, we will be able to tell the administration and Congress what it takes to live up to the government's commitment."

He said he would press the government to meet its goal of a complete site cleanup by 2010.

Richardson and his staff pledged that, by the end of this year, they would clean up Drum Mountain, a vast 20-year-old pile of 220,000 crushed steel drums that has been leaking [illegible] active juice into the [illegible]ment. He said $8 m[illegible] supple[illegible] fu[illegible] [illegible] ing up [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] of a [illegible]

The other $3 million would be for "additional environment and health monitoring" to study past worker exposure to radiation, he said.

About 75 percent of the money this year and next is [illegible] for cleanup work. Th[illegible]

government has acknowledged that much of the past money has gone for regulatory paperwork and testing, not actual cleanup.

Since he last visited Paducah in September, and apologized for decades of neglect and overlooked environmental and health safeguards, Richardson said he has kept his pledges to correct that legacy. He said he remains committed to finding out whether past exposures have caused injury or death to workers.

The government's renewed vigilance at the enrichment plant coincides with the disclosure in August of a whistle-blower lawsuit brought by three Paducah plant employees. They alleged that contractors who ran the plant for the Energy Department ignored or hid pollution problems and lax safety practices to obtain millions of dollars in performance bonuses from the Energy Department.

Richardson also had tough words for U.S. Enrichment, the private company that leases the government uranium enrichment plants in Paducah and near Piketon, Ohio. The corporation has seen its stock price plummet in recent months and has said it may close one of its two plants or lay off hundreds of workers to cut costs.

"I will not support any potential decision that USEC might make that would result in big layoffs here," he said. But he later qualified that to say that he would not support the company closing either of its plants before 2005, when an agreement with the government expires.

Richardson went to Ohio later yesterday to announce that the administration would propose to spend $113.5 million next year at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion [illegible] Piketon, an increase of 83 percent over DOE's 1999 allocation.

Also yesterday, Richardson said he had named Don Seaborg, who has wor[illegible] E[illegible]gy De[illegible]rtme[illegible] [illegible]eanup at its [illegible]ford plutonium plant in Richland, Was[illegible] ag[illegible]ncy's n[illegible]y site n[illegible]nager at Pad[illegible]. He replaces Jimmie Hodges, who resigned abru[illegible] la[illegible] fall.

Previous stories on the Paducah plant are online at: [illegible]

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Richardson Vows To Speed Cleanup Of Uranium Plants

By Joby Warrick
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, January 29, 2000; Page A08

PADUCAH, Ky., Jan. 28—Energy Secretary Bill Richardson today pledged more than $120 million in new spending to hasten cleanup and medical help at the government's two uranium enrichment plants, telling workers here that "America will not shirk" its obligations to those who built the nation's Cold War arsenal.

Richardson rolled out the first of his agency's 2001 budget initiatives during whirlwind visits to two communities where workers were exposed to radioactive hazards during decades of nuclear fuel production.

Speaking in Paducah and Piketon, Ohio, Ric[illegible] unveiled double cleanup spending for the two aging plants while expanding medical screening for workers and retirees.

"The work that to[illegible] place here--and the men a[illegible] women who performed it--hel[illegible] bring down an iron curtain 5,000 miles from here," Richardson [illegible]old federal and contractor employees at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, a 48-year-old factory on the Ohio River. "Now, you help us ensure a lasting peace."

A few hundred miles upstream, at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, he announced plans for early release of $11 million to give the cleanup a head start. "We're ready and we owe it to you," he said.

The spending, if approved by Congress, would represent the biggest infusion of federal money since the disclosures six months ago of hidden radioactive hazards at the plants, including potentially deadly plutonium.

Since August, Richardson has launched inve[illegible]tions, apologi[illegible] workers and pledged compensation for those who developed diseases linked to radiation exposure. He also pressed the administration to study [illegible] and such comp[illegible]ers at [illegible]

[illegible] is a link between [illegible] contamination disease among DOE workers, Richardson said today. The department has conducted dozens of epidemiological studies of its workers since the 1950s, and although the results are inconsistent, many of the studies point to higher rates of cancers among DOE workers. A [illegible]

House panel is scheduled to decide by March whether and how these ailing workers and their families should be compensated.

The budget proposal unveiled today would increase to $220 million the two plants' budget for cleanup, medical monitoring and safety improvements. Paducah's spending levels would double, from $53 million to $109 million, while Portsmouth's would jump from $46 million to $113 million.

At Paducah, part of the money would be used to wipe out a decades-old symbol of contamination, an enormous mound of radioactively contaminated scrap metal known locally as "drum mountain" or "barrel mountain." Richardson pledged to make the towering junk heap disappear by Dec. 31.

He also promised to rapidly complete medical screening of current and former workers at both plants. The testing eventually will include a mobile CAT scan that will enable physicians to detect cancers at very early stages, agency officials said.

At both plants, Richardson was flanked by political and civic leaders who pledged to press Congress to fully fund the agency's requests. Republican and Democratic lawmakers as well as the governors of the two states have called for even more money for cleanup, although some acknowledged today that securing the funds may be difficult.

"It'll be a challenge," said Rep. Edward Whitfield ([illegible] there are 119 sites around the country and they all have difficult problems."

But, noting that federal regulations on tobacco and coal mining have cost the region jobs and revenue, Kentucky Gov. Paul E. Patton (D) said the federal government was morally obliged to pay for the environmental problems it created.

"We've had to be environmentalists when it was our turn to pay for it," Patton said. "Now they have to be environmentalists and it's their turn to pay for it."

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Uranium Cleanup Funding Hike Sought

By James Prichard
Associated Press Writer
Friday, Jan. 28, 2000; 2:05 p.m. EST

PADUCAH, Ky. — The Clinton administration is seeking a significant increase in funding for cleanup and worker health programs at uranium processing plants in Kentucky and Ohio, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said Friday.

Clinton's budget request for fiscal year 2001, to be released Feb. 7, proposes $109.2 million for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and $113.5 million for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio.

The requests represent a doubling of the Paducah plant's 1999 budget and an 83 percent increase for the Piketon operation.

Richardson made the announcem[illegible] during a visit [illegible] office of [illegible] Paducah site's cleanup contractor.

Three Paducah [illegible]ployees hav[illegible] federal lav[illegible] [illegible]rkers unwiti[illegible]ly were exposed [illegible]lutonium and other highly [illegible]xic substance[illegible] from 1953 to 197[illegible] A recent Energy Department [illegible]vestigation found that worker safety and environmental problems have persisted during federal efforts to clean up the plant.

Richardson has apologized for the failure to disclose plant hazards and promised compensation for sick workers.

At Paducah, the 2001 budget request includes $78 million for cleanup, which the Energy Department would use to remove 51,000 tons of contaminated scrap and thousands of barrels containing radioactive waste.

The current cleanup budget at Paducah is $54.2 million.

[illegible] Piketon, th[illegible]dget proposes [illegible] million for [illegible] [illegible]he current budget is $46.1 million.

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Bac[illegible] [illegible]op

Yellow Page

The Paducah Sun

January 29, 2000

Patton: More DOE funds needed

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

KEVIL, Ky.

With hundreds more layoffs looming at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, reaction from Gov. Paul Patton and others is that Energy Secretary Bill Richardson's promise of $109 million for environmental cleanup and worker health programs is good, but not good enough.

Patton and other government, business and union officials expressed that view immediately after Richardson broke the news in a visit to Department of Energy environmental contract offices here Friday morning.

Flanked by Patton and U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, Richardson revealed the Clinton administration budget numbers to Paducah civic and business leaders. He then restated plans to a group of about 50 DOE contract workers and held a press conference.

Patton said that while he is "very pleased" with having $109 million - a doubling of what the plant received last year for plant cleanup work - the money falls short of what he [illegible] Paducah leaders asked for in a December trip to the White House.

"[illegible] is real progress, but we still have a lot more work to do. It is [illegible] the work that needs to be done," Patton said. "We didn't get all we asked for, so we'll continue to ask for more."

Next year, more will be known about the extent and cost of cleanup problems, he said. "We will be able with some knowledge and accuracy to tell the administration and Congress what it takes to live up to the government's commitment, which is to have it cleaned up by 2010."

The budget contains $78 million for cleanup work, compared with the current $54.2 million. Among other things, it will be used to remove a pile of contaminated drums known as "drum mountain" as well as 51,000 tons of contaminated scrap; dispose of 5,000 drums of low-level radioactive waste and ship more than 2,000 drums of hazardous and radioactive waste to another facility.

Richardson said cleanup should create openings in 2001 for about 300 employees of USEC Inc., which runs the DOE-owned Paducah plant. Union officials and federal lawmakers expect USEC [illegible] cut about [illegible]00 jobs at Paducah and 450 at its sister plant at Portsmouth, Ohio [illegible] reasons. The USEC board will meet again next week to ponder layoffs, closing one [illegible] the plant and other cost reductions.

[illegible] news regarding [illegible] funds, the Clinton budget falls we[illegible] [illegible] says is ne[illegible] publicized jobs

The budget has about $24 million for Paducah and $27 million for Portsmouth to handle 57,000 hazardous uranium hexafluoride cylinders, a waste product from uranium enrichment. At Paducah, $12 million is for tank maintenance and the rest for building a facility to convert the material to something safer that eventually might be sold.

Plant union officials and congressional aides say the project needs at least $60 million in "earnest money" between the plants to keep a contractor interested. Despite a federal law mandating recycling plants at Paducah and Portsmouth, a contract-award process is on hold again after being delayed several times last year. Various sources say there has been serious opposition among some of Richardson's DOE subordinates and in the Office of Management and Budget, which approves the DOE budget.

"I do believe that the secretary of energy is supportive of it but we do know there are people in the DOE that are opposed to it," Whitfield said. "One of the arguments now is that the material is contaminated and needs more testing. But the labor union says we have thorough records back to 1980 on this material and there is no question about what is there."

Whitfield said Congress will work hard to obtain more money, "but from what the secretary and his staff said it sounded like they are satisfied with the amount of money they have. We want more."

Sen. Mitch McConnell, who authored legislation for the recycling project, said the budget shows the Clinton administration "has no intention" of building the conversion facilities.

McConnell also said that while he is pleased with total funding, he is disappointed that Richardson "has attempted to double count funds that he obligated last year. If the Clinton-Gore administration wants to keep cleanup on track, they need to present a legitimate request for new money, rather than recounting last year's money."

Richardson sidestepped the charge of resistance to the conversion project, saying that with the help of Patton, federal lawmakers, the White House and Paducah delegation, there is much more general cleanup funding than ever. He said a request for conversion contractor proposals should go out before September.

"We think we can stay on schedule (with conversion). You don't want to have money that can't be used," he said. "Let's take care of the cleanup work that needs to [illegible] done co[illegible]nt with [illegible]"

Richardson said his top priority is money for environmental, health and safety studies and worker health monitoring ($4.3 million) and cleanup to help offset the unsightly legacy of the plant.

"I really feel that workers here at Paducah and at Portsmouth need to be treated right, especially if somehow they were not told the truth about their potential illnesses," he said.

David Fuller, president of the Paducah plant atomic workers' union, said more funding for cylinder conversion is critical, considering that hundreds of layoffs could occur soon. The project, which would employ about 100 workers, is at least a year behind schedule, he said.

"I would've loved to have seen enough money put into that to have gotten it off the ground," Fuller said. "But for some reason that I'm not altogether clear on there's hesitancy within the department to go ahead and pull the trigger on that."

Fuller reserved judgment on overall funding, saying he was st[illegible] how [illegible] it tr[illegible] saving jobs.

"I would hate to see the majority of that money used up by con[illegible] and [illegible]ering [illegible] it seems th[illegible] money dis[illegible]" [illegible] [illegible]le who [illegible]

Fuller said the union was completing agreements to allow laid-off USEC workers to flow into cleanup work. He said Richardson encouraged him by saying he would do what he could to keep the work steady rather than seasonal.

Greater Paducah Economic Development Council President Kristin Williams, one of several Paducah area officials who met with Richardson, said she is happy with total funding, yet is worried about parts of the package.

"I'm pleased at the progress we've made but we're not there yet," she said. "I think, like everybody else, we have some concerns about the (cylinder conversion) program and want to make sure there is enough money in the 2001 budget to make it a viable project."

Williams also chairs the Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization, a DOE-funded group that is studying ways to lessen the impact of layoffs or plant closure. Last year, Richardson promised the group $8 million and it received $6 million. It needs another $8 million this year and if $3 million - set aside for worker transition activities - is the total amount PACRO will receive, that is inadequate, she said.

"I'm not really sure what those dollars are for," Williams said. "When you look at the uncertainty with USEC and possible layoffs, that's going to make every component of our work 10 times more important."

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DOE NEWS

NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:
Dolline Hatchett, 202/586-5806
Steven Wyatt, 270/441-6800

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2000

Richardson Announces Significant New Funds to Clean Up the Cold War Legacy at Paducah and Portsmouth Plants

New Paducah Site Manager Named

U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson today announced a substantial new funding commitment for cleanup, waste management and worker health initiatives, doubling the investment at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Ky. and increasing funds for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Ohio by 83 percent. The Clinton/Gore Administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 budget request is scheduled to be submitted to Congress on February 7 and proposes federal funding totalling $109.2 million for the Paducah site and $113.5 million for the Portsmouth site.

"Our budget request to Congress puts our word into actions – we're investing dollars to clean up our gaseous diffusion plants, protect workers's health and create new jobs," Secretary Richardson said. employees at both plants. "The Clinton/Gore Administration and this country have the resources and the will to make this happen."

Secretary Richardson also announced that the department is sending a request to Congress for $26 million for additional cleanup and health activities this year -- of which each plant would get over $11 million. The supplemental request includes $3.3 million at both the Paducah and Portsmouth plants as well as a third gaseous diffusion plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn. to fund expanded medical monitoring of workers and the ongoing environment, safety and health investigations at the plants.

Paducah

At Paducah, the 2001 budget request would provide:

- $78 million for cleanup activities;
- $23.9 million for the uranium hexafluoride conversion and cylinder management program;
- $4.3 million for environmental health and safety studies and health monitoring; and
- $3 million for worker transition activities.

The [illegible] DOE [illegible] cleanup funds to:

- [illegible] cover [illegible] metal known as [illegible] characterization [illegible] gro[illegible] beneath it;
- continue to remove the remaining 51,000 tons of contaminated scrap in eight outside storage areas to reduce contamination in creeks and permit characterization of the burial grounds underneath;

(MORE)

R-00-[illegible]

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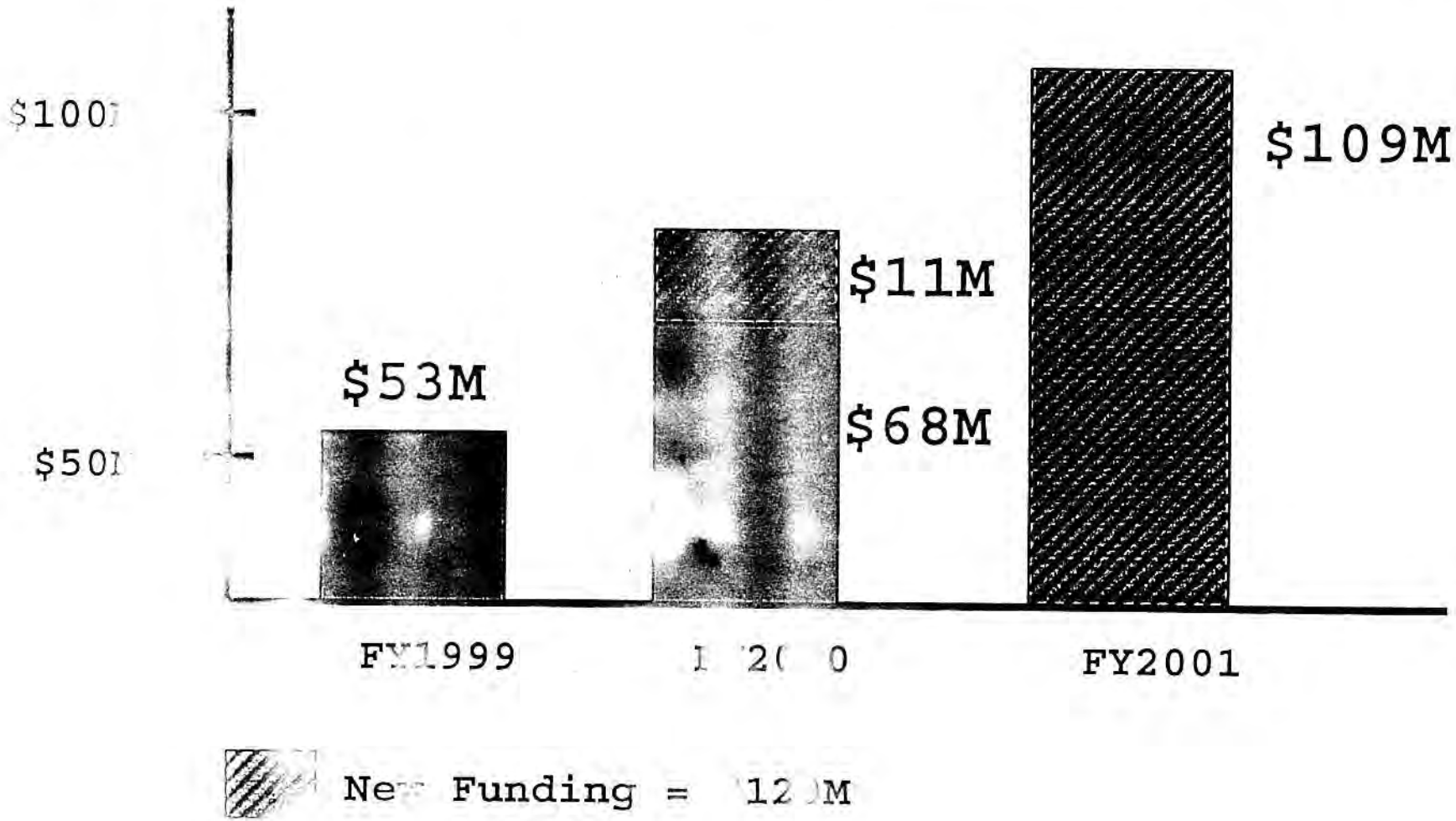

The Courier-Journal

Friday, January 28, 2000 LOCAL NEWS

Need Insurance?

More cleanup money coming to Paducah

Governor's aide: Announcement planned today

By JAMES MALONE, The Courier-Journal

PADUCAH, Ky. -- Energy Secretary Bill Richardson is to announce a major increase in federal clean-up money for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant during a visit today, an aide to Gov. Paul Patton said yesterday.

Just how much more money the Energy Department is proposing beyond the $50 million it already has pledged is unclear. But Patton aide Jack Conway said that federal officials have indicated it will be "significant."

The government has been spending $36 million to $40 million a year over the past decade to clean up the plant, which has numerous contamination and pollution problems.

Patton is expected to appear this morning with Richardson at the enrichment plant to meet with workers. Patton has lobbied the Clinton Administration for an [illegible] annual federal clean-up money for the plant. The most pressing problem is at [illegible] Mountain, a towering pile of crushed barrels that have been used to hold uranium.

Richardson's appearance comes as the plant's operator, the U.S. Enrichment [illegible] indicated it might close one of its two uranium-enrichment plants as a cost-cutting move. U.S. Enrichment operates the Paducah plant and a plant at Portsmouth, Ohio, under a lease agreement with the government.

The U.S. Enrichment board is set to meet next week to consider several moves to cut expenses. Earlier, a company lobbyist suggested that it might trim as many as 850 jobs at both plants.

Additional federal clean-up money will be welcome news to plant workers who face layoffs, said David Fuller, president of Local 5-550 of the Paper, Allied Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers union, which represents hourly employees at the Paducah plant.

Fuller said workers were disappointed at the lack of prog-ress in some of the initiatives Richardson announced when he visited Paducah late last fall. T[illegible] provided enough money for health screenings and studies of p[illegible] radiation, Fuller said.

"I [illegible]e it's [illegible] for projec[illegible] real [illegible] to s[illegible] more [illegible] thrown a[illegible] its a[illegible]

Although Fuller was hopeful that Richardson would announce new progress on a proposed plan to convert nearly 40,000 cylinders of fluorinated waste uranium powder, Conway said he did not know whether that would be on the agenda.

And Richard Miller, a union lawyer in Washington, complained that the project to convert the depleted uranium is falling further and further behind.

"The problem is that Richardson's people do not believe it's a just cause," Miller said. "It's utterly preposterous that the Energy Department is delaying the deploying of the conversion plants."

Richardson several months ago said that the government would seek proposals by March 2000 for the Paducah and Portsmouth plants to convert spent uranium. But now, Miller said that the timetable appears to have been postponed and that the money that Richardson is set to release for Paducah does not appear to be enough to finance the projects.

Conway couldn't be specific about how much money Richardson will pledge today but said, "I have had discussions about what 'significant' means" with the Energy Department and "I think it's significant enough that we will join Richardson."

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The Paducah Sun

January 27, 2000

Richardson coming Friday

By Bill Bartleman
and Joe Walker
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Energy Secretary Bill Richardson will visit Paducah on Friday to announce a significant increase in funding for cleanup work at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, according to Gov. Paul Patton.

Patton said the major announcement will involve funding for the fiscal year that begins July 1. Richardson also is expected to say that the Clinton administration will ask Congress to add more funds to the current budget for worker health testing and environmental cleanup of the area known as "drum mountain."

Patton would not reveal how much the cleanup budget will be next year, except to say that it will be substantial. Patton has made two trips to Washington to ask Richardson and President Clinton to increase the current cleanup budget of $37 million to at least $100 million a year.

Patton said that before he agreed to join Richardson in Paducah, he had to be assu[illegible] Richardson planned a major announcement about funding. "I don't want to go down there if he only is repeating a previous commitment or if he is just trying to appease us," Patton sa[illegible] learn[illegible] is of the [illegible]ouncem[illegible].

His staff spent most of the day Wednesday talking to officials in the Department of Energy and the White House to learn details of the announcement. At one point Wednesday, one of his staff members said the announcement would have to be for at least $75 million for the governor to meet with Richardson.

Patton said he wasn't trying to diminish the importance of Richardson's visit, but was trying to maintain a tough stance that Paducah needs a significant increase in funding to clean up radioactive and chemical contamination.

"I didn't want to go down there and stand with the secretary and act like I was endorsing what he was doing if he wasn't going to give us close to what we want," Patton said.

At 5 p.m. Wednesday, the governor agreed to make the trip to Paducah. Once he [illegible], Richardson finalized his plans and Department of Energy officials made a public announcement [illegible] of the vi[illegible].

[illegible] secreta[illegible] nnour[illegible] as muc[illegible]s I woul[illegible] lot [illegible] Paduca[illegible] will [illegible]bstant[illegible]

A DOE release said Richardson also will visit the gaseous diffusion plant in Portsmouth, Ohio, to discuss cleanup funding for the next fiscal year. The schedule includes a 9:55 a.m. meeting with

Murray woman watched father's losing battle.

One plaintiff in DOE suit recalls death

The Paducah Sun
01/22/00 - P. 1A

Her bitterness *is not directed toward the present management at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.*

Associated Press

MURRAY, Ky.

More than two decades later, Nita Rose vividly remembers the final days of her father's battle against leukemia.

The disease left the once-strapping frame of Charles Arvil [illegible], who stood 6-feet-4, weighing only 70 pounds. His muscles [illegible] weak to [illegible] intravenous [illegible]. His [illegible] were too small [illegible] receive a [illegible]orphine injection.

Monday will mark the 22nd anniversary of his slow, agonizing death. Rose wants to know what killed her father, a former process maintenance worker at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, at age 64.

Rose

"I want to know what rotted my father's body," the Murray woman said.

To that effect, Rose is among the plaintiffs in a $10 billion federal lawsuit filed against the former [illegible] operators of the uranium-[illegible] plant.

The suit was [illegible] Sept. 3 on behalf of 14 current and former plant workers and their families. It seeks to represent all current and former workers and their families, which could mean 10,000 plaintiffs or more, Paducah lawyer Mark Bryant said at the time

The suit does not allege that any worker actually was sickened by exposure to radiation. Instead, it claims that radiation levels at the plant exceeded federal standards and were severe enough to cause fear and concern among workers and increase their risk of [illegible]ing ill

[illegible] private operators listed as defendants include Union Carbide Corp., which ran the operation [illegible] and the [illegible] with [illegible]

The suit also alleges that General Electric Corp. was responsible for some of the damages because it improperly shipped contaminated products to the plant.

"It's not about the people out there now," Rose said. "I admire them. They're not being attacked. I'm worried about their jobs. I am upset with Union Carbide, who has tried to get out of it."

From the early 1950s until shortly before his d[illegible], Bean was a jack-of-all-trades sent wherever he was needed to weld, clean up or [illegible] said.

[illegible] was being [illegible]minated". Bu[illegible] the occasions when he thought he had become irradiated, he was told to go home and drink a beer or two to flush it out of his body, Rose said.

"He was no more than a lab animal out there," she said.

She recalled her father's legs turning reddish with black and blue splotches, and of hearing that the same condition afflicted other plant workers wh[illegible] had become sick or died.

"He endured it to put a roof over our heads and feed us," Rose [illegible]. "Th[illegible]ts so bad. I [illegible] he h[illegible]ing else."

Questions about the plant's operation also arose last summer when families of three former [illegible] suit th[illegible] to highl[illegible] eptun[illegible] [illegible]ween [illegible]

The suit claims that plant workers were exposed to health risks caused by unsafe conditions.

The Paducah Sun

January 21, 2000

DOE extends drum pile comment period

Staff report

The public comment period concerning the disposition of a large pile of crushed drums from the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant has been extended to Feb. 1.

The period was to have ended Thursday, but a request for more time prompted the extension by Dale Jackson, interim manager of the U.S. Department of Energy site office here.

The crushed drums, termed "drum mountain," encompass about 10 percent of the estimated 65,000 tons of scrap metal stored at the uranium enrichment plant. The drums once contained depleted uranium and were crushed after being emptied.

Removal of drum mountain is considered a priority because there is concern the drums could be a source of surface water contamination and because the drums are on an old materials burial ground.

A draft of the engineering evaluation/cost analysis that looks at options for handling the drums is available at the Paducah Public Library and at the DOE Environmental Information Center in the West Kentucky Technology Park on U.S. 60 in Kevil. It is also available on the World Wide Web at http://www.bechteljacobs.com/pad/report.htm.

The preferred removal envisions packaging the drums for disposal by October, with final disposal to be accomplished by December.

Should the draft recommendation be selected, a subcontractor to handle removal of the drums will be selected by March. Removal is scheduled to begin about May.

Public comments should be addressed to Myrna Redfield, U.S. Department of Energy, Paducah Site Office, P.O. Box 1410, Paducah, KY 42001; or fax comments to 441-6801.

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The Paducah Sun

January 21, 2000

Paducah chamber chief tackles image

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

Countering a landslide of bad publicity about Paducah's uranium enrichment plant, overcoming a perception of remoteness, and getting more state money to build a downtown performing arts center are among the tasks facing the business community, said Elaine Spalding, new president of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We don't know what's going to happen with the plant, but we've got to put our best face forward and make sure Paducah is responding in a very intelligent way," Spalding said.

She gave her views in an interview before the chamber's 61st annual awards banquet at J.R.'s Executive Inn on Thursday night. Spalding, keynote speaker for the dinner, said she is impressed with the area's progressive business climate, highlighted by thriving downtown and Kentucky Oaks Mall retail areas, a regional medical center and highly successful local firms such as Computer Services Inc. and Dippin' Dots.

"For a community this size, I think that's just outstanding," said Spalding, who started her new job Jan. 3. "My initial impressions have a lot to do with people. It was really heartwarming for me to come back home to Kentucky."

Originally from Elizabethtown, Spalding graduated from Murray State University and worked at MSU as a recruiter in the early 1980s. Having been president of the Beaverton (Ore.) Area Chamber of Commerce for three years, she accepted the Paducah job in November and immediately came here for a retreat to help plan programs and activities.

The work agenda is led by developing a strategy to offset image damage done by international media attention to the 1,600-employee Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Publicity grew from two federal lawsuits filed last year, alleging the plant had poisoned workers and the public. While the suits are still pending, plant officials and regulators have repeatedly said the environment is safe.

Spalding said the chamber will direct efforts to send plant fact sheets to business leaders to discuss with employees and customers.

"We want to help them get out the facts and the positive things about Paducah, that it's a safe place to live, that their families are very comfortable here, and that there are very successful businesses here doing great things," Spalding said.

A second image problem is that of remoteness, identified by consulting studies and the chamber-supported Project 21 task force to improve the overall business climate of the Paducah area.

Part of the answer is the "wonderful job" done by Barkley Regional Airport to improve flight service, coverage and rates, Spalding said. Another key is lobbying the General Assembly for Paducah's fair share of road funds, she said.

Legislative efforts also will focus on securing $8 million more to help build the downtown Four Rivers Center for the Performing Arts, Spalding said. Last year, the legislature approved $12 million for the project, which a new study estimates will stimulate more than $14 million in annual

revenue and create 309 jobs with salaries totaling nearly $5 million a year. A Paducah delegation met with Gov. Paul Patton last month to push for the additional funding.

The Four Rivers Center is among the many objectives of Project 21, which business leaders say needs strong chamber support to suceed, Spalding said.

"The delegation of those different goals is the part that hasn't happened yet," she said. "We need to make sure they have the support to see that those goals are accomplished because they (business leaders) don't want to see this study just end up on the shelf."

Spalding is an award-winning recruiter, having led marketing for chambers in Louisville, San Antonio and Beaverton before coming to Paducah. Her strong background in marketing and membership development was a big factor in her hiring, said new chamber board Chairman Tim Farmer, who installed directors at the banquet. Spalding said business leaders have reminded her of those strengths in pressing for increased chamber involvement.

Adding to the chamber membership of about 900 will enable it to help larger businesses, which mainly are interested in public policy, and small businesses, which need the discounted benefits and services that a large association can provide, she said.

"Those are the kinds of things that will save small-business people money," Spalding said. "They're not able to offer the same kind of benefits to their employees that the bigger businesses can offer."

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DOE NEWS

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Natalie Wymer, 202/586-2449

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2000

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF ENERGY BILL RICHARDSON ON USEC'S DECISION TO LAY OFF WORKERS IN PADUCAH AND PIKETON

"I do not support the United States Enrichment Corporation's (USEC) announcement that they will lay off workers at the gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, Ky. and Piketon, Ohio. While the Energy Department cannot reverse USEC's decision, I will not just stand by.

Last week, I announced that our upcoming budget proposes a substantial new funding commitment for cleanup, waste management, worker transition activities and conversion -- doubling over a two year period the investment at the Paducah plant and increasing funds at the Portsmouth site by 83 percent. These funds can help mitigate some of the job loss in the communities resulting from USEC's announcement.

Tomorrow, we will release for public comment the Energy Department's Workforce Restructuring Plan -- which includes details of planned restructuring and community transition activities at the two sites. It will propose, to the maximum extent possible, to move some of the potentially displaced workers to new cleanup and other Energy Department-funded projects in Paducah and Piketon. Additionally, we have programs available to help workers transition to new careers and help the communities develop new economic activities."

Background:
The Clinton/Gore Administration's Fiscal Year 2001 budget request proposes federal funding totalling $109.2 million for the Paducah and $113.5 million for Portsmouth. Additionally, the Energy Department is sending a request to Congress for $26 million for additional health activities this year from which each plant would get over $11 million.

- DOE -

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

The Paducah Sun

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Editorial

HOPEFUL SIGN

Richardson gives cleanup needed boost

When Energy Secretary Bill Richardson visited Paducah last fall, he promised the federal government would finally "acc[illegible] its responsibility" for creating serious [illegible]ronmental contamination at the [illegible]eous diffusion plant. Last week Richardson returned to Paduc[illegible] to announce the Clinton administ[illegible]ion is taking a small but important step toward delivering on that promise.

Unfortunately, it must be said — in truth, it must be emphasized — that people in this community have become very skeptical of federal officials' promises to clean up the mess the government made at the plant and deal with concerns about the health of workers. After all, the DOE already has spent more than 10 years and $400 million on cleanup activities in Paducah — and thousands of drums of contaminated material remain on the site and a plume of tainted groundwater still is threatening the Ohio River.

Even so, Richardson brought good [illegible] prepared this time to deliver on its promises.

The secretary came to town to reveal President Clinton will include $109 million for environmental cleanup and wor[illegible] health programs at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in his budget request. As Gov. [illegible]ul Patton observed, that's [illegible] nearly enough money to get the [illegible]eanup and health monitoring programs on the fast track, but it does represent "real progress."

Specifically, the Clinton budget proposal contains about twice as much as the plant received last year for cleanup operations. Much of the money is targeted for the long-overdue removal of "drum mountain" — a large pile of contaminated materials located on the site.

It's encouraging, too, that the proposal includes [illegible] request for an additional $3.3 million in the current fiscal year to fund medical testing of workers at DOE facilities in Paducah, Portsmouth, Ohio; and [illegible] much of the [illegible] must go to Gov. Patton, who has loudly and insistently demanded action from the slow-moving DOE bureaucracy, and the state's c[illegible]ressional d[illegible]ation, which [illegible] has [illegible]ept the [illegible] agency off[illegible]s.

It's certainly possible that Patton's earlier threat to take DOE to court over the cleanup as well as [illegible] McC[illegible] publicly stated interest in possibly removing the agency's authority [illegible] help [illegible] Richardson [illegible]ss, President Clinton, to r[illegible]sider the importance of the federal government fulfilling its many promises to Paducah.

In any event, the proposed new money is certainly welcome here. Reports about radioactive contamination at the gaseous diffusion plant have given this community a public relations black eye at the same time it is facing the possibility that the United States Enrichment Corp., which leases the Paducah [illegible] Portsmouth plants [illegible], will [illegible] off hundreds of workers.

To put it simply, the federal government [illegible]ves it [illegible] Paducah [illegible] as [illegible] Richardson's visits at least indicate he is interested in seeing that the government lives up to its responsibility to plant workers and the community at large.

Still, the $109 million the energy secretary promised last week falls far short of what's needed to ensure the completion of the massive cleanup operation.

For instance, a relatively paltry $24 million is set aside for the management of some 38,000 cylinders of uranium hexafluoride. Congress has mandated that the DOE build plants in Paducah and Portsmouth to recycle the depleted uranium, but recalcitrant DOE officials have effectively blocked the project. The recycling plants could create hundreds of jobs for plant workers affected by layoffs.

If Richardson is truly committed to righting the wrongs Paducah has suffered at the hands of the federal government, he will make sure the agency gets the recycling facilities on track. The facilities are needed to ensure the plant is completely cleaned up; they're also needed to provide jobs for workers [illegible] the government well for many years.

Richardson also shoul[illegible] additio[illegible] funding to help [illegible] workers [illegible] total of $3 million earmark[illegible]d for that purpose i[illegible] Clinton's budget request. Local economic development officials say they need $8 million to mitigate the anticipated layoffs.

The energy secretary gave the community a shot of hope with the prospect of additional federal funding for erasing the legacy of environmental degradation at the gaseous diffusion plant. Now the Clinton administration faces the challenge of delivering on his promise[illegible]

Many [illegible]eople will be [illegible] among them Gov. Patton, Kentucky's congressional delegation, Paducah are [illegible]

[illegible]

issue[illegible]

The Paducah Sun

February 2, 2000

Justice awaits plant dig tests

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

The U.S. Department of Justice is awaiting results of geophysical testing to decide whether to resume digging behind the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant to see if soil contamination poses a significant health threat.

Department spokesman Bill Campbell said the tests, which use three scientific tools to determine what is in the ground behind the plant, will help "decide what to do next." He did not say when the results are expected.

Digging ceased Jan. 14 after only two of five trenches were dug to take samples near a closed plant landfill off Ogden Landing Road. Various sources told the Sun then that sampling had revealed little to support federal lawsuit claims by three plant workers and an environmental group that past plant contractors had secretly poisoned workers and the public for decades.

On Tuesday, Campbell would not discuss the nature or extent of the findings, except to confirm that digging uncovered radioactive roofing materials believed to have com[illegible] past plant construction.

"We're still investigating all leads and as (U.S. Attorney Steve Reed) said at the outset of the dig, our purpose was to determine if anything is present t[illegible] eve[illegible] would know the answer to," Campbell said.

Earlier, Reed said trenching was stopped for additional study to determine the best places to dig.

Asked if the excavated material posed an undue health risk, Campbell declined to answer that question specifically. But he said the Justice Department and Kentucky Environmental Protection Cabinet agreed that material "over a certain level" of contamination would be placed in containers.

"By far the vast majority of the materials did not have to be containerized," Campbell said.

Department of Energy contractor Bechtel Jacobs did the trenching. Bechtel Jacobs spokesman Greg Cook said earlier that in the first trench, investigators found roofing paper, metal flashing, a drum lid that appeared to come from a roofing material container, fly ash and a creek bed. The second trench yielded only dirt and a creek bed, he said.

The Department of Energy, which owns the plant, is paying for the [illegible] ted [illegible] about $1 million. It is intended to determine if there is sufficient evidence of [illegible] ned rec[illegible] warrant the Justice Department's joining in the false-claims suit filed last year. The suit seeks to recover millions of dollars paid to the former operators based on [illegible] meeting [illegible]

[illegible] investiga[illegible] ing records, interviewing current and former workers and testing contamination at other locations inside the plant.

Last year, the Energy Department conducted its own probe of current and past health and safety practices [illegible] nt. DOE lists the [illegible] currently [illegible], although [illegible] tion le[illegible]

[illegible] in worker safety practices and posting [illegible] report, keying on historical problems, reportedly will be released within a few days.

Meanwhile, various sources told the Sun that the Department of Defense may be interested in certain aspects of past plant practices as a result of investigative statements given by longtime past employees. Former workers have been questioned as part of ongoing investigations and a separate worker health study. The Defense Department interest reportedly keys on materials or records in one or more old warehouses at the plant, which in its early years was used for nuclear weapons production.

Asked about possible Defense Department interest in the plant, DOE spokesman Steve Wyatt referred questions to Campbell. Neither Campbell nor Cook would comment.

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Panel Links Illness to Nuclear Work

Former Energy Dept. Employees May Get Compensation for Exposure

By Joby Warrick
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, January 30, 2000; Page A02

A White House draft report linking nuclear weapons production to occupational illnesses is increasing the likelihood of the first national program to compensate workers who were put at risk while building America's Cold War arsenal, administration officials said yesterday.

The study by a panel of the White House National Economic Council (NEC) concludes that bomb-factory workers "may be at increased risk of illness" from radiation and toxic chemicals. It is the most significant acknowledgment to date by the federal government of widespread workplace hazards inside the Energy Department's nuclear weapons complex.

"The Department of Energy is coming clean with its workers," Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said in a telephone interview from Switzerland, where he was accompanying President Clinton at an economic conference. Richardson said the panel's findings remove "a major roadblock" to providing compensation for employees who may have been wrongfully exposed to hazards.

In the wake of new reports of illnesses among former workers, Clinton ordered the NEC last summer to review the scientific evidence of unusual illnesses among the more than 600,000 men and women who have worked in the weapons complex since the mid-1940s. The Energy Department has conducted dozens of epidemiological studies since the 1960s--some of which found elevated cancer rates among workers exposed to radiation on the job. But while the federal government has agreed to compensate soldiers exposed to radiation during nuclear tests, the Energy Department has never acknowledged that its nuclear weapons workers may have been put at risk.

The NEC's Jan. 14 draft report, obtained by The Washington Post, notes numerous inconsistencies in the scientific record. For example, some studies show no unusual disease rates among workers [illegible]

[illegible]
to "ionizing radiation and chemical and physical hazards," concludes the draft study, which was first reported by the New York Times. Research at each of the department's 14 largest nuclear weapons facilities found elevated rates of at least one type of malignancy, including [illegible] lung cancer. Some, though not all, s[illegible]