

Division of Waste Management

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Section

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant section provides oversight to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) located 15 miles west of Paducah, Kentucky. The PGDP was in operation from September 1952 to June 2013 and was operated historically for national defense purposes until 1964, after which it was used to produce fuel-grade uranium used to generate electricity in nuclear reactors. The PGDP is located on a 3,556-acre federal reservation in northwestern McCracken County. The PGDP was designated by the USEPA as a Superfund site in 1988 following the discovery of technetium-99 in domestic drinking water wells near the facility and additional soil, sediment and groundwater concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and uranium. Media-specific operable units address site investigation and remediation activities for Surface Water, Groundwater, Burial Grounds, Soils and Decontamination and Decommissioning activities at the PGDP.

The PGDP Section oversees the Agreement in Principle Program funded by the US Department of Energy and is a party to the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) in place for the PGDP facility.

Under the AIP program, Kentucky manages independent environmental monitoring by either conducting or overseeing independent environmental research. Additionally, the program enhances communications with concerned citizens. The fundamental goal of the AIP program is to allow Kentucky to conduct independent and impartial assessments of the potential environmental impacts of past, present and future DOE activities at the PGDP.

The FFA is a three-party agreement between DOE, USEPA and Kentucky. The FFA was developed to ensure compliance with and to avoid duplication between the corrective action provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitting program and the corrective action requirements of CERCLA. Moreover, the FFA outlines regulatory structure and guides interactions between the three parties. The FFA allows Kentucky and the USEPA Region IV to address contaminated areas at the PGDP that are not subject to permitting but nonetheless require remediation and provides a framework for project management, investigation and remediation agreed to by DOE, USEPA Region IV and Kentucky.

For additional information on the PGDP Section activities, please contact:

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