

PACRO to start moving uranium plant surplus

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The Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization can begin the process of transferring surplus property from the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, following the extension of an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy.

The PACRO board of directors approved the extension in a meeting Tuesday. The board discussed the need for the agreement at its May meeting, since the existing, five-year agreement with DOE had expired approximately a year ago.

Now that the plant site is back under DOE control, after the U.S. Enrichment Corp. ceased its uranium enrichment operations, PACRO can, under the agreement, begin to identify and transfer assets for economic development purposes.

"The extension puts the framework in place for us to transfer assets," said Scott Darnell, president/CEO of Paducah Economic Development, which oversees PACRO. "It's a good step forward. This is what we needed to get done for the process to begin."

That process will begin with the transfer of two pickup trucks that are slated to be disposed of at the site, Darnell said. The Ballard County volunteer fire department has expressed interest in the trucks, Darnell told the PACRO board in May. Tuesday's meeting was necessary to approve the agreement to expedite the request.

The trucks will be given to the fire department at no cost, Darnell said.

Under terms of the transfer agreement, PACRO is to act as the single point of contact for identification and reuse of excess Paducah personal property for economic development. By transferring surplus assets, "the regional economic base can be expanded and diversified," according to the agreement.

"Not knowing exactly what's out there at the site, the 12-month extension is favorable for both sides," Darnell said. "If any modifications are needed to move forward, we have time to find them."