

Fluor taking long-term look at cleanup, growth in Paducah

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DAVID ZOELLER | The Sun

Tom D'Agostino, with Fluor Federal Services' government affairs group, addresses a Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast Thursday.

Just like the community, the U.S. Department of Energy's primary cleanup contractor at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant is thinking long-term.

The DOE awarded a three-year contract, with an estimated value of \$420 million, to Fluor Federal Services last July for cleanup at the plant.

"Obviously, we're not just interested in staying here three years," Tom D'Agostino, with Fluor's government affairs group, told the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce at its June Power in Partnership breakfast at the Julian Carroll Convention Center Thursday. "We want to stay here for the long term," D'Agostino said. "We think long-term commitments are important for communities to continue to grow and have sustainable growth."

The need for a long-term plan at the DOE-controlled Paducah site was also discussed by members of Kentucky's congressional delegation in a meeting with Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in Washington Thursday.

In a joint statement, U.S. Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul and U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield urged the DOE to develop a long-term strategy to "ensure that ongoing deactivation work and future decontamination and decommissioning work is done properly and executed in a timely manner."

According to D'Agostino, Fluor's history in working with government and the nuclear industry dates back to the earliest days of the Manhattan Project in the 1940s.

Fluor is the largest engineering company on the New York Stock Exchange, and is No. 109 on the Fortune 500 with more than 40,000 employees all over the world, operating in eight countries serving more than 600 clients, D'Agostino said. "The thing I want to leave you with is all of this experience in the nuclear field over many decades, around the world, is what we bring to the gaseous diffusion plant," he said. "We want to be associated with Paducah. It's (the site) future is incredibly important to our company, but more importantly incredibly important to the community."

Fluor has an excellent integrity record and is dedicated to a set of core values, he said. "I want you to understand that the core values of safety, integrity, teamwork and excellence are really part of the DNA of the company," D'Agostino said. "We know to be part of the community we need to be here for a sustainable period of time and to stay here, we have to do excellent work."

Fluor is also committed to nuclear energy long-term, having made significant investments in new technology such as the development of small scale modular reactors.