



## Department of Energy

Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office  
1017 Majestic Drive, Suite 200  
Lexington, Kentucky 40513  
(859) 219-4000

FEB 21 2008

Mr. Allen Burnett, Chair  
Citizens Advisory Board  
111 Memorial Drive  
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

PPPO-02-225-08

Dear Mr. Burnett:

### **RESPONSE TO CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATION 08-01 (SOLICITATION FOR DISPOSITION OF NICKEL AT THE PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT)**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is in receipt of the Citizens Advisory Board's (CAB) Consensus Recommendation 08-01 regarding a potential solicitation for disposition of nickel located at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP). The CAB recommended:

1. DOE should provide land/facilities on the DOE PGDP reservation for processing the nickel to reduce volumetric contamination or into final product form.
2. DOE should extend coverage under its authority to possess radioactive materials until the successful bidder can obtain a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license (if it does not already have an NRC license).
3. DOE should heavily weight the solicitation evaluation criteria to encourage nickel processing in the Paducah area.
4. DOE should include a statement of the potential for processing of additional classified and unclassified material resulting from the future decontamination and decommissioning of the Portsmouth and Paducah gaseous diffusion plants.

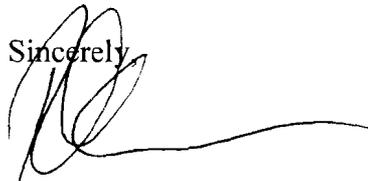
DOE continues to evaluate a variety of disposition options including the potential sale of the contaminated nickel located at PGDP. During the April 5, 2007, Expression of Interest meeting at the Paducah Site with potential prospective bidders for the nickel, DOE indicated its willingness to make available certain property and/or unoccupied facilities and to extend its Atomic Energy Act authority to possess radioactive materials at the PGDP to the successful bidder (should a contract be awarded).

In our response to CAB Recommendation 07-05, dated November 19, 2007, DOE indicated that potential benefits to the local community would be one of the factors that will be given consideration in structuring any follow-on Request for Proposal (RFP). Additionally, one factor to be considered in the National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment will be socioeconomic impacts to the community. Procurement practices regarding all evaluation criteria must meet federal procurement guidelines.

Lastly, DOE continues to look for innovative and cost saving methods to achieve cleanup; however, at this time DOE is not currently in a position to evaluate the future potential for reclamation of scrap metal associated with gaseous diffusion plant decontamination and decommissioning.

Thank you for your input and for your continued support as we continue our efforts to remediate the PGDP. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Seifert at (270) 441-6823.

Sincerely,



Reinhard Knerr  
Paducah Site Lead  
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

cc:

G. Chou, EM-12  
DCC/Kevil  
EIC/PAD  
C. Gelles, EM-12  
R. Seifert, PPPO/PAD

e-copy:

ericpgdpcab@bellsouth.net  
janet.miller@lex.doe.gov  
mitch.hicks@lex.doe.gov  
ray.miskelley@lex.doe.gov  
russell.boyd@prs-llc.net  
ycantrell@rsienv.com