



Department of Energy

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

SEP 10 2008

PPPO-02-561-08

Dear Mr. Burnett:

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATION 08-03 (PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN WASTE DISPOSAL OPTIONS DECISIONS)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is in receipt of Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Consensus Recommendation 08-03, dated May 15, 2008. The CAB recommended that DOE incorporate the following considerations into plans for public participation during the evaluation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) waste disposal alternatives at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP). The CAB recommended:

1. DOE provide an anticipated timeline for the project, including public input periods.
2. DOE develop materials to educate the public on the community impacts of the CERCLA cell that should include benefits, concerns, and consequences for both on-site and offsite disposal, including alternatives to the CERCLA cell.
3. DOE have clearly defined goals and expectations for each CERCLA Process Step of the public involvement process.
4. DOE utilize broad based communication tools (newspaper, radio, and electronic media) for public outreach. Utilize existing databases to mail public meeting notices to the local community.
5. DOE provide, at public outreach events, a glossary to explain acronyms and technical terms specific to the waste disposal alternative.
6. DOE provide waste cell siting maps and a 3-D model for public meetings.
7. DOE update the plans as the public involvement process evolves.

DOE concurs with this recommendation. As cited in previous meetings with the CAB, DOE remains committed to working with the CAB to develop and implement a clear, effective communications effort related to the evaluation of future CERCLA waste disposal alternatives at PGDP. We recognize this endeavor will continue to evolve throughout the life of the project and through the working sessions. DOE will continue to work with the CAB to define communication goals and expectations each step of the way.

In response to CAB consideration number 1, DOE provides the following tentative schedule of dates for issuing documents and public participation. The dates are subject to change and

updates will be provided at the monthly CAB meetings. The highlighted tasks indicate planned dates for public involvement for meetings/workshops. Additional meetings may be scheduled as the project proceeds.

Task	Date	Status
Scoping Document Submitted to Regulators	FY 2008 3 rd quarter	Completed
Preliminary Scoping Discussion with Regulators	FY 2008 3 rd quarter	Completed
Administrative Record Notice in Paducah Sun	FY 2008 3 rd quarter	Completed
Scoping Meeting with Regulators	FY 2008 3 rd quarter	Completed
Public Meeting to provide an understanding of current remediation activities and the CERCLA process.	FY 2009 1 st quarter	
Public Meeting/Work Shop (RI/FS Work Plan)	FY 2009 1 st quarter	
Submit D1 RI/FS Work Plan to Regulators	FY 2009 2 nd quarter	
Submit D2 RI/FS Work Plan to Regulators	FY 2009 3 rd quarter	
Public Meeting/Work Shop (RI/FS Report)	FY 2009 4 th quarter	
Submit D1 RI/FS Reports to Regulators	FY 2010 1 st quarter	
Submit D2 RI/FS Report to Regulators	FY 2010 3 rd quarter	
Issue Proposed Plan for Public Comment	FY 2010 4 th quarter	
Host Public Meeting for Proposed Plan	FY 2010 4 th quarter	
Notice of Availability of Record of Decision	FY 2011 4 th quarter	

In response to CAB consideration number 2, education materials will be provided at the public work shops that include the items mentioned (i.e. benefits, concerns, consequences, etc). DOE anticipates preparing and distributing fact sheets on relevant topics throughout the duration of this project. Some topics for fact sheets may be determined through the public workshops. DOE requests that as the CERCLA process moves forward, the CAB provide additional, specific recommendations regarding the type and effectiveness of the educational materials.

In response to CAB consideration number 3, DOE anticipates that public involvement will provide constructive comments for this project and public participation is welcomed and encouraged. The public meetings will provide an interactive venue with the public. DOE will endeavor to clearly define goals and expectations of the public involvement process.

In response to CAB consideration number 4, DOE concurs that various communication tools and existing databases are appropriate for use on this project. Newspaper notices are planned and will be provided to announce public meetings/workshops. Additionally, the notice of the Administrative Record was mailed to local residents and also published in the Paducah Sun on May 25, 2008. Radio and/or electronic media may be used to supplement future newspaper notices as a method to increase public awareness of these events and result with as much attendance from the public as possible. Links have been established on the Paducah Remediation Services, LLC (PRS) and CAB websites providing access to information regarding the project and public outreach activities. As DOE continues to reach out and communicate with the community, DOE requests that the CAB continues to provide input

regarding the effectiveness of the selected communication tools for specific communication efforts.

In response to CAB consideration number 5, DOE will develop a glossary of acronyms and technical terms for public outreach to provide at public meetings. This glossary will be available for the first public meeting/workshop tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of fiscal year 2009. This glossary will also be available at the Environmental Information Center (EIC), and on the PRS and CAB websites.

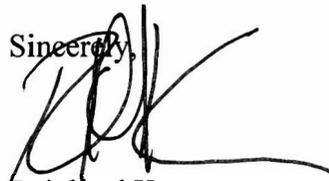
In response to CAB consideration number 6, DOE will be developing siting maps for a potential waste cell and we are exploring the idea of a 3-D model to be located at the EIC for public viewing. As this information is developed, it will be available at public meetings and for public outreach activities.

In response to CAB consideration number 7, DOE plans to work with the CAB and routinely evaluate its public involvement plan for the CERCLA waste disposal alternatives project and revise it as needed to ensure appropriate input and involvement.

DOE appreciates the CAB's effort to provide suggestions for community outreach on this important project. We thank you for your input and for your continued support as we continue our efforts to remediate PGDP.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rob Seifert at (270) 441-6823.

Sincerely,



Reinhard Knerr
Paducah Site Lead
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

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