



## Department of Energy

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**OCT 16 2008**

Ms. Bobby Lee  
Citizens Advisory Board  
111 Memorial Drive  
Paducah, KY 42001

PPPO-02-657-08

Dear Ms. Lee:

**RESPONSE TO CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS  
RECOMMENDATION 08-05 (PATH TO INCREASE EDUCATION AND  
INFORMATION GATHERING CONCERNING WASTE DISPOSAL OPTIONS)**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is in receipt of the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Consensus Recommendation 08-05 related to communication efforts for waste disposal options at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP). The CAB recommends that DOE develop and implement a public education program to consist of, but not be limited to, the following components:

- 1) Conduct multiple public meetings to enhance the public understanding and input for waste disposal options in addition to the meeting listed in DOE's proposed plan
  - a) Public meetings should be held early in the public meeting process, prior to official public comment periods
  - b) Determine when (i) public education is appropriate vs. (ii) public information gathering activities and clearly inform the community of the intent (i or ii) prior to each public meeting. Informational gathering meetings would be structured with less educational presentations by DOE and more solicitation of input by stakeholders. This might include: prior solicitation and listing of community questions, separate roundtable discussions, generate additional listing of stakeholder concerns and ideas, plan for follow-up communications.
  - c) The information delivered in these meetings should be presented in layman's terms so that all parties, including those without a technical background, can grasp the subject
  - d) Educational presentations should be recorded for broadcast and copies should be distributed to interested parties and media outlets
  - e) Provide a question and answer session at each of these meetings
- 2) Development and distribution of a fact sheet(s) explaining:

- a) Overview of the CERCLA process
  - b) Origins of wastes generated on site and waste generation projections
  - c) Disposition options including off-site, on-site or combinations of the two
  - d) The risks and benefits to the community associated with each disposal option
  - e) Cost estimates for each disposal option
  - f) Examples of the types of waste that require disposal
  - g) An anticipated timeline for public input
  - h) Fact sheets should be made available to the greater McCracken County area, including individuals interested in past disposal options discussions
- 3) Develop display model(s) of the potential CERCLA cell
- a) Model(s) should indicate the possible sites that may be utilized
  - b) Fact sheets associated with display model(s) should provide information from other sites that have a currently constructed CERCLA cell
  - c) Model(s) should show locations of plant neighbors and DOE property lines
  - d) The model(s) should be on display at the DOE Environmental Information Center along with other background information and educational pieces.
- 4) In addition to the planned public meetings, DOE should initiate and promote opportunities to educate and solicit input from a diverse and broad mix of local organizations.

In response to CAB recommendation #1, DOE recognizes the importance of early public education as we evaluate the alternatives for future waste disposal at PGDP. As presented to the CAB in March 2008, it is our intent to enhance our required public meeting process with additional public forums early in the process to educate and gather stakeholder input as the project moves forward. DOE will also continue our current practice of recording all public presentations and will make copies of those presentations available through the CAB office for interested parties. Any distribution to media outlets will be made through coordination with the DOE Site Office. DOE fully intends to convey technical and programmatic information so that all aspects of the public can readily understand the presented information.

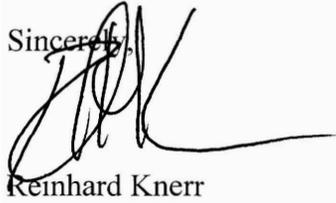
As representatives of the community, DOE desires that CAB representatives participate and/or be present at DOE public meetings so as to provide additional opportunities for stakeholders to generate questions and comments to be relayed to DOE. This information will assist DOE in developing communication materials appropriate to reach our target audiences. In addition, DOE will continue its practice of having opportunities for the public to ask questions and receive answers as a part of each public meeting. These question and answer session will be tailored to fit the style of the public meeting.

In response to CAB recommendation #2, DOE plans to develop the recommended fact sheets and distribute them at appropriate times during the public meetings. As part of the public meeting, our intent is to utilize the fact sheets to help the public understand the full context of decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of PGDP as it relates to disposal alternatives. We will continue to solicit the CAB's input on these topics as we move forward.

In response to CAB recommendation #3, DOE will provide model(s) of a potential CERCLA cell that will show possible sites for locating such a cell may be utilized during the waste disposal alternatives evaluation process and depict the location of plant neighbors, and DOE property lines in relation to the possible sites for a cell. Attributes of both a physical and/or electronic model will be evaluated. Fact sheets for DOE sites that currently have a CERCLA cell will be included that explain why those sites chose an on-site disposal cell to assist with site cleanup. When completed, the model(s) will be available at public forums, but will reside at the DOE Environmental Information Center.

In response to CAB recommendation #4, DOE recognizes the importance of promoting opportunities to educate and solicit input from local organizations. The Designated Deputy Federal Official's presentations and CAB's working sessions are designed to provide the CAB members and the public with the most up to date project status. Additionally, other opportunities will be explored to educate and solicit input from the public.

DOE appreciates your continued efforts to assist in communicating the cleanup mission at PGDP. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Seifert at (270) 441-6823.

Sincerely,  


Reinhard Knerr  
Paducah Site Lead  
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

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