



Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant  
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Radiation Health Branch

**Support Services**

EHI Consultants, Inc.

111 Memorial Drive

Paducah, KY 42001

Phone 270.554.3004

Fax 270.554.3248

[www.pgdpcab.org](http://www.pgdpcab.org)

[info@pgdpcab.org](mailto:info@pgdpcab.org)

## Consensus Recommendation: 10-04

*Approved March 18, 2010 by the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board*

### **Title: Commendation on Rapid Action and Communication Regarding Allegations of Contaminates from Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant at Heath Elementary School**

#### **BACKGROUND**

On December 14, 2009, the Department of Energy (DOE) Paducah office received a handwritten note alleging that in 1980 fill dirt had been hauled by Presley Plumbing and Heating Construction Company personnel from the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) to the grounds of Heath Elementary School. Upon receiving the allegation, the DOE and Paducah Remediation Services, LLC (PRS) immediately conducted a records search to ascertain the validity of the allegation. Records could neither confirm nor refute this allegation.

Simultaneously, an aggressive plan of action was developed to survey and test soils on the grounds of Heath Elementary School. Since school would soon dismiss for Christmas break, it was decided that implementation of planned sampling and testing actions would commence on December 18, 2009. Although the weather was unfavorable, DOE was determined to ascertain if there were indeed contaminants to which the children, staff, and public could be exposed. The McCracken County School Board was informed of DOE's plan for testing and sampling at Heath Elementary School.

Preliminary field tests revealed no areas of concern. Laboratory samples were split and sent to the United States Enrichment Corporation's DOE-certified Paducah laboratory and the Kentucky Division of Waste Management for confirmatory tests. Laboratory results confirmed that no contaminants of concern or areas of concern were found.

DOE and PRS quickly developed an outreach strategy to communicate the results of these findings. A bulletin was developed that summarized the sampling results and a copy was given to each child and each staff member on the day they returned to school, January 4, 2010. In addition, the public was kept informed through articles in the local newspaper, *The Paducah Sun*. At its January 21, 2010, public meeting, the Paducah Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) was given a detailed report regarding the allegation, the subsequent actions taken, and the results of tests.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**The Paducah Citizens Advisory Board wishes to commend DOE on its decision to take the anonymous, handwritten note seriously and for its speedy response in ascertaining whether there were indeed contaminants contained within the soils at Heath Elementary School which might have originated at the PGDP. That DOE and PRS developed an information bulletin which was provided to all involved persons indicates that DOE is sensitive to the concerns of the community.**

**Because the whole area of the grounds surrounding the Heath Elementary School was surveyed above ground and soil samples were taken and tested with no findings of contamination, it is recommended that DOE compile this information into a retrievable document. The CAB further recommends that DOE compile data from all future surveying and sampling into retrievable form so that it will not be necessary to repeat such surveying and sampling.**