



Department of Energy

Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office
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JAN 06 2011

Ms. Judy Clayton, Chair
Paducah Citizens Advisory Board
111 Memorial Drive
Paducah KY 42001

PPPO-02-967222-11

Dear Ms. Clayton:

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 10-06: SITING CRITERIA FOR A POTENTIAL CERCLA CELL

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is in receipt of the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 10-06, Siting Criteria for a Potential Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) cell. The CAB recommends: **In order to adequately address stakeholder concerns and issues during the siting study of a potential CERCLA cell, the PGDP CAB recommends that DOE give appropriate weighting and consideration to “non-technical” factors, such as, but not limited to:**

- 1. The potential site’s impact on the future economic viability of that site.**
- 2. The potential site’s impact on the local environment, minimizing the disruption of “greenfield” areas.**
- 3. The potential site’s impact on the aesthetics of the site and the future landscape of the reservation.**
- 4. The potential site’s impact on plant neighborhoods and the emotional reactions of the affected communities.**

DOE agrees with the CAB that stakeholder input and impact on future viability of the site’s potential re-use are important factors that need to be appropriately weighed for siting a potential on-site CERCLA disposal facility at the site.

DOE is currently conducting a CERCLA evaluation to determine the best solution for disposal of future waste generated by the cleanup of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP). Initial documents (Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study) will include a siting study that will focus on the viability of locating a potential on-site waste disposal cell at the PGDP. The siting study addresses both primary and secondary criteria. The primary criteria include factors such as design and placement, ecological factors, and immovable infrastructure. The primary criteria are used to eliminate sites that are not viable, allowing the secondary criteria to be used to compare viable sites. Secondary criteria, such as future land use are also a part of the siting study assessment criteria. These weighted factors will be tabulated to determine which sites are feasible to construct a potential on-site cell.

DOE will be hosting an Information Session(s) in 2011 to educate the public on the waste disposal options at the site. Through the use of personal opinion surveys and/or interaction with the public, DOE will gather feedback from attendees on the waste disposal options, including locations for a potential on-site cell. As in past meetings, the results of the surveys and feedback will be shared with the CAB

Additionally, prior to making a decision (Record of Decision) pertaining to on-site or off-site disposal of the waste generated from the clean-up of the site, several other opportunities for public input will be provided. These include a formal 45-day comment period, offering the public an opportunity to express ideas, thoughts, and concerns related to the study formally to DOE. DOE also intends to hold a public meeting that will give individuals the opportunity to ask questions related to the study and will accompany the 45-day comment period.

However, DOE recognizes that it may not effectively identify and consider all appropriate aspects of stakeholder impact and future site re-use viability. As such, DOE requests that the CAB, as representatives of the community, provide DOE a more specific, actionable recommendation by evaluating any applicable "non-technical" factors, weighing them and then providing DOE a recommendation regarding siting a potential CERCLA cell at the site.

DOE extends its appreciation to the CAB for its work on behalf of the community, its interest in expediting work effectively, and its support for continued enhancement of interaction among DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Kentucky Division of Waste Management on behalf of the environmental management mission in Paducah.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Buz Smith at (270) 441-6821.

Sincerely,



Reinhard Knerr
Paducah Site Lead
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

cc:
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