



Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant  
Citizens Advisory Board

Recommendation 10-07  
July 15, 2010

## Recommendation: 10-07

*Approved at the Citizens Advisory Board Meeting, July 15, 2010*

### Chair

Judy Clayton

### Vice-Chair

Ralph Young

### Board Members

John Anderson  
Robert Coleman  
David M. Franklin  
Jonathan Hines  
Shirley Lanier  
Maggie Morgan  
Dianne O'Brien  
Elton Priddy  
Ronnie Rathman  
Alex Roman  
Mark Sullivan  
Don Swearingen  
May Louise Zumwalt

### Board Liaisons

Reinhard Knerr  
*DOE DDFO*

Buz Smith  
*DOE Federal Coordinator*

Ed Winner  
*Division of Waste Management*

Turpin Ballard  
*Environmental Protection Agency*

Mike Hardin  
*Fish and Wildlife Resources*

Stephanie Brock  
*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@pdpcab.org](mailto:info@pdpcab.org)

### Title: Historic Preservation: PGDP Site Museum

### Background:

In 1950, the United States Government selected the former Kentucky Ordnance Works site and adjoining land near Paducah, Kentucky to build a new uranium enrichment facility. F. H. McGraw and Company was awarded the construction contract which commenced January 2, 1951. Thousands of construction workers poured onto the site to prepare the area and erect the structures necessary to support the mission of the Plant. Most of the workers had no idea what they were building. They were not allowed to discuss their work with fellow workers or their families. Information was shared on a "need-to-know" basis within the working community. Since the Plant began operating in September of 1952, thousands more men and women have been employed at this facility. Their stories have been hidden behind a veil of national security secrecy since the early 1950s in order to safeguard the mission of the Plant, which as we now know, was to enrich uranium for the United States Government for use in atomic weapons.

A great deal has transpired at the PGDP site since its inception in 1950. The plant's mission changed from a military-only application until about 1965 to one of supporting national energy needs. Today, a massive clean-up effort of the site is underway and the community is beginning to look toward the future and envision the next phase of this important site. To that end, DOE has enlisted the help of the University of Kentucky in the form of the Kentucky Research Consortium for Energy and the Environment (KRCEE). This group has been awarded grant funding in order to launch the "PGDP Stakeholder End State Vision Project". The mission of this project is to increase public participation in determining the ultimate use of the PGDP facility once it is decommissioned. Public stakeholder focus group meetings gauge the local future vision for the site, and have been underway for some time. These smaller stakeholder meetings will lead to structured public involvement that will allow hundreds of community members to participate in the process ultimately leading to the data upon which "PGDP Stakeholder End-State Vision Report" will be based. This document will represent the culmination of the massive data-gathering effort for which the KRCEE has been commissioned, and theoretically the local community's vision for the PGDP site in the future.

At this unique point in PGDP history, the community can, perhaps for the first time, begin to envision that the site has come full circle. We hold the full history from inception of this facility and have now begun the process of developing an end state vision for the facility. We can see that the PGDP's economic impact on the region has been massive over the past 50 years. The PGDP site has been a huge contributor to the local economy funneling an estimated \$5 billion in the form of labor and benefits

into the regional economy, with local purchases totaling approximately \$500 million. PGDP electricity purchases total an estimated \$8.3 billion. A significant number of local and regional businesses have started or expanded to support the Plant. Thousands of members of the community have been employed by the Plant and have enjoyed the economic benefits. Some employees have experienced the sometimes disastrous health-related toll that the site has exacted on the region. The story of Paducah and the surrounding counties cannot be told without factoring in the huge impact the PGDP site has had, both positive and negative, over the last fifty years.

Few would argue that the history of the PGDP, in the form of the stories of the men and women who built and worked at the plant as well as the artifacts and memorabilia that are unique to the PGDP site, are at this point an important part of the history of Paducah and the surrounding region.

Most recently, the Department of Energy has recently reallocated a portion of KRCEE funding in order to develop educational displays about the history and function of the PGDP facility as well as develop a storyline and storyboards for a short documentary film about the history and function of the PGDP. This funding came about as a means to help educate the residents of the area about the history and function of the facility, as well as educate the residents about nuclear energy and make them aware of the impacts of the historical nuclear energy industry on the environment. While the Citizens Advisory Board believes that this funding is important and will be very meaningful in educating community members, especially stakeholders in the KRCEE data gathering process, it is but a small corner in the much bigger picture of preserving the history of the PGDP.

In light of the impressive and longstanding history of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant site as briefly outlined above, the Citizens Advisory Board offers the following:

**Recommendation:**

**In order that both historic information and artifacts at the PGDP site be preserved for future generations, the Citizens Advisory Board recommends:**

**That DOE begin plans for a museum or other center in which artifacts and memorabilia from the PGDP Plant can be displayed and preserved. In this way, the general public, many of whom could be former employees or their family members, may have the benefit of a commemorative structure honoring the history of the PDGP and its workers.**