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Title: Classified Oral Histories Program

Background:

The Paducah Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) has requested through various recommendations that the DOE begin an oral histories program at Paducah. The DOE has responded positively to these recommendations. As a result, DOE contracted with the University of Kentucky, Kentucky Research Consortium for Energy and the Environment, to develop and execute a plan of action for obtaining oral histories. The Paducah CAB is appreciative to DOE for the forward-thinking plans they have made with regard to this project.

However, a national security requirement remains in place related to certain past projects and processes that may or may not become declassified in the future. A subsection of this information is maintained in the memories of the workers who performed these tasks in the past. We continue to lose this valuable information each year due to retirements and death of this aging workforce. We believe it is imperative, not only to the history of the site, but to ongoing work, that their stories be recorded and maintained.

Recommendation

The Paducah CAB respectfully requests that DOE:

Begin a classified oral histories program that can be maintained in a classified records system to be preserved until such as time as it is no longer deemed a national security concern. Information garnered from these individuals may also help DOE in the decontamination and demolishing of the PGDP, particularly burial grounds.