



## **Paducah Citizens Advisory Board**

*"working for the future"*

111 Memorial Drive  
Paducah, Kentucky 42001  
(270) 554-3004

### **Recommendation 12-02: Support of Pro Nuclear Future Use at the PDGP**

February 16, 2012

#### **Background**

Part of the mission of the Citizens Advisory Board at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) clean-up is to make recommendations on site clean-up and other factors that will make it more attractive to future uses. PGDP has been a major economic driver for Western Kentucky, and for the state as a whole, for over 50 years. Because the uranium enrichment facility will be shutting down in the near future, 1200 workers employed in the nuclear industry will be available for redeployment. While some of these workers will be transitioning to other jobs, the nuclear skills, training, and experience of these workers may be lost. Over the years, the Paducah nuclear workforce has had an outstanding safety record. One of the results of this strong safety performance is that the Paducah community has a very strong, positive attitude towards nuclear work, as evidenced by recent public surveys and the recent 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the site. Having a nuclear option for future use of the site is not only important to the local economy, but it would provide a strong incentive for any company considering relocating to the area. Because DOE is legally committed to restoring the site to a useable condition for future reindustrialization and/or recreational uses, the CAB feels strongly that it is important to keep all the options open for the site.

At the present time, KRS 278.600 and related Kentucky statutes impose conditions on potential businesses considering a decision to relocate or build nuclear related businesses at the site prohibitive. Bills to repeal these mandates have been introduced into the legislature in the past three sessions, but have never passed both houses. The bill that was introduced in 2011 was SB 34.

#### **Recommendation**

The Citizens Advisory Board feels that the conditions outlined in SB 34 introduced into the Kentucky legislature during the 2011 session do not support the clean-up and future site use of Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. These conditions furthermore interfere with site clean-up goals and place the economic viability of the PGDP site in question.

Given these conditions, the Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE engage the Kentucky legislature during the 2012 session to provide facts and underlying research that will lead to the repeal of the conditions under a new legislative bill. This information should focus on future viability of the site as well as its economic impact to the area. DOE's safety record and the record of the contractors should be emphasized to ensure Kentucky legislators that future use of the site as a nuclear related facility will not impose any additional risk to the environment or the health and safety of the workers or citizens in our region.

(Page 2 contains the overview of SB 34 that died in the House last year.)

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AN ACT relating to nuclear power.

Amend KRS 278.600 to define "storage" and amend a definition to require that nuclear power facilities have a plan for the storage of nuclear waste rather than a means for permanent disposal; amend KRS 278.610 to delete the requirement that the Public Service Commission certify the facility as having a means for disposal of high-level nuclear waste; change all references to the disposal of nuclear waste to the storage of nuclear waste; prohibit construction of low-level waste disposal sites in the Commonwealth except as provided in KRS 211.852; require the Public Service Commission to determine whether the construction or operation of a nuclear power facility, including ones constructed by entities regulated under KRS Chapter 96, would create low-level nuclear waste or mixed wastes that would be required to be disposed of in low-level waste disposal sites in the Commonwealth; repeal KRS 278.605.

(Prefiled by the sponsor(s).)

Jan 4-introduced in Senate; to Natural Resources and Energy (S)

Feb 1-taken from Natural Resources and Energy (S); 1st reading; returned to Natural Resources and Energy (S)

Feb 2-reported favorably, 2nd reading, to Rules

Feb 8-posted for passage in the Regular Orders of the Day for Tuesday, February 8, 2011; 3rd reading, passed 31-5

Feb 9-received in House

Feb 14-to Tourism Development & Energy (H)