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RECOMMENDATION: ACCELERATED D&D AT THE PORTS SITE

BACKGROUND

The request for greatly accelerating the D & D/Remediation schedule and dedicating a steady funding stream for the acceleration at Piketon is in the economic, environmental and health interests of the local community, the State of Ohio and the taxpayers of the entire nation. The case studies of the Rocky Flats and Fernald DOE sites, and the accelerated cleanup schedules and funding streams that were implemented at both Rocky Flats and Fernald provide DOE and Congress with a blueprint for doing the same at Piketon.

Rocky Flats was the largest and most complex environmental cleanup of a DOE facility to date. The 6,400-acre site contained five of the most contaminated facilities in the entire DOE complex. Operations and fires at Rocky Flats nuclear weapons production facility had also contributed to contamination of off-site lands and water supplies. The original plan for environmental cleanup at Rocky Flats was estimated to cost more than $36 billion and take 65 years to complete. However, due to persistent pressure from the various stakeholders, a cleanup agreement was signed by the DOE, the Colorado Department of Health and the EPA resulting in the regulatory basis to accelerate cleanup. The accelerated cleanup plans caught the attention of congressional appropriators and that prompted Congress to commit steady and accelerated funding for the cleanup project until its completion. In the end, the Rocky Flats cleanup took 10 years and cost about $7 billion dollars; 55 years ahead of schedule, a savings of billions in taxpayer dollars, and a boon to jobs, economy, health and environmental integrity for the people of Colorado.

The case of the Fernald Uranium Production Facility, located two hours west of Piketon, provides another example of how an aggressive cleanup schedule and funding greatly benefit the local, state and national economies, environment and health. In 1992 the DOE schedule for the Fernald cleanup was set to take approximately 30 years and cost $12.2 billion. The extent of that cleanup was one of the largest undertaken in U.S. history. The contamination of the 1,050-acre facility involved a 225-acre plume of contamination in the sole-source aquifer beneath the site. As at Rocky Flats, public dialogue between stakeholders, the DOE, regulatory agencies and public officials resulted in agreement on an accelerated schedule for Fernald and a dedicated stream of funds to ensure that accelerated schedule. In the end the Fernald cleanup was completed in 14 years, 50% quicker and 66% cheaper than estimated. Over 3,000 workers from organized labor benefited from the livable-wage jobs provided by the accelerated cleanup as they worked to make the site healthy again.

At Piketon, the community has consistently spoken out in public meetings demanding accelerated cleanup and the funding to make that happen. On February 13, 2009 Ohio representatives sent a letter to DOE Secretary Steven Chu demanding, among other things, that an **accelerated cleanup schedule** for Piketon be implemented in order to decontaminate the site and prepare it for redevelopment to benefit Appalachia Ohio, and the entire nation. The letter was signed by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, U.S. Senators George Voinovich and Sherrod Brown, and U.S. Congress members Jean Schmidt, Zack Space and Charlie Wilson.

RECOMMENDATION

The Portsmouth EM-SSAB recommends the implementation of accelerated D & D and remediation schedule for the Portsmouth site and the funding to make that happen.