## Department of Energy

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Mr. Richard Snyder, Chair

PPPO-03-1061035-11
Mr. Larry Parker, Vice Chair
Portsmouth EM Site Specific Advisory Board
1862 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661
Dear Sirs:

## RECOMMENDATION 10-04: INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

Reference: Letter from R. Snyder to J. Bradburne "Recommendation 10-04: Involvement of Community Leaders," dated September 8, 2010

This correspondence is written in response to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB) Recommendation 10-04. We understand and share the desire of the PORTS SSAB to effectively communicate the progress of the cleanup program and opportunities associated with the D\&D project at the DOE Portsmouth Site. We also recognize the important role local elected officials have as both stakeholders and decision-makers in our surrounding communities.

DOE accepts the PORTS SSAB Recommendation 10-04 and plans to accomplish the meeting with official representatives of local governments by attending and providing briefings on the EM program to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC).

The OVRDC is organized as a Rural Planning and Development Organization, a special unit of government under Ohio law, and represents the interests of 12 counties in southern Ohio. Its member counties include: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton. Membership on the OVRDC Board of Directors is primarily local elected officials including county commissioners, township trustees, county engineers and mayors.

We have already met with the OVRDC Executive Director and discussed increasing the level of interaction with the OVRDC. We have a standing invitation to attend the OVRDC Executive Committee meetings and the OVRDC Full Commission meetings. DOE will also be making presentations as requested by the OVRDC membership. We believe the interaction with the OVRDC will foster an ongoing dialogue resulting in an informed and involved set of local officials from southern Ohio.

I appreciate the work of the PORTS SSAB and look forward to working on this and other issues as we move forward.

Sincerely,

cc:
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