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Advisory Board*

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RECOMMENDATION: Community investment provisions for all future site related contracts and subcontracts at Piketon

BACKGROUND: In 2008, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) was organized to assist DOE with decisions related to the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant and other environmental restoration efforts.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and subsequent contracts at DOE facilities across the nation often include a provision for community investment that is included in the contract. This is a common tool that is already in place in Los Alamos, Hanford and Oak Ridge, and most recently at the Piketon site with regard to the D&D contract. These provisions have aided the economic stability of these communities that have been impacted by federal missions.

RECOMMENDATION: As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) commitment to remediate and prepare the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Piketon, Ohio, for future industrial reuse, the Portsmouth SSAB recommends any future RFP associated with the Piketon site include community commitment provisions.

On future contracts at PORTS, the SSAB recommends DOE:

1. Review the scopes of work to determine how best to meet mission requirements, while taking the local economy and the local business community into consideration.
2. Make community commitment provisions integral portions of draft RFPs and the resulting contract of various work scopes at PORTS. The SSAB recommends community commitment be weighted with not less than 10% of evaluation process weighted on the merits and quality of any such community commitment plans by prospective contractors.
3. Include the following items in RFPs as criteria for community investment.
 - A. **Employment continuity:** In keeping with the intent of the Section 3161 of the Fiscal Year 1993 Defense Authorization Act to minimize the impact of changes to the workforce to DOE Sites, the contract should retain the existing (non-managerial) workforce, maintain existing wage and benefit programs, provide pension continuity; and recognize the collective bargaining agreement for the hourly workforce. The local workforce is highly trained to work in the nuclear industry and has consistently operated the facility in a safe, secure, efficient and cost effective manner. Any disruption in transitioning the workforce could result in compromising the health and safety of the community and should be avoided by the DOE and any subsequent contractor.

- B. Regional Purchasing Program:** In an effort to build a strong supplier base with southern Ohio businesses (within a 50-mile radius) to purchase goods and services, DOE shall direct contractors to provide substantive preferences to southern Ohio businesses, such as pricing preferences, supplier assistance, regional procurement advisory efforts, and a sustainable procurement strategy. The program should include:
- i) A 5% adjustment factor added to the proposed total evaluated bid/cost of those qualified suppliers whose businesses do not meet the definition of a southern Ohio business.
 - ii) Contractors will actively participate with the local business alliances and associations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Development Centers, and the Entrepreneur Signature Program, to help prepare southern Ohio businesses to compete effectively for subcontracts and purchase orders.
- C. Community Support:** Direct community investments should be targeted toward the critical areas of economic development and charitable giving to the community. Community support under this plan will strengthen the region, build capacity, and stabilize the economy which, in turn, will create a sustainable environment of ongoing DOE activities.
- Economic development support should include: Engineering and Design support to the Economic Development Community; Support for local tourism including preservation and promotion of the cultural resources; Short-term and Long-term Planning Assistance; Reindustrialization Resources and Support; Property Transfer Resources and Support; Infrastructure Enhancement; Project Development Assistance; Infrastructure Enhancement; Project Development Assistance; Funds for Economic Development Projects valued at a minimum of \$1,000,000 per year for the length of the contract; Placement of two Renewable and Alternative Energy Research, Development, Technology Transfer, or Component Manufacturing Programs in the southern Ohio region, preferably one at The Ohio State University South Centers at Piketon and one within an industrial park funded in part by the DOE 3161 program.
- Charitable giving shall include the donation of time and services from the contractor's employees to support community projects. These efforts should also include: Project Management Services; Short and Long-Term Plan Development; Project Development; Technical Assistance; and Engineering and Design. It should also include a \$1 for \$1 match of employee contributions toward worthwhile organizations such as United Way, the local food pantry and homeless shelter, gifts for foster children and senior citizens center activities.
- D. Educational Outreach:** Through the creation of the PORTS Site Specific Advisory Board, DOE is determined to integrate public participation in its environmental management program operations, planning activities, and decision-making processes.

Educational outreach programs can build the capacity of the local community to become informed participants in DOE's environmental decision making, a mutual benefit for the community and DOE. With only 14% of Pike County residents pursuing post-secondary education, mostly because of financial barriers, direct investments in education can develop the people of southern Ohio into professionals, technical experts, and skilled laborers, positions that will become available as a result of the D&D project.

Educational outreach activities should include: 20 scholarships awarded per year to local students for the length of the contract valued at \$10,000 per student accepted at a southern Ohio accredited college/university in an undergraduate degree program; Adult workforce development programs to create the human resources necessary to support ongoing operations and clean-up activities at the PORTS; Local secondary and higher education programs and training modules that focus on preparing local students for tomorrow's global and technical workforce; Partnerships with the local school districts to advance math and science education by hosting field trips; conducting demonstrations; mentoring students; sponsoring teacher training programs; enhancing curricula; providing educational technology, software, and lab equipment; and participating in career awareness programs.

The SSAB would like to thank DOE for its previous efforts on these matters. Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.