



January 10, 2013

*Portsmouth EM Site Specific
Advisory Board*

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The Honorable Stephen Chu

Secretary

U.S. Department of Energy

1000 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Stephen Chu,

The Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) would like to thank you and your staff for its efforts related to the potential lifting of the suspension of non-contaminated metals in radiological areas for recycling purposes at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.

Such an approach will not only reduce the footprints of waste cells across the country, but will also generate much-needed dollars for federal projects. The board is in support of the lifting of the suspension, which will be the first step in helping us determine a waste disposition pathway for the waste created during our D&D project. More importantly, it will also be a driver in creating a national strategy for disposition of metals that will have positive impacts across the entire DOE EM complex. Further, lifting the suspension will be the linchpin for a reindustrialization strategy that will make Piketon, Ohio, a leader in this field.

The PORTS EM SSAB would like to reiterate its satisfaction with the Asset Transition Agreement between DOE and our Community Reuse Organization, the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI). This program has had a profound impact on our region, as evidenced by several SODI grants that have assisted community projects and led to infrastructure upgrades and job creation. Obviously, an increased emphasis on the recycling of metals in a manner that is safe for human health and the environment will have a significant impact on our community. That is true not only because of the DOE-SODI agreement, but because of the potential for a national recycling center for metals from radiological areas that would put us at the forefront of what is sure to become a thriving industry.

Our community, in conjunction with local, state, and federal office holders, has developed a strategy that will reshape the future of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, with the lifting of the suspension and your support. One example we have researched is an advanced laser decontamination technology, already applied in various fields (including with the Department of Defense). Leaders in our community are formulating a plan to incorporate such advanced technologies for the recycle of surface-contaminated metals (in a manner that would be in compliance with DOE Order 458.1) that would benefit not only our community, but communities throughout the nation. The PORTS EM SSAB is recommending the lifting of the suspension and your support in the creation of a pilot demonstration project, and later full-scale commercialization.

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We hope you give the highest consideration to this recommendation, both for the benefit of our community and as a long-term national strategy to DOE cleanup projects. Our support of the proposed action does not imply a lowering of standards. Quite the contrary, we are advocating the application of uniform and stringent standards through the application of protections contained in DOE Order 458.1.

Thank you again for your work. It is valued and appreciated. In closing, the board would like to point out the suspension is counterproductive and unnecessarily prohibits the safe and economically beneficial recycling of these metals. The lifting of the suspension would be a critical step in furthering DOE missions, improving cleanup programs around the nation and benefitting countless communities where DOE operations exist.



William E. Henderson II
Chairman
Portsmouth EM Site
Specific Advisory Board

Enclosure:
Recommendation 13-01