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Advisory Board*

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RECOMMENDATION 13-03: Portsmouth Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board Requests DOE Coordinate the Development and Promotion of Traveling Displays to Educate Citizens on Plant History

BACKGROUND: Based on its role in the Cold War, the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) has a rich history that should not be lost when the Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) of the site is completed.

The PORTS facility not only played a significant role in the nation's defense, but is a source of pride for local citizens. Although this community is actively working to make reindustrialization occur when the Gaseous Diffusion plant is remediated, it makes these efforts with a bit of sadness that our iconic structures are going away. The many thousands of workers who made their way inside the plant gave a bit of themselves in defense of this nation, and the PORTS Office of Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) wants to state in the strongest terms possible that their efforts will not be forgotten and that their contributions are valued.

Simply stated, in no small part the men, women and local communities have helped end the Cold War, produced enrichment products that for the next several decades will continue to protect the world and our nation from rogue threats, and energize our nation's domestic energy needs.

It is for this reason the PORTS EM SSAB recommends the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) coordinate the development and promotion of traveling displays to educate local citizens on the important work that was performed here and the plant's roles in the Cold War and the nuclear power industry, among others.

RECOMMENDATION: The PORTS EM SSAB recommends DOE and its contractors develop four informative displays to be shown in each of the four counties surrounding the PORTS facility. These displays should be mobile and the locations in each of the four counties should vary on a rotating basis.

Each display should include panels that individually depict PORTS' role in the Cold War, the nuclear power industry, key aspects of site operations and future use potential. Each display would also include a glass case that would contain various artifacts and multi-media devices that enhance the educational experience for onlookers.

The PORTS EM SSAB believes it is important for future generations to understand the importance of the PORTS facility. In fact, the board believes it would be a collective failure on behalf of DOE and the community to not ensure that PORTS' legacy, and the legacy of the workers, be preserved. We are confident the Department shares this view based on its multitude of efforts related to site legacy, including its work related to the PORTS EM SSAB. The board wants to thank DOE for those efforts and looks forward to a timely response to this recommendation.

Thank you.

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