



Recommendation 16-02  
November 3, 2016

*Portsmouth EM Site Specific  
Advisory Board*

**Chair**

Robert Berry

**Vice Chair**

Lisa Bennett  
Carlton Cave

**Board Members**

Eric A. Braun  
Bradley Burns  
Maddeline C. Caudill  
Al Don Cisco  
Dennis Foreman  
Carl R. Hartley  
Ronda J. Kinnamon  
Neil Leist  
Bernard S. Neal  
Irma C. Payne  
Cynthia Quillen  
Jimmy E. Smalley  
Gregory Stepp  
Judy R. Vollrath

**Deputy Designated**

**Federal Official**

Joel Bradburne

**DOE Federal Coordinator**

Greg Simonton

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

EHI CONSULTANTS  
PHONE: 740-289-5249  
FAX: 740-289-1578  
EMAIL: JULIE@PORTS-SSAB.ORG

**RECOMMENDATION 16-02: Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Priorities for President's 2018 Budget Request**

**BACKGROUND:** In recent years, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) has requested input from advisory boards across the EM complex regarding community priorities as site budgets are formulated.

The PORTS EM SSAB recognizes that each community has a unique set of circumstances to consider when establishing priorities for these large-scale projects. The circumstances for the Portsmouth site are centered around an economic climate with high unemployment where the focus is on workforce continuity, job creation, reindustrialization and recycling.

It is imperative for the sake of the southern Ohio economy that the Portsmouth decontamination & decommissioning (D&D) project be fully funded with attention paid to reindustrialization efforts to ensure workforce stability during and after the D&D project. It is with these circumstances in mind that the PORTS EM SSAB makes the following recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The PORTS EM SSAB recommends DOE consider a closure fund site approach for the Portsmouth site, as has been executed at other DOE sites. The Portsmouth site does not have extraordinary technical challenges and the threat to the D&D Project here is one of project stability based on potentially inconsistent funding levels, partly as a result of the reliance on uranium barter proceeds.

By establishing Portsmouth as a closure fund site, the D&D Project can move forward with certainty and more efficiency. That approach proved to be successful at Fernald, Mound Facility in southwest Ohio, and Rocky Flats and the PORTS EM SSAB believes the closure fund site approach will be successful here also.

Board priorities on the project are:

- clearly workforce continuity the deactivation of process buildings
- reindustrialization efforts
- property transfer
- the continuation of recycling efforts through the DOE-Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) Asset Transition Agreement
- the construction of the On-Site Waste Disposal Facility as long as DOE meets the conditions outlined in PORTS EM SSAB Recommendations 13-02 and 15-05 (see attachments)

The PORTS EM SSAB is emphatic that even if DOE chooses not to make Portsmouth a closure fund site, another key board priority is for the Department to communicate a strategy to local stakeholders that includes input from the host community that is geographically near the site and directly impacted and burdened by environmental releases on how the project will continue uninterrupted as the supply for the uranium barter program expires.

Recommendation 16-02  
November 3, 2016

The board would like to thank DOE for soliciting this input. The value of the SSAB program, and all programs where public engagement occurs, is significant as evidenced by the numerous examples across the EM complex of how communications with the public have benefitted DOE and stakeholders alike.

Thank you for your attention to the Portsmouth D&D project and recognizing its importance to southern Ohio.