



Paducah Citizens Advisory Board

"working for the future"

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Recommendation 14-01: Maximizing Safety by Promptly Issuing a Notice to Proceed

March 20, 2014

Background

The United States Enrichment Corporation ceased producing enriched uranium at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) on May 31, 2013. The uranium enrichment facility is in the process of shutting down. Highly trained and experienced workers, knowledgeable in how to work safely in a massive industrial setting, are in the process of being terminated. In order to retain this valuable asset, the new contractor, sought through the IDIQ process, must be issued a Notice to Proceed as soon as possible.

The community was pleased to learn that the additional funding that the DOE Paducah office and the community requested, and the funding that our state and congressional leaders secured, was approved with the passing of the FY 2014 omnibus appropriations bill. The Paducah Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide input into Department of Energy (DOE) expenditures plan at our gaseous diffusion plant (GDP) site. As we enter into the shutdown and transition phase, the community feels it is critical that the shutdown is accomplished in a manner that is done as safely and quickly as possible. Recommendation 13-04: Prompt Initiation of PGDP Operating Facility Decontamination and Decommissioning after Transition of Leased Building to DOE and Recommendation 13-08: Importance of Safety and Cost Benefits by Initiating Immediate D&D Using Current Workforce outline the CAB's safety concerns. DOE's responses to the aforementioned recommendations strongly support this focus on safety.

Timing is critical due to several factors:

- Congressional delegation has secured appropriate funding for FY2014
- Community has a future use vision for adaptive reuse of the site
- Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office has stated it has a plan moving forward with transition and D&D of the site
- Existing skilled and trained workforce with a stellar safety record ready to commence transition and D&D activities

The CAB feels that successfully completing the IDIQ contract bid process and issuing a Notice to Proceed to the newly selected contractor is critical to maximizing safety at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Site. The CAB, as well as the community, insists that a Notice to Proceed be issued as soon as possible in order to take advantage of our existing skilled workforce, which has a nationally recognized safety record.

Part of CAB's concern relates to the response by DOE to Recommendation 13-05, specifically the statement, "the decision regarding when to start D&D is dependent upon many factors, including the amount of appropriated funding and DOE's competing priorities across the country". The CAB feels that this statement is contrary to prior information and responses regarding funding allocated to the PGDP site. All information presented to the CAB only references an August 2015 D&D commencement date, which the CAB has previously stated, is unacceptable.

If the IDIQ Notice to Proceed is not put into place within the second quarter of 2014 (third quarter of FY2014), DOE is in danger of losing the benefits mentioned above with regards to the critical timing. Any delay in this schedule beyond June 30, 2014, leaves our workforce with no alternative but to look beyond our community for employment. This puts the safety of future workers at risk as referenced in Recommendation 13-08: Importance of Safety and Cost Benefits by Initiating Immediate D&D Using Current Workforce.

Recommendation

The PGDP CAB recommends that DOE maximize safety of the transition process and future D&D by issuing a Notice to Proceed for a new contractor under the IDIQ process by June 30, 2014, the second quarter of 2014 (third quarter of FY2014).