



Department of Energy

Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office
1017 Majestic Drive, Suite 200
Lexington, Kentucky 40513
(859) 219-4000

MAY 07 2018

Mr. Robert Berry
Chairman
Portsmouth Environmental Management
Site Specific Advisory Board
1862 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661

PPPO-03-4659332-18

Dear Mr. Berry:

RESPONSE TO PORTSMOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL MANGEMENT SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 18-01: PRIORITIES FOR PRESIDENT'S 2019 BUDGET REQUEST

Reference: Letter from R. Berry to J. Bradburne, "Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board EM SSAB (EM SSAB) Recommendation 18-01," dated January 11, 2018

This correspondence is written in response to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB) Recommendation 18-01. We want to thank the PORTS SSAB for its input into the federal budget process and DOE partially accepts the SSAB's recommendation because the barter program will not be used to fund site activities for the remainder of 2018. Once decontamination and decommissioning of the site is well under way, a closure fund approach could be in the best interest of taxpayers while assisting the community in its reindustrialization initiatives, and we could revisit this approach in the future.

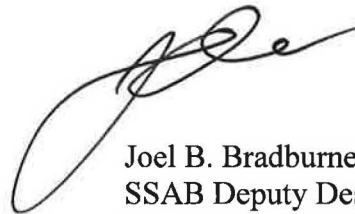
DOE understands the community's concern regarding the fluctuation of the uranium market, which has an impact on funding at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant based on the uranium transfer arrangement DOE has had with the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) contractor, Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC. As you know, Secretary Perry has agreed to suspend the uranium barter program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. However, Secretary Perry has stated the barter program could be relied upon in the future if Congress does not appropriate enough funds to ensure project continuity at the Portsmouth site.

As always, DOE will request from Congress that funding of sites across the DOE-EM complex be consistent with carrying out EM's mission, which is to complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from five decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research.

As for the Portsmouth SSAB's other priorities, many of which are in alignment with the community's desire to reuse the site, DOE will continue to work with local stakeholders and development professionals to understand community priorities as the D&D Project is executed. Seeking recycling opportunities and the utilization of the DOE-SODI Asset Transition Agreement will remain a consistent part of D&D project execution. DOE will also take into consideration the board's interest in a robotics laboratory and workforce training programs that are aimed at future workers. As the PORTS SSAB is aware, there are innovative approaches taking place at the site (e.g., X-333 characterization, large component segmentation). These activities can be catalysts for future business development related to technology and research and DOE will work with the community if potential opportunities present themselves, whether they be on-site or elsewhere.

DOE appreciates the work of the PORTS SSAB and looks forward to working on this and other issues as we move forward.

Sincerely,



Joel B. Bradburne
SSAB Deputy Designated Federal Official
Portsmouth Site Lead
Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

cc:

ets.support@lex.doe.gov
greg.simonton@lex.doe.gov, PPPO
greg.wilkett@lex.doe.gov, RSI
jason.sherman@lex.doe.gov, PPPO
jud.lilly@lex.doe.gov, PPPO
laura.sawyer@lex.doe.gov, PPPO
rick.greene@lex.doe.gov, RSI
robert.edwards@lex.doe.gov, PPPO