



Portsmouth EM Site Specific
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Recommendation 23-01

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RECOMMENDATION 23-01: Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Priorities for Site Budget

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.

RECOMMENDATION The PORTS Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) continues to recognize that each community has a unique set of circumstances to consider when establishing priorities for large-scale projects. The circumstances surrounding the Portsmouth site, located in an economically depressed area of Appalachia, are an economic climate with high unemployment and a need for advanced worker training. Therefore, a continued focus for the PORTS SSAB is on workforce continuity, job creation, a local workforce development and training program that will prepare the next generation workforce for the energy and environmental technology industry. Our community is full of capable, dedicated professionals who understand our challenges and look for innovative ways to work with government employers and the private sector companies to bring good jobs to the people of our impacted counties.

The PORTS SSAB emphatically supports continued funding for the Portsmouth decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) project to maintain the current employment levels and complete activities that will result in an end state that provides land and buildings and maintains site infrastructure for reindustrialization to ensure workforce stability during and after the D&D project. It is with confidence, and these critical circumstances for the Portsmouth site in mind, that PORTS SSAB makes the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: The PORTS EM SSAB recommends DOE move forward on an accelerated funding approach for the Portsmouth site. The Portsmouth site federal and contractor staff have proven that the technical approach and project management plan implemented for the coordination of D&D work, landfill excavation and waste cell construction and operation has been an unmitigated success. The greatest threat to successful site remediation is one of instability based on potentially inconsistent funding levels. Stable funding adjusted for inflation is the critical piece for site success.

In addition to the stable funding, priorities for the PORTS SSAB community are listed below:

- **Continue to investigate a path forward for metals recycling. DOE should be commended for the recovery of nickel from all converters. We applaud**

DOE for its progress on segmentation activities and we look forward to recycling efforts that will make the recovery worthwhile.

- **Maintain and update infrastructure to support future reindustrialization. We recognize the collaborative efforts between DOE and the Portsmouth Community Reuse Organization, the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI), including communication on infrastructure planning to best position the community for future economic success.**
- **Transfer property and establish utility use agreements between DOE and SODI to make property and utilities available to SODI for potential development. We want to thank DOE for its efforts related to Parcels 1 and 2 and believe it can be a catalyst for reindustrialization.**
- **Prepare for modification of the DOE baseline to make allotments for the forthcoming PORTS Site Strategic Plan that is being produced by SODI. The SSAB looks forward to working with DOE and SODI to find ways to coordinate the cleanup plan with the reindustrialization plan.**
- **Continue recycling efforts through the DOE-SODI Asset Transition Agreement. This program is providing SODI necessary resources to operate and continue its site repurposing activities.**
- **Support future workforce development and training programs that will prepare the next generation workforce for the D&D project, the region's energy and environmental technology industry, and future reindustrialization of the site.**

The PORTS SSAB would like to thank DOE for soliciting this input. The Board would like to thank DOE leadership and board management for the improved budget and funding education that has taken place over the last several months. This educational series, along with the emphasis on community health education and environmental monitoring data reporting sessions show a strong commitment to the partnership between DOE and the community.

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