



*Portsmouth EM Site Specific  
Advisory Board*

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**RECOMMENDATION 24-01: 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.

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.

As identified in previous recommendations, the PORTS SSAB continues to identify the following priorities as key pathways to success for DOE and the local stakeholders:

**RECOMMENDATION: The PORTS EM SSAB again offers the following recommendations, as presented in PORTS SSAB Recommendation 23-01, concerning future budgeting and funding decisions:**

- **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 EM SSAB offers the following new recommendations concerning future budgeting and funding decisions:**

- 1. DOE continues to 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.**
- 2. DOE pursues inflation- adjusted funding to maintain stable spending levels. 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.**
- 3. DOE continues to support community investment initiatives through Community Commitment Plans in upcoming contracts. The Community Commitment Plan (CCP) as directed by JEDISO complements the vital work being done by SODI to bolster economic growth through the 4-county subregion directly impacted by the DOE site. As of June 2024, CCP investments over the last ten years totaling \$3.1M have helped drive and facilitate the economic growth of the region through 170 projects valued at \$1.1B. This growth is due to steady support from the CCP and a collaborative and shared vision for growth and reindustrialization throughout Pike, Ross, Jackson, and Scioto Counties. The relationship and interaction between multiple economic development agencies is at an all-time high in large part due to the supporting funds that come from the CCP.**

- 4. DOE engages the state of Ohio Department of Development, local economic development agencies and labor unions to coordinate training and development options for the current and future work force. Workforce development not only assists DOE in completing their mission in a safe and timely manner, the additional benefit of having trained workers to supplement private industry is key to future economic growth. Having workers at adjacent facilities with an understanding and respect for federal work procedures, safety culture and production standards will make future interactions and shared services between the site and its neighbors more productive and cost effective. DOE should help coordinate its training efforts with potential training capabilities provided by the State of Ohio Department of Development. The state DOD is an untapped resource that could show immediate benefits to DOE and the community at large.**
- 5. DOE recognizes and highlights the collaborative economic development efforts of the 4-county subregion that supports the PORTS site. Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Jackson Counties are unique subregions within the state with specialized workers, an understanding of the nuclear industry, and a willingness to support vital green energy projects. This uniqueness has been a hallmark for many years. Recently the cooperative efforts of the communities, DOE, and elected officials have rung a new era of collaboration and support. DOE and Economic Developers should be proud of these accomplishments, publicly claim this success and continue to look for mutually beneficial avenues for future win-win scenarios.**
- 6. DOE investigates avenues for expedited property transfer. As all parcels transferred from DOE to SODI are spoken for via land sale or first right of refusal, we ask that DOE help the community maintain this momentum for growth and development and look for additional property to transfer in a timely manner. The SSAB thanks DOE for their efforts to expedite the process and for their willingness to continue to work with SODI moving forward. The board recommends that DOE continue to reassess D&D schedules to expedite transfers to continue efforts with property turnover to expedite reindustrialization.**

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.