



*Portsmouth EM Site Specific
Advisory Board*

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RECOMMENDATION 24-02: Portsmouth (PORTS) Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Recommends Continued Environmental Monitoring Communications

Background: In the spring of 2019, community concerns arose following the distribution of the 2017 Portsmouth Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) that indicated transuranic contaminants were detected in an air monitor adjacent to Zahn's Corner Middle School. Additional information followed that another transuranic element was discovered in 2018 monitoring, which preceded the Scioto Valley Local School District closing Zahn's Corner Middle School in May 2019.

The following January, The PORTS Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) issued *Recommendation 20-01: PORTS EM SSAB Recommendation on Enhanced Communication Efforts Related to Environmental Monitoring Information*. The Board recommended that DOE provide more timely information on all environmental monitoring data related to the PORTS site. The Recommendation suggested that the data be made available in easy to access online locations as well as in regional libraries for those who don't have access to online tools.

In response to SSAB Recommendation 20-01, as well as a commitment to transparency and accountability in matters concerning human health and the environment, DOE established the *portsdemo.com* website that provided timely information and updates throughout the last several years. In particular, special focus was given to the environmental monitoring data associated with the open air demolition of the X-326 uranium-enrichment Process Building.

The SSAB commends DOE, its contractors, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on the collaborative work required to collect, validate, corroborate, and report thousands of points of environmental data. This great effort helped inform and educate the local stakeholders most directly impacted by the cleanup project. This work is a prime example of the benefit of continued open dialogue between all parties with vested interests in the cleanup of the PORTS site.

RECOMMENDATION: The PORTS EM SSAB again offers the following recommendations

- **DOE continues to make communication of environmental monitoring data a priority and provide data in as timely manner as reasonably possible.**
- **DOE should ensure adequate funding to provide information comparable to that provided for the X-326 building, for the upcoming X-333 demolition with similar updates and dashboard data.**

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 communication and data reporting efforts. The development and upkeep of the *portsdemo.com* website, 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.