



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-
SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2024**

P  **RTS**
SSAB

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PORTSMOUTH EM SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

•OSU Endeavor Center • 1862 Shyville Road • Piketon, Ohio 45661 • (740) 289-5249 •

Proposed Agenda for November 19, 2024, Board Meeting

Chair Donna Carson	6:00 pm Call to order, introductions Review of agenda	
Co-Vice Chair Herman Potter	DDFO Comments-Jeremy Davis	--15 minutes
Board Members Sam Brady Jody Crabtree Bryan Davis Randy Evans John Hemmings Wayne McLaughlin Lisa Pfeifer Matt Setters Beth Workman	Federal Coordinator Comments-Greg Simonton Liaison Comments Presentation: Environmental Monitoring Overview and Annual Site Environment Review Administrative Issues	--10 minutes -- 5 minutes
	Public Comments	--15 minutes
	Final Comments from the Board	--15 minutes
	Adjourn	

**Deputy Designated
Federal Official**
Jeremy Davis

DOE Federal Coordinator
Greg Simonton

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PORTSMOUTH SITE ADVISORY BOARD

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2024

1862 Shyville Road
Room 160
Piketon, OH 45661

*The following minutes of the Portsmouth SSAB
board meeting are certified by*

(signature on file)

Donna Carson, Board Chair

Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASER – Annual Site Environmental Report
D&D – Deactivation & Decommissioning
DDFO – Deputy Designated Federal Officer
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy
EM – (DOE) Office of Environmental Management
EM SSAB – Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory
EPA- Environmental Protection Agency
ETAS – Enterprise Technical Assistance Services
FACA – Federal Advisory Committee Act
FY – Fiscal Year
HQ – Headquarters
MCSA – Mission Conversion Service Alliance
OSMS – Operations and Site Mission Support
Portsmouth – (DOE) Portsmouth Site
PORTS SSAB – Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board
PPPO –Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office
SSAB – Site-Specific Advisory Board
SOCCo – Southern Ohio Cleanup Company

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 Presentation: Environmental Monitoring and 2023 ASER

Appendix 2 Written Statement submitted by Lee Blackburn

Appendix 3 Written Statement submitted by Gina Doyle

Appendix 4 Written Statement submitted by Pat Marida

Appendix 5 Article submitted by Pat Marida: *Piketon at Center of DOE Radmetal Ban Reversal Attempt*

Appendix 6 Written Statement submitted by James Christopher White

PARTICIPANTS

Site-Specific Advisory Board: **Donna Carson**, Chair; **Jody Crabtree**, Board Member; **Lisa Pfeifer**, Board Member; **Beth Workman**, Board Member.

Absent: **Herman Potter**, Vice-Chair; **Sam Brady**, Board Member; **Bryan Davis**, Board Member; **Randy Evans**, Board Member; **John Hemming**, Board Member; **Wayne McLaughlin**, Board Member; **Matt Setters**, Board Member

U.S. Department of Energy: **Jeremy Davis**, Deputy Designated Federal Official; **Greg Simonton**, Federal Coordinator; **Daniel Mains**, General Engineer; **Kristi Wiehle**, Environmental Protection Specialist

Department of Energy Contractors: **Melissa Green**, Enterprise Technical Assistance Services (ETAS); **Julie Galloway**, Staff; **Cindy Lewis**, Staff; **Eric Roberts**, Meeting Facilitator

Board Liaisons: **Sean Kubera**, Ohio Department of Health (ODH); **Grace Stutler**, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA); **Harry Kallipolitis**, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Public: **Lee Blackburn**, **Diana Cahall**, **Vina Colley**, PRESS/NNWS; **Gina Doyle**, Don't Dump on Us; **Shawna Houston**, **David Manuta**, MC2; **Pat Marida**, Ohio Nuclear Free Network; **Gwen Mason**, **Eric O'Neil**, **Paula Spears**, **Emily Stone**, **Lorry Swain**, **Jeff Walburn**, **Trena Ward**; **Joe Morris**

MEETING MINUTES

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB) meeting was held in Piketon, Ohio, and virtually via YouTube. Participants included EM SSAB leadership, support staff, DOE contractors, and the public. The meeting was open to the public and conducted under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requirements.

Recordings of this meeting can be viewed on YouTube at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=portsmouth+site+specific+advisory+board

Opening Remarks:

Ms. Donna Carson opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Eric Roberts, facilitator for the Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (PPPO), welcomed attendees and reviewed the meeting's ground rules. The PORTS Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) is one of eight boards nationwide, all following similar guidelines tailored to their needs.

A key change noted in the Federal Register will affect public participation in this meeting. There will be a 15-minute public comment period at the end, with individual oral comments limited to two minutes each. Written statements can be submitted until 5:00 PM on Friday, November 29, 2024, for inclusion in the minutes. All written comments received will be part of the meeting materials but will not be read aloud during the meeting.

All board members introduced themselves.

Agenda:

Mr. Roberts asked board members if any changes or alterations were needed to the agenda. Seeing none.

Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO) Comments:

Mr. Jeremy Davis stated that Daniel Mains would present Environmental Monitoring and the 2023 ASER.

I can provide limited details about the OSMS contract for site maintenance and operations, which was awarded to MCSA due to ongoing sensitive procurements. After a probationary protest period, we plan to issue a notice to proceed at the same time as the D&D contract previously awarded to SOCCo, which will take about eight months, depending on the protests. This will not change the scope of work at the site. The OSMS contract will take over the remaining operations at the site, while SOCCo will focus on deactivation and demolition. DOE will work with both teams to ensure a smooth transition. Despite changes in administration, we are committed to resolving site issues and have consistent funding under a Continuing Resolution at the FY24 level, allowing us to continue our work this year.

Federal Project Coordinator Comments:

Mr. Greg Simonton stated that he would discuss outreach and education. Recently, the department hosted the Science Alliance event, which welcomed over a thousand students over three days. The student ASER program we are conducting with Ohio University has started with Waverly High School and Valley High School. Both schools participated in a tour and attended presentations. Approximately twenty-five students from the two schools will be involved in this project.

Mr. Eric Roberts asked how many students from the Science Alliance and the ASER program have been hired as employees on-site.

Mr. Greg Simonton responded, "Educating the future leaders in our community and letting them know there are opportunities within the community is an accomplishment that the department wants. This is our fourteenth year for the Science Alliance, and showing the local students there are opportunities to work in a technical field without leaving their hometown has been very rewarding to us as a department."

Liaison Comments:

Mr. Sean Kubera, Ohio Department of Health (ODH), said he had no comments.

Mr. Harry Kallipolitis, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), said he had no comments.

Ms. Grace Stutler, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OPEA), said she had no comments.

Presentation: Environmental Monitoring Overview and Annual Site Environment Review on 2023

ASER Findings: *Please refer to Appendix 1*

Environmental monitoring program overview

- presented a monitoring program covering crops, surface water, groundwater, air, soil, and wildlife
- reported over 100,000 annual soil sample results from on/off-site locations
- detailed 300 groundwater monitoring wells sampled periodically
- highlighted 23 co-located air monitors with state agencies for independent verification

2023 ASER report findings

- reported 0.11 millirem calculated public radiation dose for 2023
- noted 6 regulatory inspections conducted, with 2 notices of violation of waste labeling
- announced ASER public summary mailer distribution scheduled for next week
- confirmed full report availability at public libraries in Pike, Ross, Jackson and Scioto counties by December

Mr. Eric Roberts asked if there were any questions from the board.

Ms. Beth Workman asked, "So, the 620 millirem, is that what we all get exposed to naturally in a year?"

Mr. Daniel Mains responded that that is the average annual exposure.

Ms. Beth Workman asked if there is a place where the board can go and see all the different cleanup sites and how they compare. Is there one place where all those are found, or would I have to go to every cleanup site and compare each to see different numbers?

Mr. Jeremy Davis responded, "Unfortunately, there's not one resource we could point you to." However, the other sites do the same thing because they are required to do so by order. We can check what other sites have and provide it to the board.

Administrative Issues: None currently

Mr. Eric Roberts stated that the public comment period is not a question-and-answer session. Under Kelly Snyder, the Designated Federal Officer from the Department of Energy, we will now begin our 15-minute public comment period. Eight individuals have requested to speak for two minutes. I will signal you at one minute and thirty seconds to indicate it's time to wrap up. At two minutes, please conclude your comments to allow everyone a chance to speak.

Public Comments:

Ms. Vina Colley stated as I have done in the past, I am here again to urge the EPA to post warning signs at Little Beaver, Big Beaver, the Scioto River, and the Ohio River, as the fish in these areas are contaminated with radiation. I'm sure they are aware of the stories regarding the numerous victims living near this plant. Unfortunately, those concerns have been ignored.

I previously sent a letter to the state of Ohio regarding five workers at the Piketon plant who have died from various forms of cancer. The only common factor among them was their employment at the plant. Additionally, there is a report stating that the residents of Pike and Scioto County have some of the highest cancer rates in Ohio, leading many to question whether the Portsmouth plant is the source of this issue. This was noted back in 1993.

Many other victims haven't been interviewed yet, as some have already passed away. PRESS conducted a cancer and health study in 1993, which revealed findings like those of Joe Mangano: Scioto County has the highest cancer rates.

It is time for action. We need you to address these concerns directly, and we must put an end to the ongoing negligence. I have compiled a list of individuals from Piketon, along with obituaries of workers and community members diagnosed with cancer because of circumstances beyond their control. We were never informed about the presence of plutonium on-site.

I have taken samples from the local creeks and collaborated with Dr. Ketterer and Dr. Joe Mangano. It is crucial that you do the right thing. I am asking the DOE why there has been no communication regarding internal alpha or beta radiation doses. Did we receive higher levels of radiation?

Mr. Eric Roberts stated that Ms. Vina Colley submitted a written statement on behalf of James White. This document will be in the board material emailed to you tomorrow. Please refer to Appendix 6

Ms. Diana Cahall, I wanted to follow up on Beth Workman's question regarding the demolition practices at the Hanford site and the Portsmouth X-326 building. Specifically, she asked why Hanford shrink-wrapped its buildings for demolition while the X-326 building did not.

The information I found suggests that the Hanford team requested this method to minimize air emissions, and the Department of Energy (DOE) complied with using shrink-wrap rather than allowing emissions to be released freely. This could indicate that requesting shrink-wrap for the demolition of X-333 would benefit the public and the board.

It's worth noting that the X-326 demolition was completed 18 months ahead of schedule and \$20,000 under budget. If the contractors claim that they cannot afford shrink-wrapping, they could utilize some of the savings they achieved, which were awarded to them. In summary, this seems like a prudent investment.

Mr. Eric Roberts stated that Mr. Lee Blackburn had submitted a written statement that would be in the board material. *Please refer to Appendix 2*

Mr. Lee Blackburn, I would like to begin by stating that I am a former board member. My first question concerns the lack of microphones on the table. Why does Jeff have to keep asking for people to speak up so he can hear? Where are the microphones?

I would also like to thank the Department of Energy (DOE) for finally posting the minutes of last meeting on the SSAB website, although it took until today to do so. What is the protocol for posting the minutes for future SSAB meetings?

Additionally, after listening to Diana's comments, I want to emphasize that the uncovered demolition of the X-326 has spread radiation throughout the community, whether the DOE wants to acknowledge it or not. They often demolish contaminated buildings without proper precautions, dispersing radioactive materials into the environment. I urge the board to encourage the DOE to cover the X-333 before they commence with its demolition. Thank you.

Mr. Jeff Walburn, I stated that I know you can hear me because I can hear myself. Regarding the site-specific board, I'm unsure what the boundaries are here. Still, I know that the HALEU program was initially based on a cost of four dollars per pound for Russian-subsidized uranium, which has now risen to eighty-eight dollars per pound due to HR 1042. If you've done your homework on the bill proposed by the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Senator Barrasso, you'll realize that the actual cost of your HALEU program, which includes plans for building reactors, will need to be recalculated.

Furthermore, your security for the plant is a concern. The situation is critical; just recently, the Israelis bombed Iran. I have experience working in SWAT and anti-terrorism for the Department of Energy, and I was part of the CAP teams. Your current security measures are insufficient. This is a hard target, and both the Russians and the Iranians, who have openly threatened our president, are aware of it. We're talking about groups of individuals willing to carry out acts of violence, whether targeting a person, a vehicle, or a facility.

You must immediately call in the National Guard to provide additional protection for this sensitive site. You cannot afford to wait; you need them here immediately.

When he asked Daniel Mains how long he had been at the site, Mr. Mains responded that he had worked as a contractor for about six years. You're the ASER guy who brought up Zahn's Corner School. I am informing you and the Ohio EPA that if you examine the ASER for Camp Creek and Otway, you will see that the levels of Americium and Neptunium were higher than those recorded at Zahn's Corner School. The Department of Energy has kept this information quiet.

Additionally, you will find that in 2018, every measurement across the board was higher than at Zahn's Corner, which was concealed. I urge you to check the data. It appears you're working hard to get the numbers down, but you know that Transuranic material is present throughout and in the header. Don't sit here and claim that you are unaware of this situation.

Mr. Eric Roberts stated that, as a point of clarification, the HALEU Program falls under the DOE Nuclear Energy Program. Ms. Pat Marida submitted an article for board material. *Please refer to Appendix 5*

Ms. Pat Marida, I come from Columbus and feel like I've been shut out after only two minutes. Why did the Department of Energy (DOE) suddenly decide to limit our speaking time to just 15 minutes for everyone who came here tonight? We have serious concerns that we believe the DOE needs to hear. It's also important for the board to be informed about our issues, and having the video available is a good step in this direction. However, I've found that the sound isn't apparent unless you hold the microphone close to your mouth. I can't fully hear what the representatives from the DOE are saying or discern much of it.

From now on, I will send my comments to Eric so they can be read aloud since two minutes is certainly not enough time to express our concerns. I've reviewed the minutes from previous meetings; honestly, they often don't make sense. For example, the word "built" has been mistakenly substituted for "billed" B-I-L-L-E-D — which changes the meaning entirely. While these two words sound similar, they convey different messages. This kind of misinterpretation is an easy mistake to make, but it can only be documented incorrectly if the minute-taker doesn't grasp the context of the conversation. It's challenging to accurately capture the meaning of what's being discussed when one is trying to write notes while someone else is speaking about a different topic.

Moreover, we suspect the minutes are being written up afterward, which isn't necessarily a problem, except that they seem heavily edited by the DOE. Many negative comments, such as references to Dr. Ketterer's studies, either come out garbled and nonsensical or are completely omitted. The public demands that the minutes accurately reflect the points and criticisms made during the meetings.

In the past, when Julie was responsible for the minutes, they were 10 or 12 pages long and very accurate. However, since 2014, the format changed to just two or three pages of garbled content that often doesn't make sense. We don't know who is writing these minutes, which raises concerns about transparency.

Therefore, we ask that the minutes be signed by the person responsible for taking them. Thank you. In the future, we also request more speaking time—we think it's only fair to allow at least three to five minutes per person, especially since we've traveled so far to be here.

Ms. Paula Spears, I want to share that I am new to activism. My mother worked at the Department of Energy as a janitor, and since the holidays were approaching, I decided to bring an empty chair to represent her. She has been gone for 10 years, and I feel compelled to speak out because so many people are working hard to stop the troubling issues happening here. Lives are being lost, and children are dying. I thought there was supposed to be a cleanup taking place, but instead, new plants are being introduced, causing more harm and leading to more deaths.

This situation is unjust. It's unfair to the employees who are misled while working here, unfair to the community, and unfair to the state and its waterways that affect multiple states. As others have pointed out, why are we allowing open-air operations when they could at least be somewhat contained?

Mr. Eric Roberts stated that Ms. Doyle had submitted a written statement for the minutes.
Please refer to Appendix 3

Ms. Gina Doyle, I asked if there are any plans for open-air demolition, as that seems to be what is being considered. We request that this not be done again, as the video evidence shows what happened during previous demolitions. We know that the levels of pollutants increased at that time. Additionally, during 2020, when no work was being conducted and everyone was working from home, the levels rose significantly.

We urge you to take all necessary precautions when tearing down the next building, which is starting to happen here. I have a question regarding what will happen now that BWXT is out and this new group that Governor DeWine assembled is in place. I can't recall their full name, but I remember their initials.

Mr. Lee Blackburn stated that they are called MCS. So, what does this mean for the future, especially since BWXT is no longer in control and this new group is? Eric, what is the status regarding the TFE trucks? Jody, did you provide an answer about that?

Mr. Jody Crabtree responded that he mentioned that they spent a significant amount of time cleaning the trucks, but he could not provide specific details. No one seems able to give me any particulars on the TFE trucks.

Dr. David Manuta, I have a few points to make regarding the background reading, particularly concerning the audience and those around the table. By my definition, many individuals in the audience are science illiterate. The numbers discussed do not hold any significance for people like me who have been in this field for about 45 years. If the goal is to mislead the public, it's time to stop this practice.

When we take a measurement, we obtain a total reading. We must accurately assess the background levels, but the Department of Energy (DOE) tends to manipulate these figures. They might present a full reading here while suggesting that the background level is much lower, which leads to an extremely small net amount. This approach makes no sense to experts like me, and DOE can be quite evasive.

To properly measure background radiation, we need to be far enough away from the facility so that its influence does not affect the readings. Any measurements taken close to the site—whether six miles, ten miles, or even as far as Kentucky or Columbus—require numerous readings to determine when the facility's impact dissipates. This is one reason why, despite an adjustable background, the net amount of 0.11 is misleading.

Moreover, the 620 millirems attributed to fallout and medical X-rays cannot simply be ignored in the readings. Thus, the value of 0.11 is essentially meaningless.

At the end of June, the Supreme Court eliminated Chevron Deference, meaning the agency can no longer rely solely on its authority and expertise. It is concerning that most federal agencies regulating this program have not communicated how they plan to adapt to a post-Chevron environment.

Furthermore, during the demonstrations, there was no discussion regarding chemicals. When Americium and Neptunium were identified, it was important to note that these isotopes are not part of the uranium decay cycle but rather part of the plutonium decay cycle. As Desi Arnaz famously told Lucy 60 years ago, "Lucy, you have some 'splaining' to do."

Final Comments from the Board: None

Next board meeting February 18, 2024

Donna Carson closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Appendix 1
Presentation Environmental Monitoring
and 2023 ASER



Portsmouth Paducah
Project Office

Environmental Monitoring and 2023 ASER

Portsmouth SSAB
Daniel Mains, Engineer
U.S. Department of Energy
November 19, 2024



U.S. Department of

ENERGY

Office of Environmental
Management



Each year more than 100,000 sample results are utilized from both on and off-site sources.

Environmental Sampling Includes...



Crops



Surface Water



Groundwater



Ambient Air



Soil

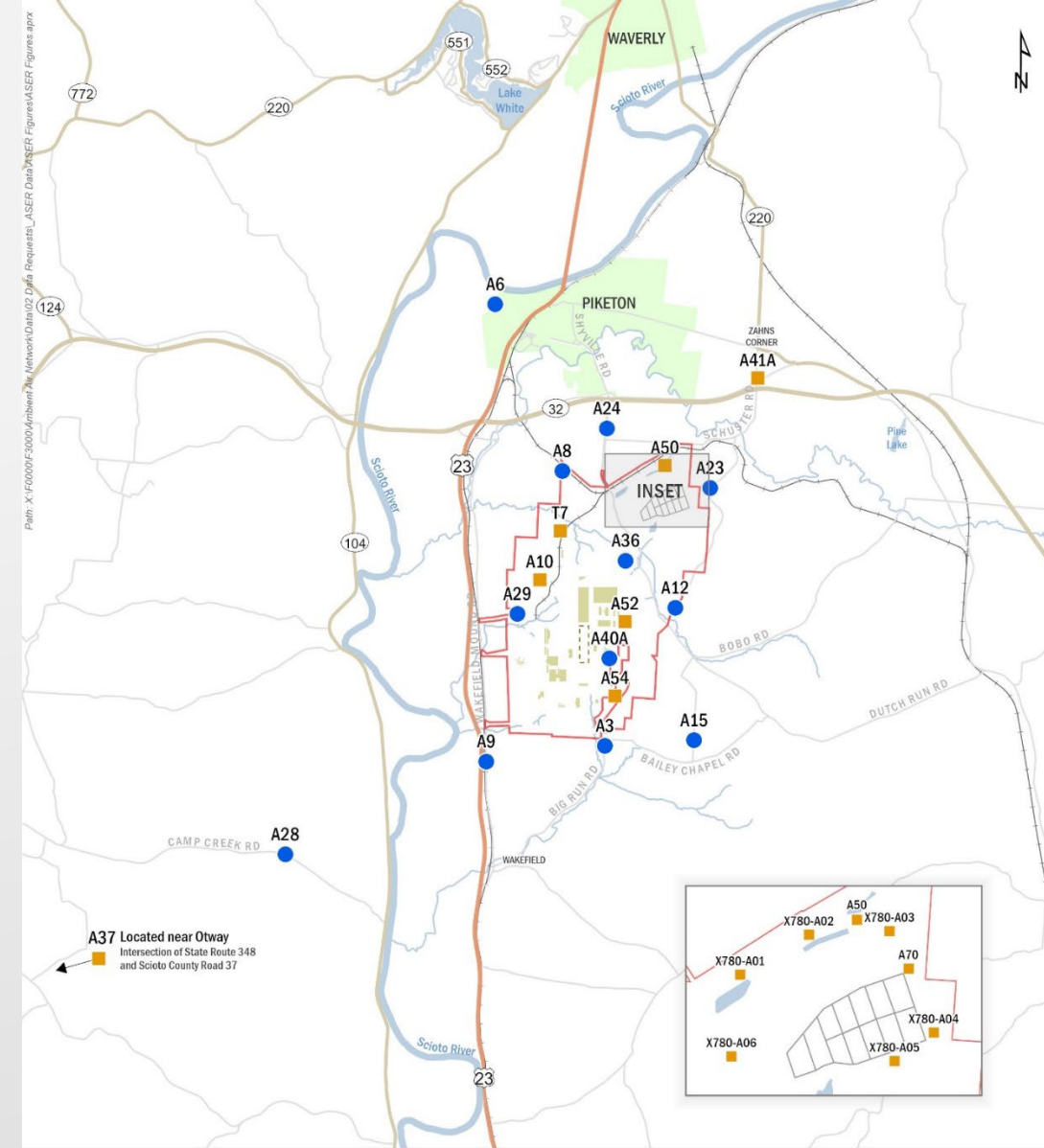


Wildlife



Ambient Air Monitoring

- ▶ Ambient air monitoring stations measure
 - Radionuclides released from DOE cleanup work
 - Fugitive air emissions
 - Background levels of radionuclides



LEGEND

- Ambient air only monitoring location
- Ambient air and radiation monitoring location

- ▭ Former building
- ▭ Building
- ~ Stream or river
- ~ Pond or impoundment
- ▭ DOE boundary



Note: For the ambient air program, stations T7, A50, A52, and A54 are not sampled for fluoride. Station A40A is sampled for fluoride only.

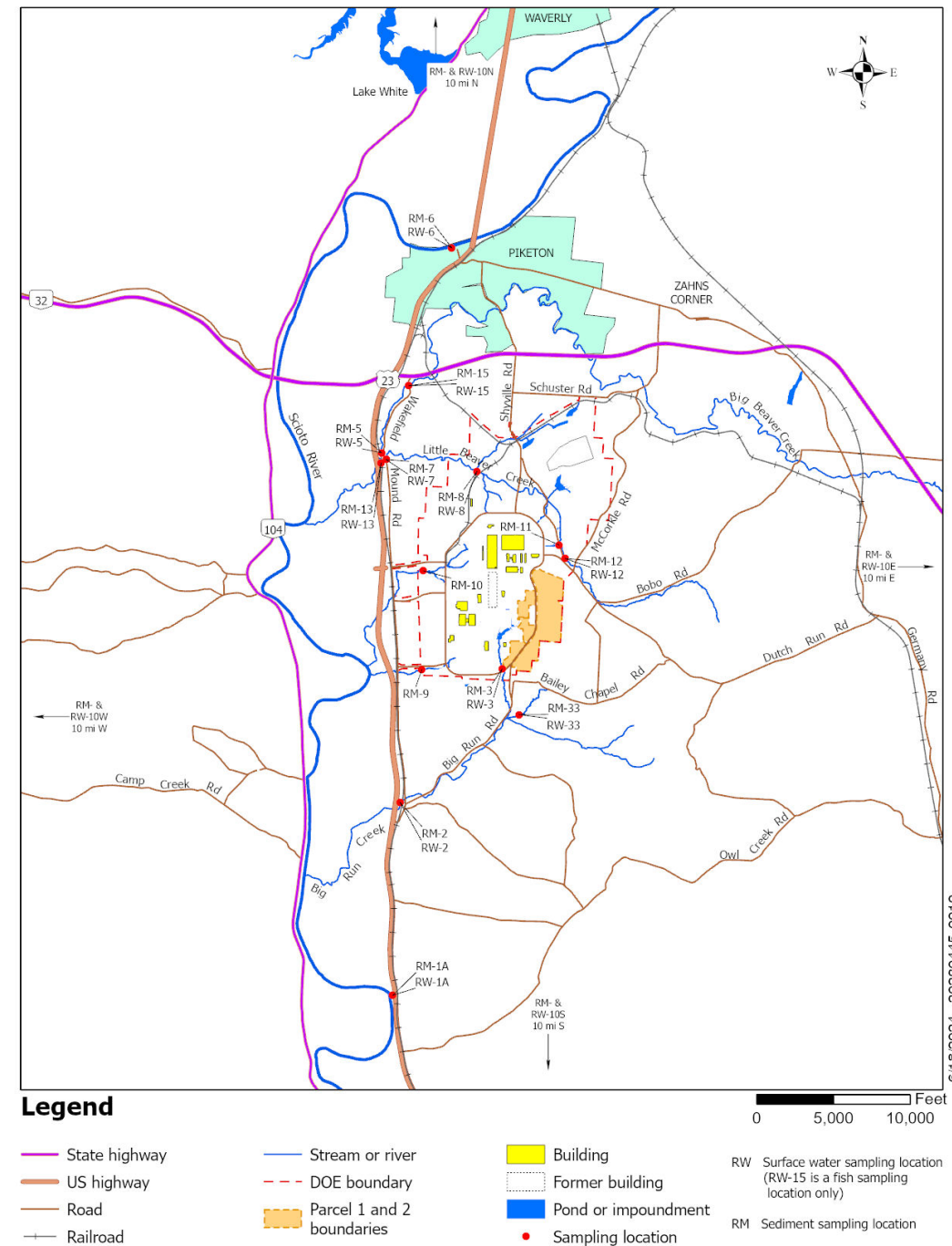
Figure 4.3. Ambient air and radiation monitoring locations from 2023 ASER



Surface Water and Sediment

- ▶ Surface water and sediment samples measure radionuclides from DOE and/or naturally occurring radionuclides
- ▶ Samples taken from Scioto River, local creeks, and background locations

Figure 4.6 Local surface water and sediment monitoring locations from 2023 ASER





Soil

- ▶ Soil samples measure radionuclides from DOE and/or naturally occurring radionuclides
- ▶ Soil samples are collected at the ambient air monitoring locations

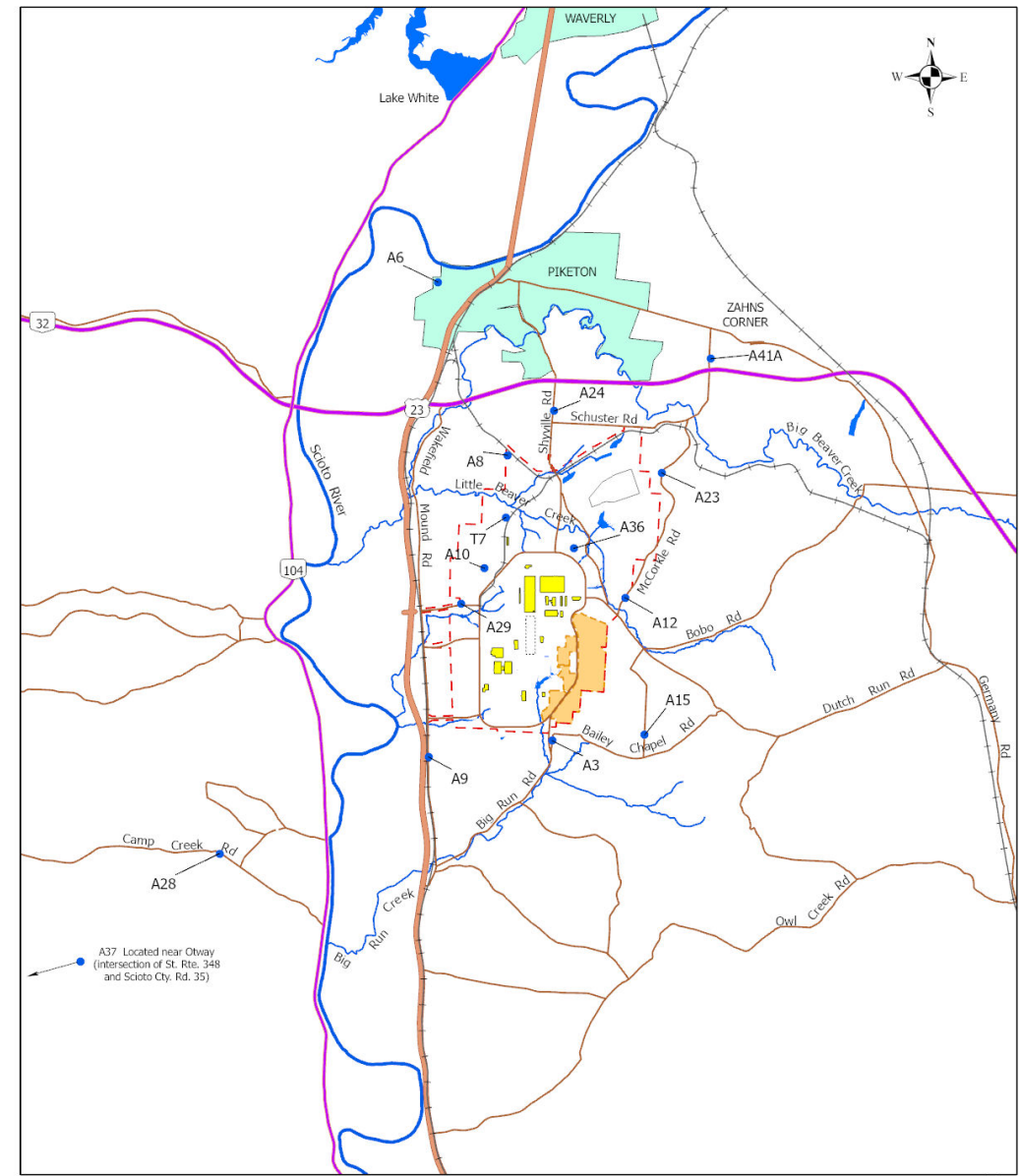


Figure 4.7 Soil and vegetation monitoring Locations from 2023 ASER

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Crops and Wildlife

- ▶ Crop samples are provided on a voluntary basis by neighboring residents
- ▶ Local wildlife samples are obtained when available
- ▶ Detailed results can be found in Section 4.7 of the ASER with results broken down by vegetation, deer, fish, crops, eggs and milk, aquatic and riparian animals, and terrestrial plants and animals

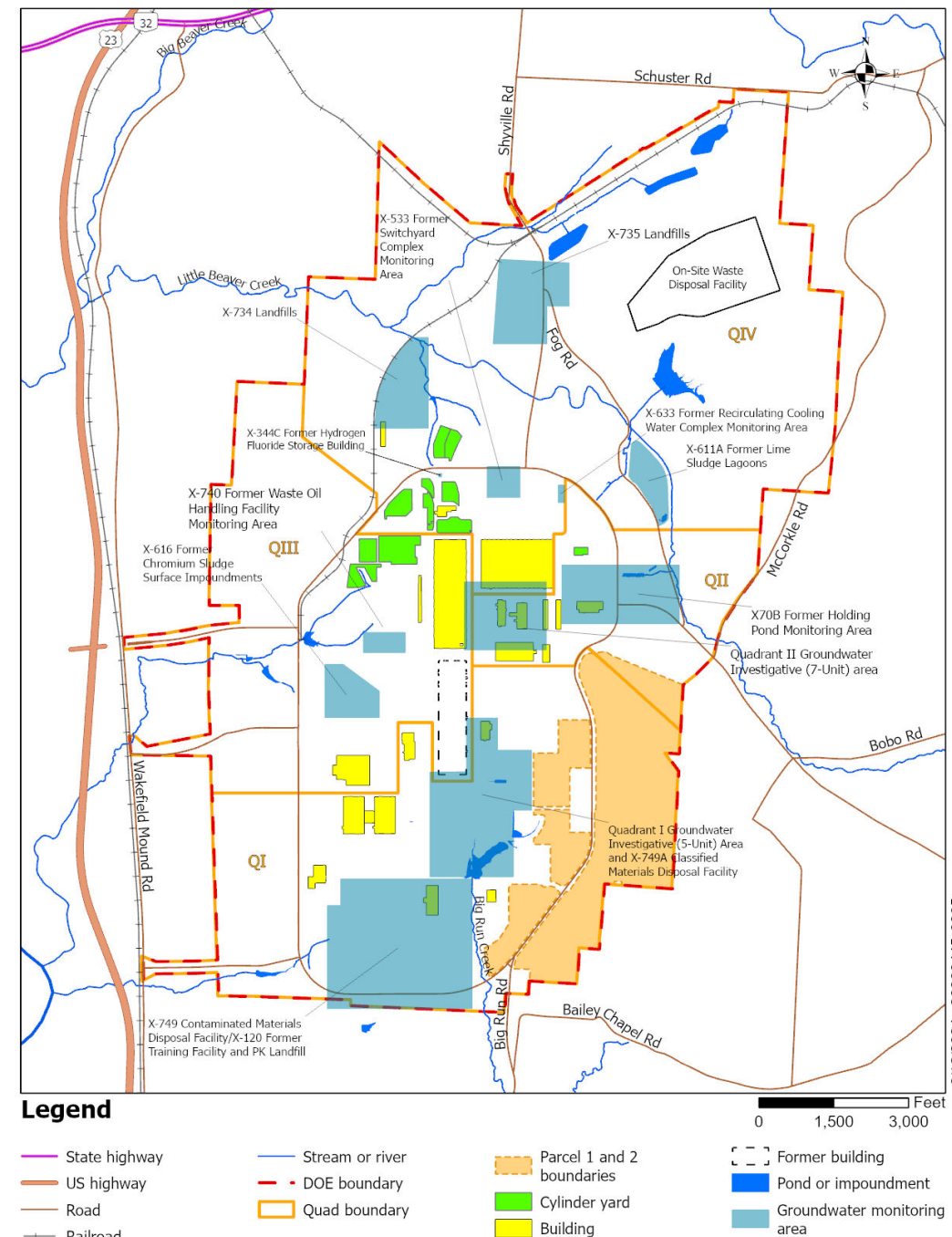




Integrated Groundwater Monitoring Plan (IGWMP) Sampling

- ▶ Approximately 300 groundwater monitoring wells are periodically sampled.
- ▶ Areas monitored include
 - Four groundwater plumes contaminated with TCE
 - Other areas monitored for organics, metals, and/or radionuclides
 - Two landfills (X-735 and X-749A) closed under RCRA

Figure 6.1 Groundwater monitoring areas from 2023 ASER

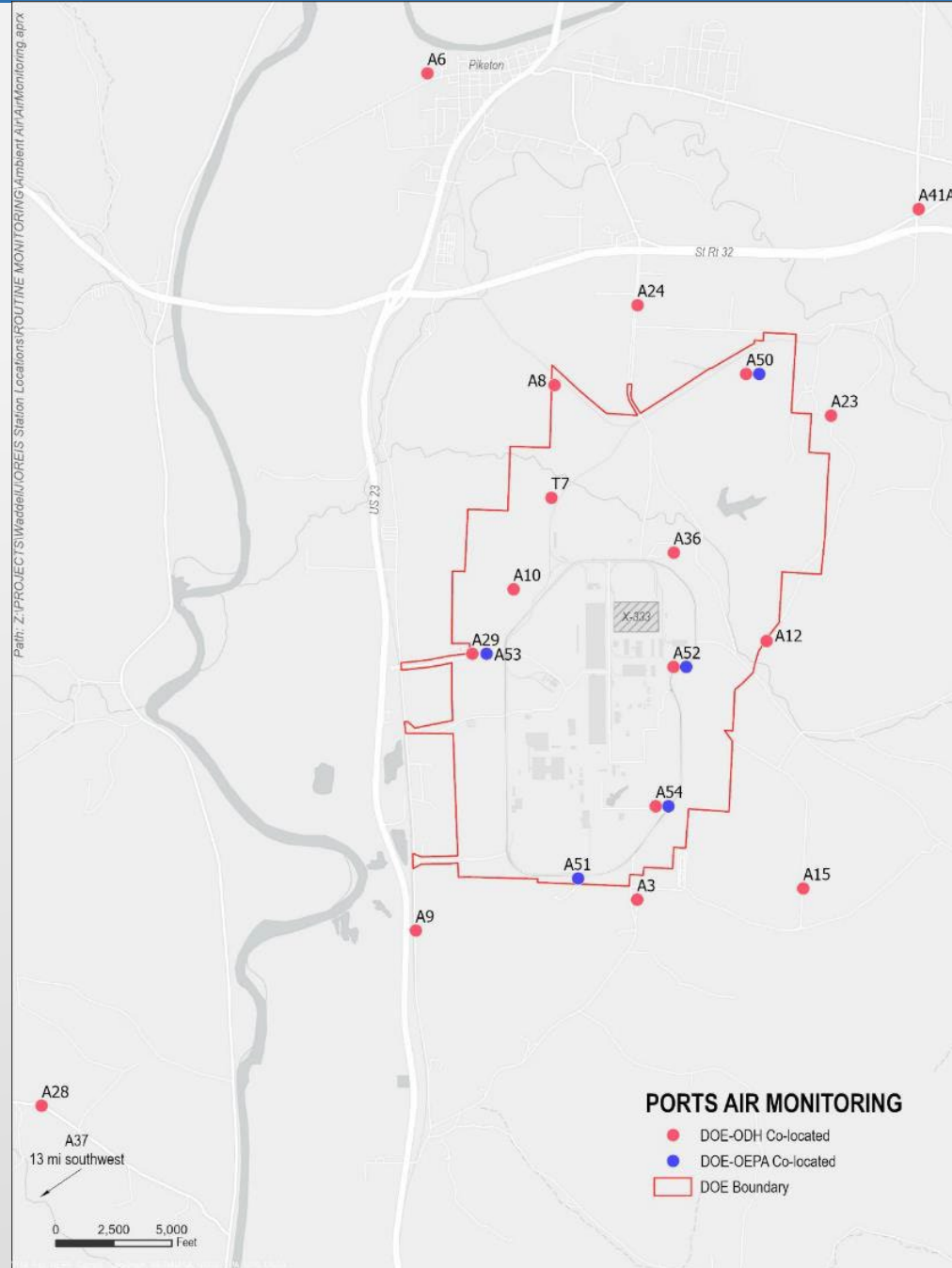


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Co-located Air Monitors

- ▶ DOE worked with Ohio EPA and ODH to co-locate a total of 23 air monitoring stations
 - ▶ 18 with ODH
 - ▶ 5 with Ohio EPA
- ▶ In addition to DOE's data, Ohio EPA and ODH air monitors will provide independent confirmation of air quality data during demolition work

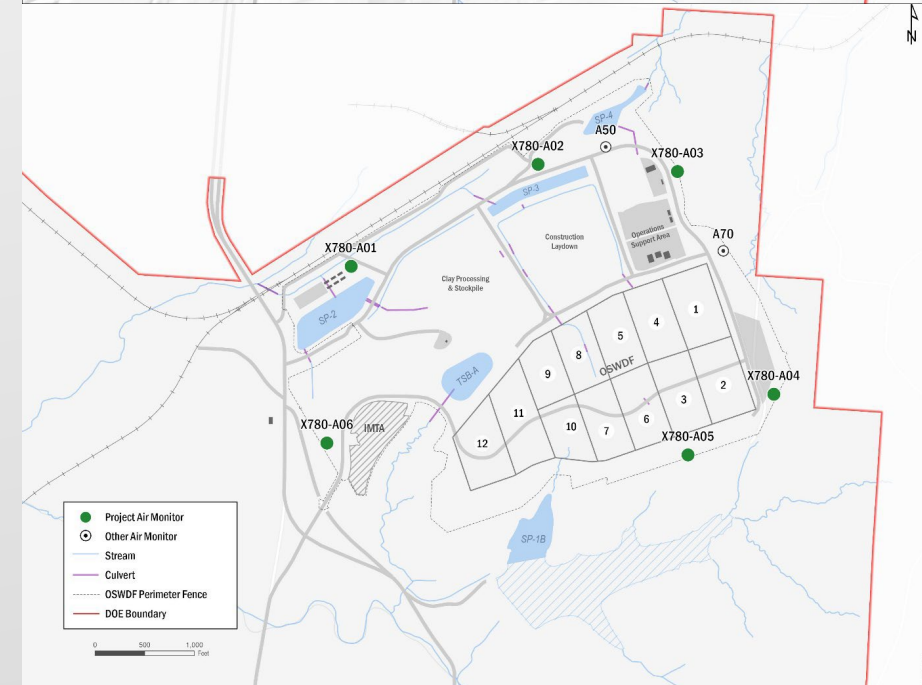
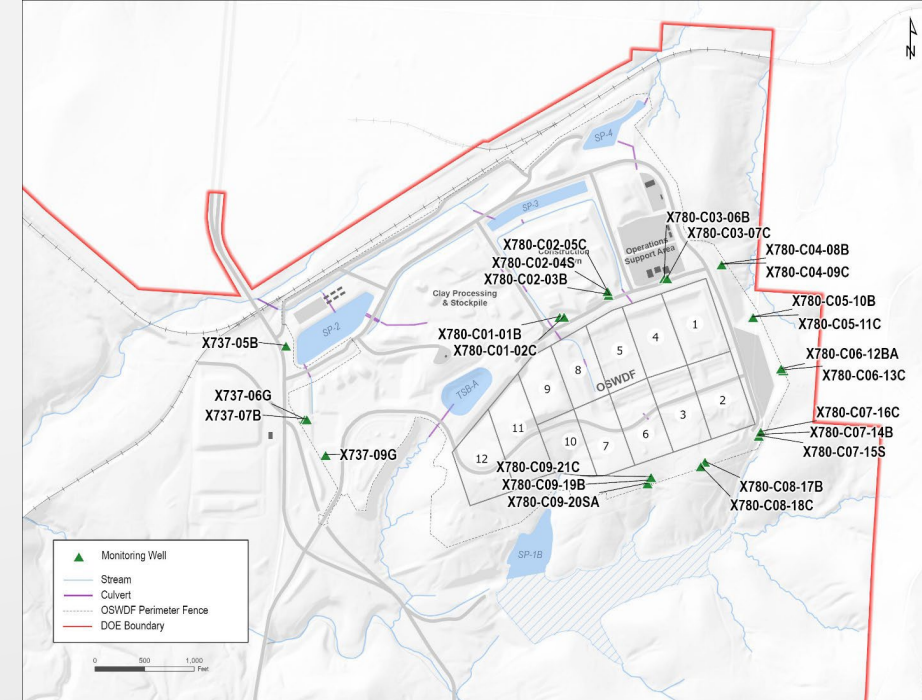




OSWDF Sampling

- ▶ Samples are collected to monitor the On-site Waste Disposal Facility (OSWDF)
 - Leachate management systems in operating cells
 - Groundwater
 - Surface water
 - Storm water discharges from sediment ponds
 - Ambient air
 - External radiation

Figures 4.2 and 6.1 from 2023 OSWDF Annual Project Status Report





2023 Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER)

- ▶ In accordance with DOE Order 231.1B, *Environment, Safety and Health Reporting*, DOE prepares an Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER), which offers a detailed overview of environmental activities at the Portsmouth Site
- ▶ The ASER is a key component in DOE's outreach effort to keep the public informed about environmental conditions at the Portsmouth Site

US Department of Energy
Portsmouth Gaseous
Diffusion Plant

2023

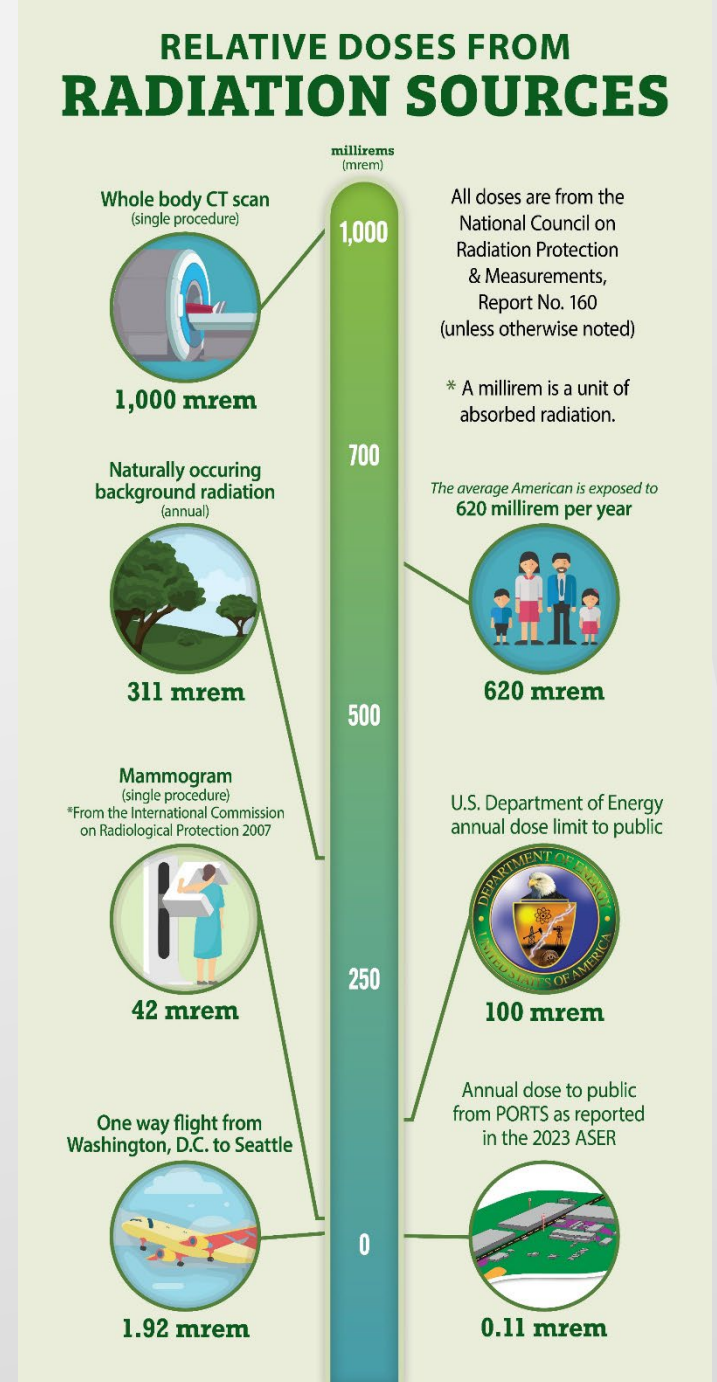




2023 Environmental Risk Summary

- ▶ The sampling results are compiled for a dose calculation
- ▶ The calculated radiation dose that could be received by a member of the public from activities at the Portsmouth Site was 0.11 millirem (mrem), compared to the DOE annual dose limit of 100 mrem

Figure ES.2. Relative doses from radiation sources from 2023 ASER



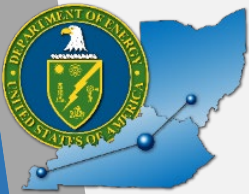


2023 Environmental Summary

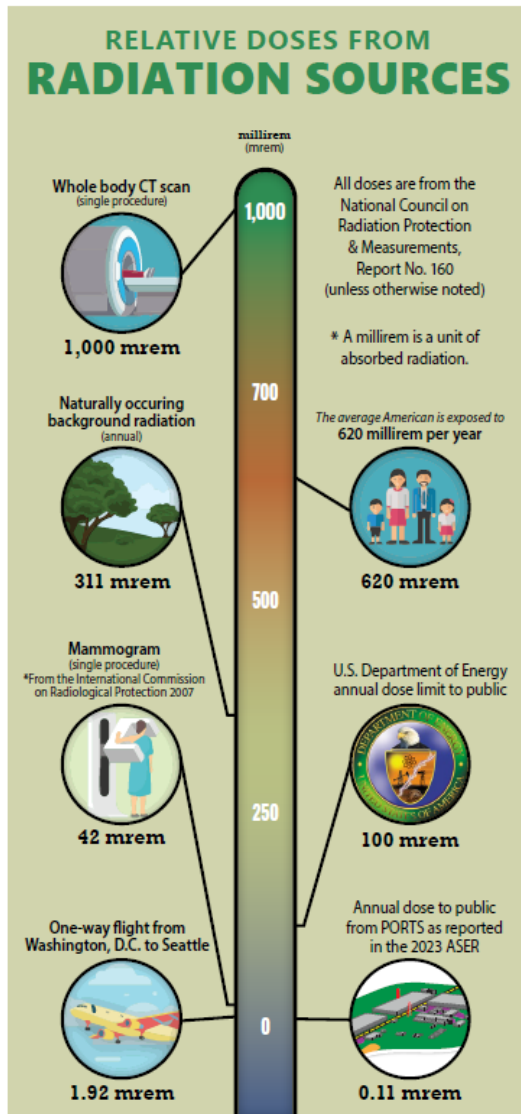
- ▶ Notice of Violation from Ohio EPA – May 25, 2023
- ▶ Notice of Violation from US EPA - July 25-26, 2023
 - Both related to labeling issues
 - Additional labeling was added as needed
 - Determined the violations were resolved and no further actions necessary

Date	DOE Contractor	Agency	Type	Notices of Violation
May 25	MCS	Ohio EPA	RCRA compliance	Yes
July 25-26	FBP	US EPA	RCRA compliance	Yes
September 1	FBP	Ohio EPA	Closed solid waste management units	None
September 6 & 19	FBP	Ohio EPA	RCRA compliance	None
November 8	FBP	Ohio EPA and Pike County Health District	Closed solid waste landfills	None
December 6	FBP	Ohio EPA	Surface water: sampling protocols and procedures	None

Table 2.4 Environmental inspections of DOE activities at PORTS for 2023 from 2023 ASER



Public Outreach – ASER Summary Mailer



What did sampling find?

Environmental data published in the 2023 ASER is consistent with previous years indicating that radionuclides, metals, and other chemicals released by PORTS have minimal effect on human health and the environment. All results found are below the limits set by state and federal environmental laws.

But radiation levels are not zero?

That's right, because radiation occurs everywhere. Most occurs naturally, it's called background radiation. Some sources of background radiation include natural minerals, radon in the air, and potassium in food.

According to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, the average American is exposed to 620 millirem per year. About half of that comes from background radiation, the rest comes from human-made radiation like diagnostic medical tools and equipment, even some watches, clocks and smoke detectors.

The Department of Energy has established a total public annual dose limit of 100 millirems per year above background.

The 2023 ASER reports the total annual dose was much less at 0.11 millirem per year.

Environmental Monitoring Data Now Available Online through PEGASIS

Interested stakeholders now have access to dynamic mapping and environmental monitoring data at the Portsmouth site through the Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (PPPO), Environmental Geographic Analytical Spatial Information System, or PEGASIS.

PEGASIS is a powerful and customizable tool developed in response to input from stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and the public who asked for faster reporting of air monitoring data at the site. PEGASIS will continue to be updated with ambient and independent air monitoring data on a quarterly basis. All other environmental data will be updated annually along with the publication of the ASER.



Go to pegasis.ports.pppo.gov.

How do we monitor to protect our community?

Environmental monitoring includes more than 100,000 sampling results from the collection of air, water, soil, sediment, and biota (vegetation, deer, fish, crops, milk, and eggs) on and off site. Since the beginning of Decontamination & Decommissioning and the development of the On-Site Waste Disposal Facility, sampling results have increased from over 10,000 to over 100,000.

The monitoring goes on throughout the year to ensure operations protect human health and the environment by complying with all state and federal regulations.

Environmental Sampling Includes...



Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER)

- The Annual Site Environmental Report, ASER, is prepared annually for the public. It is a comprehensive summary of environmental activities and monitoring data from the U.S. Department of Energy's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.
- Current and past copies of the ASER are available to the public at:



- Online at eic.ports.pppo.gov

- DOE Environmental Information Center (EIC) at the OSU Endeavor Center, 1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, Ohio

EIC Hours of Operation

- Monday & Tuesday
9:00 – 12:00
- Wednesday & Thursday
12:00 – 4:00

If needed, after-hour appointments shall be available.

Local Libraries

Copies of the 2023 ASER will be available in late 2024 at public libraries in Jackson, Pike, Ross, and Scioto counties.



Public Outreach – Print

- ▶ Printed copies of the full ASER report available at:
 - Public libraries in Pike, Ross, Jackson, & Scioto counties
 - DOE Environmental Information Center (EIC) at the OSU Endeavor Center





Public Outreach – Online

- ▶ Online version available at:
 - eic.ports.pppo.gov
 - portsdemo.com
- Detailed data available at:
 - pegasis.ports.pppo.gov/pegasis
 - portsdemo.com

PPPO Environmental Geographic Analytical Spatial Information System

Welcome to the Portsmouth version of PEGASIS!
PEGASIS was designed to provide dynamic mapping and environmental monitoring data display for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) - Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (PPPO).

Site GIS Viewer

Analytical Data and Plotting

Well and Bore Logs

Environmental Reports

What is PEGASIS?

Public Documents

User Instructions

Paducah PEGASIS

Contact Information:
[Site Admin](#)

PORTS D&D PROJECT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant VIRTUAL MUSEUM

“Please Note: The system is best viewed with Google Chrome. Some compatibility issues have been found with some versions of Internet Explorer.”



Student ASER

*2024 U.S. Department of Energy
PORTS Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER):
Student Summary*



- ▶ Partnership with Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service
- ▶ Student ASER 13
 - Northwest and Eastern High Schools
 - Recently Printed
 - Summarize 2021 ASER
- ▶ Student ASER 14
 - Valley and Waverly High Schools
 - Summarize 2023 ASER



Student ASER Expo

- ▶ Students create academic posters and present to the public
- ▶ Visit OU to perform testing in their laboratory and to visit an OU Student Expo



Appendix 2

Written Statement submitted by Lee
Blackburn

Statement on my comments during the September 17, 2024 SSAB meeting

On my comment re: National EM SSAB Chairs Recommendation, I said: “The comment I’d like to make about this recommendation, you read the recommendation itself. The paragraph, the sentence above it, says in order to educate and inform future board members, interested community groups, and the public in general, we want to maintain a detailed archive of board activities that is easily accessible from the website.”

“So, I went to the website yesterday and looked at all the information from the July 25th meeting and I found one page. One page. The agenda. So you can always tell where you need to begin. And quite frankly because there wasn’t any minutes, that’s a violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Thank you.

In addition, my comments re: Recommendation 24-02 partially stated: “And I’m sure, I haven’t looked at the data but I’m sure it spread contamination throughout the community and that’s just not a good thing.”

While the minutes simply state: "I have not personally reviewed the data." There is no context in the minutes for this statement (personally reviewed the data of what?) and makes no mention of my saying: "I’m sure it spread contamination throughout the community and that’s just not a good thing.”

During the public comment period at the end of the meeting, I commented on four items:

- 1) The posting of minutes, work plans and recommendations being posted on the website. The minutes makes no reference to my frustration over not finding minutes for the July 25th meeting, just a one-page agenda. Instead, the minutes say “frustration when the recommendations were not available for review” A comment I never made. I also did not request that the information be distributed to all board members as stated in the minutes.
- 2) No mention of my comment about DOE treating the Portsmouth site as a red-headed stepchild vis-à-vis the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and the Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant.
- 3) a) The minutes missed the reference to Dr. Ketterer’s study of neptunium-237 **in plant uptake**. “Neptunium in the area” has been known for years (see next comment).
b) In addition, not mentioned was my reference to the closing of Zahn’s Corner Middle School due to among other issues, the finding of neptunium-237 in air monitor A41A directly across from Zahn’s Corner Middle School as reported in the 2017 Annual Site Environmental Report.
c) No mention of the finding of neptunium-237 above background levels in that same air monitor (A41A) for the entire five-year period of 2016 to 2020 as reported by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry last year.
d) I also mentioned the Human Health Risk Assessment or Auxier Report that failed to look at neptunium in airborne samples or neptunium in plant uptake but that too, was not mentioned in the minutes.
e) I also said: Dr. Ketterer mentioned in his report that: “Concentrations of neptunium from PGDP (PORTS) in soils/sediments within the confluence zone are

approximately one hundred times higher than accountable from ubiquitous 1950's-1960's nuclear weapons test fallout." And that: "Persons consuming foods grown within 10-15 miles of the DOE Portsmouth reservation are cautioned that they may be ingesting 237Np." Again, not mentioned in the minutes.

- f) Also, not mentioned in the minutes: DOE has failed to do anything about offsite contamination at PORTS while giving the Paducah Independent School District \$1,325,000 to revitalize 6 acres of unused school property.
 - g) Finally, and most egregiously, not mentioned in the minutes: I challenged the Board to pressure DOE into acquiring the auctioned Zahn's Corner Middle School and demolishing it before more children suffer cancer and death from DOE's total disregard for human health.
- 4) Here, the minutes left out all reference to Oklo and the building of reactors and the fact that PORTS is destined to become a factory for DOE.

Clearly, every effort has been made by DOE to sanitize any and all comments that might be detrimental to DOE. This kind of sanitation needs to stop.

I am hereby requesting that these comments be included in and made a part of the November 17, 2024 minutes and distributed to Board members prior to the November 17, 2024 meeting.

Respectfully,
Lee Blackburn
Former Member,
PORTS EM SSAB Board

Appendix 3

Written Statement submitted by Gina
Doyle

Hello to all SSAB BOARD MEMBERS ,

I would like to start this letter by saying Thank you for allowing the public to write letters to be read at the meetings. We need to be heard .

My letter today is to ask for answers to the questions I asked about specifically the TFE truck that was parked in Piketon Ohio at the former Candle Company . Do you have the answers to those questions today ?

Next I would like to inform the Board that together with Duane Pohlman of Channel 12 WKRC and my moderator Emily Stone we were fortunate to get 10 people to be interviewed for the Special Report Faces of Fallout . There is more to come with that report and we do hope that you all have watched the first parts that were aired on November 4th and 5th , 2024 . These stories are heartbreaking and they are a scoop in the bucket of stories from the Pike and Scioto communities.

We would also agree with Lee Blackburn that the minutes from the meeting in September of 2024 are not accurate quotes from those who spoke that day . I still cannot see anything from the site .

Don't Dump on Us s and always has done our best to bring this awareness and share info with the public . My questions are, what are the plans for the future of Ports ? Exactly what can we expect in the future of the many Companies that have plans to build there and exactly who are they ? Where do I find the information on the plans so that I can form an opinion if I disagree totally ? We already know about the Waste Dump and have formed an opinion about it . We don't agree with having a waste dump on site here in Piketon . The public needs to know and understand what the plans are . Does this mean more contamination bad in the past decades or will we see more deaths? Or will DOE and the many contractors "try" to make it a safer site for all workers and our communities.

Thank you

Gina Doyle

Don't Dump on us

doylegina157@gmail.com

740-935-9776

Appendix 4

Written Statement submitted by Pat
Marida

Letter for the Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board meeting 11-19-2024.

From: Patricia Marida, coordinator, the Ohio Nuclear Free Network <https://onfn.org>.

These are my personal remarks and not those of the Network.

I have a serious complaint about the minutes, as well as the lack thereof, for PORTS SSAB meetings. The Federal Advisory Committee Act, (FACA) states that minutes must be kept for each Advisory Board meeting.

The National EM SSAB Chairs this year made the following “**Recommendation:** *The board recommends that the EM SSAB website maintain and keep documents related to board activities in perpetuity. The documents shall be in a searchable archival online location available to the public. These documents include, but are not limited to, recommendations, responses, and minutes.*” This applies to all the EM sites, including PORTS and Paducah.

Going back online and looking for SSAB meeting minutes, they are first posted in 2013. They appear inconsistently from then until now. About half of them are not on the website. Whether or not they exist, the public cannot discern. There is a gap between July 11, 2013, and March 6, 2014.

When enquiries about the Sept. 17 PORTS SSAB materials and minutes were sent to Roberts, Simonton, Bradburne, and Davis, a PDF of the document was emailed. However, as of early Nov. 18, this has not been posted to the website.

The same gaps appear in the video recordings of the PORTS SSAB meetings. Some are there and some not. Oddly, the video recording of the December 5, 2013, meeting is there, while the minutes for that date are missing in the gap I referred to previously.

We very much like the new setup of having the meetings available on the PORTS SSAB YouTube channel, both live and after the fact. However, they are not listed in chronological order, making specific meetings difficult to find. This is likely because YouTube is controlling the order. **We request that DOE change the parameters of the YouTube channel so that the recordings of meetings appear in chronological order, with the latest first.**

EHI is a Dept. of Energy contractor. They are hired to follow the instructions of the DOE. Hiring Eric Roberts, who in every respect works for the DOE to moderate the PORTS SSAB meetings represents a serious conflict of interest. This may be a consistent pattern across EM SSAB sites. The moderator controls the tone and the content of the meetings. **We wish to call attention to this and ask that either a neutral moderator be found or that the PORTS SSAB chair preside over the meetings.**

The content of the minutes are deliberately written to omit or obfuscate criticisms of operations, illnesses of plant workers and people living near PORTS, and offsite contamination from activities and the site, and operations on the site.

For that reason, I will restate a previous comment I made about the Record of Decision (ROD) for what goes into the OnSite Waste Disposal Facility (OSWDF). Senator Sherrod Brown said that the ROD “has gaps big enough to drive a convoy of trucks through.” Another example is DOE’s statement that there is no cracked or fractured bedrock under the OSWCF in the summary introducing this DOE report. The community was distrustful because fractured bedrock is common to the area. They hired a geologist who reviewed the report and pointed out that it clearly showed the existence of fractured bedrock under the PORTS disposal facility.

Thank you.

Appendix 5

Article submitted by Pat Marida; Pike-ton
at Center of DOE Radmetal Ban Reversal
Attempt

Piketon at Center of DOE Radmetal Ban Reversal Attempt

by Pat Marida, chair, Ohio Sierra Club Nuclear Issues Committee

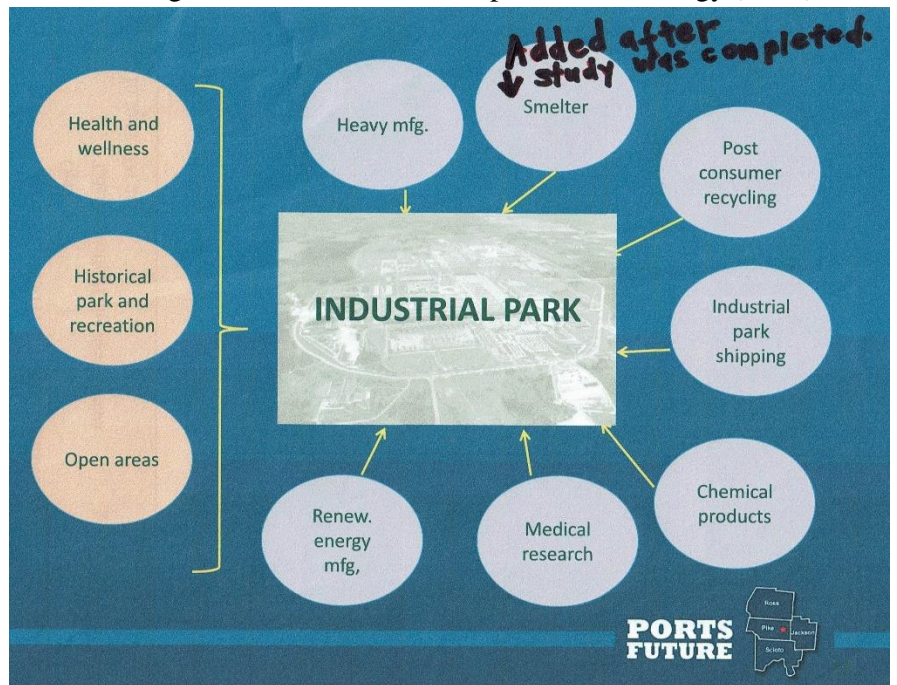
Imagine eating with radioactive flatware, driving in vehicles that are radioactive in small or large part, working with radioactive tools and living in homes with radioactive nails, appliances, and so forth.

Shortly before leaving office as Secretary of Energy under President Clinton, Bill Richardson put a contaminated metals moratorium in place, disallowing radioactive steel, nickel, and other radioactive metal waste to be recycled and mixed with the nation's scrap metal stream.

Ever since the radmetal moratorium was enacted, segments within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have been trying to reverse it.

Pie-in-the sky proposals for "decontamination" of the metals by removing part of the radioactivity have resulted in studies (expensive in themselves) of the cost of a radioactive metals smelter and metals "decontamination". Shortly after Richardson's January 2001 moratorium, a *Dedicated Steel Mill Feasibility Study* was completed by DOE, projecting a cost range of \$855 million to \$2.9 billion for a metal recycling facility.

Consistently, DOE has been evaluating and generating documents on the possibilities for the reuse of radioactive metals. The lack of a market, due to the moratorium and demand factors, has prevented serious consideration of such a facility.



A smelter was added to the diagram months after the study was completed.

Enter: Cleanup at the Portsmouth Nuclear Site at Piketon, OH: Nowhere is there more radioactive metal available than at the sites of the nation's three gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment plants. These facilities used enormous amounts of electricity. A promotional movie by the former US Atomic Energy Commission impressed viewers with the fact that the Piketon uranium enrichment plant used "18 billion kilowatt-hours yearly, enough for the whole city of New York, or 2/3 of that required for the highly-industrialized state of Ohio." Over 500,000 cubic yards of concrete, 100,000 tons of structural steel, 14,500 tons of reinforcing steel and 75,000 lineal feet of 5/8-inch cable were used. Siding was of cement/asbestos. New enrichment technologies are far smaller and less expensive to operate.

The three plants were built as part of the nation's war effort, enriching uranium for nuclear bombs. The smaller facility at Oak Ridge, TN, was part of the Manhattan Project and is now closed. The second plant at Paducah, KY, is still in operation, now enriching uranium for power plants. Its operator, USEC, Inc., is being bankrupted by the expense of the electricity needed to run the facility, and they are expected to announce closure of the plant in the near future. The government-owned US Enrichment Corporation, which first operated the Piketon facility, became simply USEC, Inc. when the company was privatized in 1996. USEC leased the uranium enrichment plant at Piketon until it was put on "cold standby" in 2001. It was finally closed in 2005. The lease on the closed plant was returned to the DOE in 2011. Taxpayers now pay for the ongoing cleanup.

The size of the Piketon facility staggers the imagination. The 3 process buildings cover 93 acres. The Portsmouth/Paducah DOE office is heavily promoting the reuse of contaminated metal from the site, which would turn a liability into an asset. It is expected that 900,000 cubic yards of contaminated metals will come from demolition of the buildings. Of this, an estimated 110,000 cubic yards is being considered "reusable".

Continued on page 2.

A Radmetals Smelter at Piketon? The DOE has been promoting the idea of building a radioactive metals smelter at the Piketon site since 2009. Initially, they asked a subcommittee of the Site Specific Advisory Board (a citizen cleanup oversight group) to recommend a smelter to the full Advisory Board, which in turn voted in May 2010 to recommend a smelter back to the DOE! This is one of hundreds of examples of how DOE manipulates citizen and public processes at Piketon and across the nation.

A more recent example of DOE manipulation is the **PORTSfuture project**. Billed as an independent study, the Voinovich School at Ohio University was given **\$500,000** (yes, half a million) by the DOE to study the opinions of residents in the 4 counties surrounding the Piketon site on what they would like to see for the future of the site. While the town meetings, open to the public, put the recommendations of more nuclear on the back burner, PORTSfuture conducted an online survey and ended up recommending a nuclear power plant. The study was finished in 2011, with the results published on the PORTSfuture website. In 2012, a smelter, never discussed in the study, appeared on the PORTSfuture study website as a recommended facility! When contacted by the Sierra Club, study leadership said they would remove the smelter from the website—with no hint of how it got there. This is just one example of the long arm of influence of the DOE, extending sway over “independent” studies that they just happened to finance.

Updated cost estimates to build a simple smelter range between \$1.5 and \$2 billion, while the value of the metals from the process buildings is less than half that. The only way to justify the cost would be to **bring in contaminated metals from across the country**, turning Piketon into a virtual waste dump for contaminated metals.

Another reason for DOE’s support of a smelter is that the availability of cheap metal could stimulate the prospect of new nuclear industry. The radmetals moratorium was amended to allow radmetals to be used at DOE and nuclear facilities. One such use could be casks or canisters for high-level radioactive waste.

Radmetal Wrap-Up: The Dept. of Energy is now moving forward with an environmental assessment (EA) to remove the oversight of recycling radmetals from the Secretary of Energy and place it in the hands of the undersecretaries responsible for each site. All of Environmental Management (and Legacy Management) falls under Thomas D’Agostino. There would scarcely be a call for this move unless it was motivated by a desire to recycle radioactive metals. If the decision on this critical matter is moved down the pecking order, it is a major step toward having the nation’s radioactive metals put into the stream of commerce. This is an action for everyone to note. We expect that the Environmental Assessment will be presented for public comment sometime mid-2012.

With or without radmetal recycling, the scars of nuclear weapons and power production stand in high profile at Piketon.

Appendix 6

Written Statement submitted by James
Christopher White

March 19, 2024

To whom it may concern,

Reference to VA Disability Claim under the Pact Act for radiation exposure.

I, James Christopher White a 59-year-old male with a diagnosis of; Aggressive Large B-Cell PCNS Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma of the Brain. I was diagnosed on May 12, 2023, during brain biopsy. I am filing a claim through the Pact Act due to radiation exposure at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion plant, during my enlistment in the National Guard unit. I served from August 11, 1990, through August 10, 1991. The armory that I reported to was building X 751 located on the grounds of that plant. My unit was Detachment 1, 214th Maintenance, Company. I was in the engineering subsection that reported at the building mentioned above. I served monthly for my drills during that time. My reporting time was approximately 10 hours daily on Saturday and Sunday with some Friday evenings added.

The building that I reported to was located approximately 200' behind the X-326 building. This building is where the final stripping process of plutonium was completed for nuclear weapons. Currently men and women who worked for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion plant or any Contractor qualify for benefits under The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA) due to exposures at this site. Since I was not employed by the gaseous diffusion plant or a contractor for the DOE, I do not qualify under that program. However, I understand that under The Pact Act established August 10, 2022, I would be eligible to qualify through the VA. I served my country as a soldier in the regular Army for over 8 years and upon my ETS, I enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard. I provided the dates of service above. This is when I was exposed to the radiation at the Portsmouth gaseous diffusion plant.

With that being said, I do not regret the time that I spent serving my country. However, because of my service, I lost my career and salary of 35 years with Norfolk Southern Railroad. My role as a supervisor for over 20 years was stripped from me due to this horrible brain cancer. I have lost my excellent benefits as a supervisor for Norfolk Southern railroad, and I am currently on railroad disability. The insurance I now receive due to my disability from cancer is nowhere near what I had before. My medical bills are increasing. I have been turned into collections from these bills.

My hope is that you see the true exposure, causing this horrible cancer that is terminal and grant my compensation and disability under the Pact Act. This will not erase the impact caused by having this horrible diagnosis but the VA benefits through The Pact Act will help me seek the treatment I will need for the rest of my life; whatever time is left.

My quality of life has changed substantially. I have poor short-term memory, I have trouble with numbers, I am at risk for seizures, and have agitation I have never experienced before. This is all a result of the brain damage caused by this aggressive

cancer. I also experience neuropathy in my feet, thighs, and hands that require medication twice a day. I have had falls due to this neuropathy that I have never had before. Prior to the highly toxic chemotherapy infusions required to help treat this cancer, I had a dual port inserted in my right upper chest. This port remains in place. The port will have to stay in place for a substantial amount of time because this cancer is not curable, and they anticipate further chemotherapy. The possible complications by retaining this dual port can be serious. My treatment included nine rounds of chemotherapy, six of which were administered through my port and one orally. The last three chemotherapies were provided during my hospital stay prepping me for a stem cell transplant. Following my most recent hospitalization and stem cell transplant, I remain immunocompromised.

My oncologist said I will have all my childhood vaccinations repeated next month (April) due to having no antibodies left in my body from the last three chemotherapy being so strong.

I also missed my grandson's graduation party and celebration of his enlistment in the US Army due to an abnormally long hospitalization following a chemotherapy round.

Even though I have endured all of this, I would still do it all over again to serve my country as my great grandfather, grandfather, my father served, and my grandson currently serves.

Sincerely,


James Christopher White