



# DOE Portsmouth Site Progress

An update on activities at the federal reservation in Piketon, Ohio

Issue 1 - January 2012

NEWS



As Site Director for the United States Department of Energy (DOE) at the Portsmouth Site, I am pleased to present this activity report to keep interested stakeholders up to date on progress being made at our location. We sincerely appreciate your interest in our activities and look forward to providing updates as on-site cleanup proceeds.



For more information on cleanup at the site and to view this edition in electronic format, be sure to visit the website of DOE's prime contractor at [www.fbportsmouth.com](http://www.fbportsmouth.com).

**March 29, 2011** - As the Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) contractor for DOE, Fluor-B&W Portsmouth LLC welcomed more than 800 employees on its first day.

**April 29, 2011** - Fluor-B&W became fully operational on the six decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) projects inherited from LATA/Parallax Portsmouth (LPP) in various stages of completion.

**May 2011** - More than 800 juniors and teachers from high schools throughout the region attended the U.S. Department of Energy's inaugural Science Alliance, an event supported by Fluor-B&W. The purpose of the event was to encour-



age science, math and engineering education.

**June 2011** - Initiated deactivation activities with the sampling of process equipment in the X-326 building in accordance with the Sampling and Analysis Plan. This allowed Fluor-B&W to meet a critical initial milestone (pre-cursor to cut and cap of process equipment).

**June 2011** - Completed soil remediation activities at the X-103 and X-334 sites.



**Through July 2011** - More than a million pounds of DOE excessed recyclable metals was shipped to the DOE Community Reuse Organization (Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative - SODI).

**July 2011** - Building components including the motor seen here were removed from the X-630 Recirculating Water Pump House and prepared for shipment prior to the facility's removal earlier in the week. SODI coordinated the



recycling of materials reclaimed from this D&D project.



**August 2011** - Demolition of the X-344B Maintenance Building (pictured above) was completed.

## September 2011

Monitoring wells were installed as part of the feasibility study for a potential On-site Disposal Cell (OSDC). The wells range in depth from 40 feet to 160 feet and are being used to evaluate groundwater levels. The information will be provided to the DOE, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the public. The public has an opportunity to provide input to DOE before the agency decides whether to ship all D&D waste off site or a combination of off-site shipping and placing an OSDC at the Portsmouth site for some waste.





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## September 2011

DOE and Fluor-B&W officially launched the Portsmouth D&D Envoy Program. Envoys will work with key stakeholder groups and individuals in the community to assure they are kept up to date on activities at the plant as D&D gets under way.

More information about this program is available by contacting Envoy Program Manager Jack Williams at jack.williams@fbports.com or at 897-2964.

**September 2011** - DOE hosted a public meeting at the Waverly High School auditorium. DOE Site Director Dr. Vince Adams and members of the Fluor-B&W management team delivered a series of presentations

and addressed questions during an extended information session.



*The X-747A material storage yard is pictured at left in 2006 and again in September 2011 (below).*



**September 2011** - The Excess Material Cleanup Project, carried out by Fluor-B&W's Waste Management organization, was deemed a huge success following the announcement that SODI had earned \$1.8M from the project since June. The money

will be used to fund community development in Scioto, Ross, Pike and Jackson counties.

The project had been funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and continues to be a baseline activity in FY2012.

The ARRA Excess Material group is the first group to be cross-trained to both Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and DOE standards.



**September 2011** - Phase IV of the Small Cylinder Project, an effort to stabilize 70 small-  
*See PHASE IV, page 3*

## September 2011

Demolitions generated more than 8 million pounds of metal at the DOE Portsmouth site for recycling, further promoting economic activity in the region. Proceeds from recycling that metal through the program will add to more than \$2.8 million already generated from recycling more than 5.2 million pounds of material from site demolition efforts.

Through an agreement between DOE and SODI, SODI then sells the recyclable material, with half of the proceeds returned to the DOE. The SODI portion is then awarded to the local community for business development opportunities in the four counties.



*Above, Pete Mingus of Fluor-B&W Portsmouth's recycling and recovery program, is surrounded by early morning fog as he reviews inventory in front of a pile of metal that was part of the X-533 facility at the DOE Portsmouth site. At right are the large synchronous condensers (top), oil circuit breakers (middle), and general scrap metal transferred to a laydown area after removal from the former site of the X-533 facility.*





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**PHASE IV, continued from page 2** diameter cylinders containing UF<sub>6</sub>, was completed. The cylinders, which ranged in size from test tube-shaped containers to 12-inch diameter cylinders weighing up to 800 pounds, had mostly originated on site but some had been inherited from the East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge.

**September 27, 2011** - DOE began the Asbestos Abatement Program at the Portsmouth site with removal of the first of 206 arc chute breakers from the X-333 building. These breakers, along with a freon pit and air plant in the building, are being shipped off site to a licensed facility authorized to receive the waste.



Fluor-B&W partnered with mentor-

protege company Wastren Advantage Inc. (WAI) and small business subcontractor Solid Rock Asbestos Company from Portsmouth on the project.

**October 1, 2011** - DOE, Fluor-B&W and United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) completed the USEC de-leasing and transfer of the remaining Gaseous Diffusion Plant facilities to Fluor-B&W and added more than 500 former USEC employees to Fluor-B&W.

**October 2011** - Company employees lent their expertise and time to DOE's second Science Alliance event at the site. More than 1,100 students and teachers from 20 high schools took part in the activities which spanned over three days. High winds forced the cancellation of the event midway through the last day.

**October 2011** - Between mid-June and mid-September, enough waste and recyclable material from the site was removed to cover an entire

football field stacked 25 feet high, or 1.1 million cubic feet of material.

The effort to remove so much material in a

12-week period involved all the mentor-protege companies, three container suppliers, four mobile equipment suppliers, six trucking firms, two logistics companies, two railroads, and seven receiving sites. The project was completed safely with more than 100,000 hours logged without incident.



**October 2011** - The first allocation of funds from the metals recycling agreement between DOE and SODI was provided to Reliance Steel/Infra-Metals plant in New Boston. Local, state, and federal officials attended a ceremonial groundbreaking announcing the \$150,000 grant and

*See FUNDS, page 4*

## October 2011

A significant accomplishment in soil remediation efforts at the site occurred with the completion of the X-701B Interim Remedial Measure. The project, which involved excavating and chemically treating more than 70,000 square feet of soil, dramatically reduced what had been an ongoing contamination source for the underlying groundwater plume. Contaminants included Trichloroethylene (TCE), a common industrial solvent used in large amounts at the plant as a degreaser.

Fluor-B&W, WAI and another local company, Geiger Brothers, worked together to complete the project.



Soil treatment in progress



Post-treatment view



X-701B Aerial in 2006



X-701B Aerial in 2011



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## FUNDS, Continued from page 3

heard from DOE Site Director Dr. Vince Adams (photo, right) who briefly addressed the crowd.



The venture is expected to create up to 100 jobs in the region.



**November 2011** - Crews launched two weather balloons to mark the 60-foot height of an on-site disposal cell (OSDC) being evaluated at the DOE Piketon site. The balloons were launched and anchored at the two possible locations of the cell being considered.

**November 2011** - A rigorous and detailed evaluation process resulted in down-posting (removal of signs) and size reduction of radiological control boundaries around the plant site. Approximately 250,000 square feet of "Contamination Areas," "Soil Contamination Areas" and "Underground Radioactive Material Areas" were either reduced in size or down-posted completely where no longer needed.



## December 2011 and Beyond

Management pointed to FY2012 as a crucial staging period for the remainder of its contract scope. Major highlighted areas included:

- Movement forward with regulatory decision documents;
- Modifications to the site's infrastructure;
- Completion of the massive re-baselining effort currently under way;
- Streamlining of Waste Management procedures;
- Potential construction of an on-site disposal cell (pending a decision from DOE and Ohio EPA based on evaluation of options and stakeholder input);
- A company-wide policy and procedures consolidation project; and
- Preparation for initiation of full-scale D&D activities.



## December 2011

A prescribed burn of the grasses of the X-611A Prairie (the former lime sludge lagoons) was conducted by PORTS Fire Services firefighters in mid-December as part of routine maintenance of the prairie. The burn is required by DOE every three to five years to help maintain a prairie ecosystem. The prairie is pictured before the burn (above) and after (below).



**December 2011** - More than 200 people from organizations at the DOE Portsmouth Site in Piketon and from emergency medical, fire and rescue services from the surrounding area participated in an emergency exercise.



**December 2011** - A second \$150,000 grant made possible through the recycling of metals from the cleanup at the DOE site was presented to the Pike County Commissioners by SODI Executive Director Steve Shepherd. The funds will go toward a \$2.7 million sewer line extension project in the Shyville and Shuster Road areas located north of the Portsmouth site.