



# DOE Portsmouth Site Progress

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

Issue 2 - June 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.



Dr. Vince Adams

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).

**January 2012** - As part of ongoing decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) activities, items in the X-720 Machine Shop were collected, categorized and screened. Cleared items were donated to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) for sale as scrap, with proceeds placed into a job creation opportunity fund for nearby counties.

**January 2012** - An asbestos removal project inside a dry air plant in the X-333

Process Building was completed. The DOE's primary D&D contractor at



the site, Fluor-B&W Portsmouth LLC, completed the project in partnership



**Quarterly Public Meetings** - The series of quarterly public meetings hosted by the DOE continued with meetings in January and May. Informational presentations as well as informal question-and-answer sessions provided members of the general public with opportunities to learn more about upcoming cleanup decisions.

Above, Pike County Commissioner Blaine Beekman takes a moment to look over historical information for the plantsite on a virtual museum located at [www.portsvirtualmuseum.org](http://www.portsvirtualmuseum.org).

with Wastren Advantage, Inc. (WAI) of Piketon and sub-contractor Solid Rock of Portsmouth.

**January 2012** - The first trailers arrived at the X-206A parking lot for the X-152 trailer facility. The mobile structures were linked together to form larger complexes to be utilized as office space during D&D of the Site.



**January 19, 2012** - Workers lifted



the first converter under the deactivation project in the X-326 Process Building on January 19. The Stage 1 converter was removed from the Cell 25 area. Converters for Stages 2 and 3 were pulled the following week.



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**January 2012** - Dr. Vince Adams, DOE Portsmouth Site Director, and Tulanda Brown, Fluor-B&W Environmental Safety, Health and Quality Manager, addressed students in grades 7-12 at Piketon High School about various careers available at the site, necessary educational paths, and the importance of setting goals. The visit occurred just weeks before visits by several subject matter experts to the school to discuss the environmental remediation work being conducted at the site.

group received updates on studies being used to provide information to the DOE for the decision later this year on how to dispose of material from the plant cleanup.



**SODI Executive Director Steve Shepherd (left) and WAI President and CEO Steve Moore signed a partnership agreement establishing Southern Ohio Asset Recovery (SOAR), LLC.**

**February 13, 2012** - After nearly 60 years of food service to employees at the plant site, the X-102 cafeteria was closed. Ultimately, the facility will be deactivated, decommissioned and demolished as part of the D&D project.



**February 25, 2012** - DOE and Fluor-B&W welcomed area residents who live near the Site for a tour. Participants were given a driving tour, were updated on planned and ongoing activities, and visited the X-333 Building where they were provided a tour of the "demo" cell and the area control room. They also toured the X-300 Plant Control Facility to learn more about the former enrichment processes and current operations.

**February 2012** - Wastren Advantage, Inc. (WAI), a mentor protégé company of Fluor-B&W, partnered with the DOE's community reuse organization, SODI, and established the Southern Ohio Asset Recovery, LLC (SOAR). The organization's purpose is to help facilitate the recycling efforts and revitalization of the DOE Site in Piketon.

**February 2012** - Fluor-B&W launched a project-wide safety work group initiative to enhance safety awareness at the site.

**February 22, 2012** - Members of the Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) visited the site and viewed a cross section of the geology of one of the sites that are part of a feasibility study for construction of an engineered disposal facility, an on-site disposal cell (OSDC). The

**February 2012** - Steve Shepherd, SODI Executive Director, presented a \$150,000 grant to the Pike County Commissioners toward a \$2.7 million sewer line extension project in the Shyville and Schuster Road areas located north of the plant site. The funds were made possible through the recycling of metals from the cleanup at the DOE Site.



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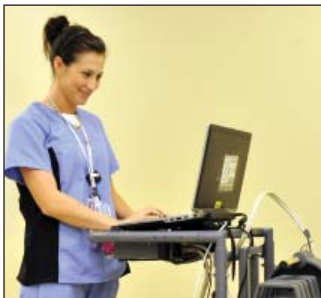
NEWS



**February 15, 2012** - The SSAB's Waste Disposition and Recycling Subcommittee was presented with details of the D&D waste disposition alternatives being evaluated by Fluor-B&W Portsmouth LLC for DOE.

Marc Jewett, Regulatory Planning and Implementation Manager, presented the board with details on estimated cost, volumes, duration, employment and transportation metrics and risks. The two options are meant to address the volume of materials expected to be generated from the D&D of more than 400 buildings and systems at the site. As much as 2.1 million cubic yards of material or more is expected to be generated.

**March 2012** - Non-Destructive Assay (NDA) systems were upgraded or are being upgraded for use in the X-326 building as Fluor-B&W moves forward with D&D activities at the DOE Site.



Six improved systems, as well as six new In-Situ Object Counting Systems (ISOCs), enable NDA personnel to reduce risk, time, cost, and errors typically associated with physical sampling.

**April 9, 2012** - A daily bus service was implemented with scheduled stops around the site.



**April 7, 2012** - For the first time in the 60-year history of the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, members of the general public were provided a guided tour of the site. Thirty-five people took part in the first of six tours scheduled through September 2012. All have been booked at this time. At right, Fluor-B&W's Jack Snyder



takes time in the X-333 to discuss the enrichment process in the cascade.



**April 2012** - A Fluor-B&W Trackmobile moved the locomotive and flatcar on the east side of the former X-533 Electrical Switchyard to allow for refurbishing and strengthening of the tracks in advance of D&D efforts.



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**Marc Hill tags a fire alarm box, an outdoor device on site that notifies the Site Fire Department and Plant Control Facility of a fire and its exact location.**

**Feature** - A plan for preservation of the Site's history from construction to present day has been developed in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and is ongoing under the leadership of NHPA site lead Marc Hill. Hill is one of several project managers, archaeologists, and NHPA experts overseeing efforts to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA.

Preservation activities are focused on facilities designated as core function process buildings, support buildings, and non-mission buildings (i.e. hospital, cafeteria) associated with the "Cold War Era."

Integration of the NHPA requirements into the overall project is an extensive task. DOE activities are coordinated with the public, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and consulting parties.

**April 2012** - Crews removed the cylinder stabilization chamber located in the X-345 building. The chamber was used as part of the pre-D&D process to reduce the number of low-assay uranium hexafluoride (UF6) cylinders in the former uranium enrichment facilities on site.



AFTER

During the past five years, more than 2,000 UF6 cylinders were stabilized through multiple processing phases.



BEFORE

**April 2012** - A temporary medical facility was established in the X-760 trailer to prepare for future D&D of the X-101 Health Services facility.



around facilities in the X-100 Complex, including the X-100 Administration Building, in preparation for upcoming D&D efforts.



**April 2012** - All 12 converters from the first cell inside the X-326 building have been removed. Approximately 2,400 converters will have to be removed from the building before facility demolition can begin.



**May 2012** - Workers began installing nearly 2,000 linear feet of fencing

**May 2012** - Plans to construct a new steam plant powered by natural steam moved forward when crews installed a crucial gas tie-in east of the existing gas monitoring station. The tie-in will allow fuel to be directed to more efficient steam boilers in the new X-690 Natural Gas Steam Plant that will replace the old coal system at the X-600 facility.

Geiger Brothers and Pike Natural Gas Company, both local companies,

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## STEAM

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were instrumental in completion of the project.



**Chuck Scott, Geiger Brothers, welds a flange section to the steam pipe.**

In a related effort, Fluor-B&W dispatched crews and coordinated efforts during a planned steam outage to repair leaks and install valves on lines that will be used for the new Gas Steam Plant. All of the work was completed in one day.



**May 2012** - A coordinated effort between B&W Conversion Services and Fluor-B&W resulted in the repair of broken water lines near the X-106C Fire Training Facility. Geiger Brothers, a local contractor, and electricians from West End Electric, another local company, were instrumental in the project as well.

The damaged section was part of a high-pressure water system buried near gas and electrical lines.



**May 30, 2012** - The complex network of machines comprising the uranium enrichment cascade at the plant was shut down to end operations that had spanned more than 57 years. The final component, Cell 25-7-16, was the last of 200 cells containing 2,340 converters to be shut down.

Over the lifetime of the cascade, more than 1 billion pounds of uranium was processed, filling nearly 40,000 14-ton cylinders.

X-326 Facility Manager Jack Tully, DOE Site Lead Joel Bradburne and Operator Russ Nickell stand in the local control room after the shutdown of the last cell.

**June 2012** - Construction began on a new home for the massive amounts of site-related drawings and documents dating back to the 1950s. Upon its completion, a new vault in the X-720 facility will house the original records located in the core of the X-100 Building.



**June 18, 2012** - A number of security changes went into effect to support current and future D&D activities.

Among the more notable changes were the transitions of three Perimeter Road Security Portals - X-108L (East), X-108J (West) and X-108K (North) to unmanned portals.

**June 2012** - Refurbishment of elevators in the X-326 Process Building began in an effort to efficiently raise and lower equipment and process materials from the cell floor to the operating floor. This activity is the next step in preparations for D&D work.

The elevators should be refurbished by mid-September.