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The Department of Energy Signs Regulatory Agreement with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for Future Decontamination & Decommissioning Work

Piketon, OH – The United States Department of Energy (DOE) announced today an agreement has been signed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency establishing the regulatory framework for conducting future remedial activities to accomplish Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) of buildings and facilities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Portsmouth GDP) in Piketon, Ohio.

The regulatory agreement describes the processes that DOE and Ohio EPA will use in making decisions to conduct D&D on the Portsmouth GDP buildings and facilities and dispose of resulting wastes. The regulatory agreement pertains only to the D&D of the GDP buildings and facilities. Cleanup of environmental media (e.g., soils, groundwater) at the site will continue under other existing regulatory agreements.

The Portsmouth GDP ceased production of enriched uranium in 2001. D&D refers to a variety of activities such as deactivating equipment, dismantling building contents and removing equipment, and demolishing structures and foundations.

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“This agreement is absolutely critical for DOE to move forward with D&D and completing the environmental cleanup at this site,” said William Murphie, manager of the Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office.

The three main GDP process buildings, covering more than 90 acres under roof, have been leased to the United States Enrichment Corporation and are currently scheduled for return to DOE on October 1, 2010. Upon their return, DOE will begin the D&D within this regulatory framework.

“We’re appreciative of the effort the Ohio EPA has proactively spent to complete the regulatory agreement. This is a mutually beneficial agreement,” Murphie said.

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