



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

**PORTSMOUTH/PADUCAH PROJECT OFFICE, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

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## **U.S. Department of Energy Announces Completion of Electrical Switchyard Tear-Down at Piketon Plant**

*Recovery Act Funds Provide For Early Cleanup Action*

**PIKETON, OH** – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces that its remediation contractor, LATA/Parallax Portsmouth LLC, safely completed the demolition of a 20-acre electrical switchyard at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in late December. The project was one of five at the site being funded by a nearly \$120 million allocation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The former 345-kV high-voltage switchyard was used to supply power to one of three enormous uranium enrichment process buildings – each a half-mile in length – at the site. The switchyard operated from 1954 until being de-energized in November 2008 after the plant ended production in 2001 and went into cold shutdown in 2006. Demolition activities started in February 2010. Total cost for the switchyard project was approximately \$28 million.

Workers removed all 160 electrical towers, some as tall as 120 feet, along with a two-story control room, two switchgear houses, and 18 large transformers. A 600-ton crane was assembled on-site to hoist and remove 10 synchronous condensers, weighing as much as 260 tons apiece, from atop the switch houses.

The project will also benefit the local communities through a 2009 agreement between DOE and its recognized community reuse organization, Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI).

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The agreement allows for the transfer of excess personal property assets from the plant for economic development efforts in the region.

“Through this agreement with SODI, we are providing over 8,000 tons of clean scrap metals and other materials from the switchyard project for recycling or reuse to boost economic development and jobs initiatives,” said Joel Bradburne, DOE’s Portsmouth Site Lead.

Nearly 270,000 gallons of transformer oils from the switchyard have already been provided to SODI for recycling. A portion of the proceeds from the recycling of materials will be kept within the local communities to support economic development endeavors.

-DOE-

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Attached photographs:



*The X-533 Electrical Switchyard before demolition.*



*Demolition of the last seven 120-foot tall electrical towers in the X-533 Switchyard, removed altogether on September 30, 2010.*



*Demolition of the East Switchgear House, November 2010.*



*An overview of the X-533 Electrical Switchyard after demolition was completed in late December 2010.*