



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

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## Department of Energy Awards Contract for Operation of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Conversion at Portsmouth, Paducah Facilities

**Lexington, KY --** The Department of Energy announced today that a \$428 million, five-year contract has been awarded to the Babcock & Wilcox Conversion Services, LLC (B&WCS, LLC) of Lynchburg, Virginia, for operation of the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) facilities at the Department's Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky, sites.

"This contract is another important step in reducing the footprint of our Cold War nuclear legacy," said Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Dr. Inés Triay. "Operations at the Portsmouth and Paducah facilities will enable the Department of Energy to make significant progress in our cleanup efforts nationwide."

Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group, Inc. is the principal and majority owner of B&WCS, LLC, and will be supported by URS Energy & Construction, Inc.

The Portsmouth and Paducah facilities were designed to convert DOE's 700,000 metric ton inventory of depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) to a stable chemical form that is acceptable for transportation, beneficial reuse or disposal. The contract also calls for emptying and disposing of the 62,000 cylinders that have stored the DUF6, in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Large-scale uranium enrichment in the United States began as part of atomic bomb development by the Manhattan Project during World War II. Uranium enrichment activities were continued under the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and its successor agencies, including DOE.

The Office of Environmental Management is responsible for the largest nuclear environmental cleanup project in the world. After five decades of nuclear weapons production, the legacy of the cold war has left 1.5 million cubic meters of solid waste and 88 million gallons of liquid waste to be dispositioned.

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