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EM Update

College students tour DOE's Paducah Site for video documentary

Eight college students and a teacher who visited the Department of Energy's Paducah Site on April 25 were impressed with the magnitude of the only government-owned uranium enrichment facility currently operating in the U.S.

The class is compiling a historical video documentary for the Kentucky Research Consortium for Energy and Environment (KRCEE), created in 2003 with \$5 million in DOE funding. Established at the University of Kentucky, KRCEE supports expeditious, cost-efficient and technically effective cleanup at the Paducah plant

"This was my first visit to the plant, but it was exactly like I pictured—big buildings and piping," said Andrew Evitts, who attends West Kentucky Community & Technical College in Paducah, KY.

The visual communications class toured the 750-acre Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, whose 400 miles of piping link 74 acres of process buildings that the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) uses to enrich uranium hexafluoride.

Students also are helping the DOE Citizens Advisory Board conduct historical interviews with retirees and former plant employees, who took their jobs "very seriously," Evitts said. The plant celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2012.

Students spoke with officials from DOE and USEC; cleanup contractor LATA Environmental Services of Kentucky; and DUF₆ Conversion Plant operator Babcock & Wilcox Conversion Services.

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West Kentucky Community & Technical College students listen as Mike Auble of DOE cleanup contractor LATA Environmental Services of Kentucky explains how old buildings are being cleaned up and torn down at DOE's Paducah Site. The students are compiling a historical video documentary on the plant.

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