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# CABFARE

Number 6

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board

May 2002

## Board recommends DOE fix leaking water lines

The CAB recommended the Department of Energy should conduct a video survey of water mains and storm sewers under the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and make repairs to stop leaks.

Acting on a proposal from the Surface Water Task Force, the board unanimously called on DOE to initiate a surveillance and repair program.

The task force has examined the issue for several months. It reported to the board in March that it believed leaking mains and sewers could be contributing to the spread of contaminated groundwater.

Also, the task force said the problem may pose a threat for transporting contaminants off site.

The task force thinks the leaking water is "surcharging" the groundwater, causing it to move faster, which would spread contamination more quickly.

Project managers for DOE and Bechtel Jacobs Company do not believe that the groundwater is being surcharged by leaky water mains.

The task force made the proposal to the board after several months of research and meetings with

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## Ladd appointed to board

Ricky Ladd has been appointed as the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union (PACE) representative to the CAB.

He was named to fill the term of Leon Owens, who resigned after being elected president of the union local that represents workers at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

Ladd is an employee of Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC in the Cylinder Management Group at the Paducah site. He is the union steward for Bechtel Jacobs' PACE workers.

The board has identified six more potential members to fill expiring terms of current members. The CAB Nomination, Membership, and Public Involvement Subcommittee is responsible for evaluating applications before making membership

recommendations to the board.

In March, the subcommittee proposed the board recommend Richard Dyer, Fred Jones and Al Puckett for membership.

The board approved the subcommittee's proposal by consensus.

The three names will be sent to Assistant Secretary Jessie Roberson for consideration.

If you would like more information about membership, you may call the CAB office at 270-554-3004.

You may also visit the PGDP CAB Web site at: [www.oakridge.doe.gov/pgdpssab](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/pgdpssab).



LADD

## NEWS IN BRIEF ...

□ **Task Force examining disposal costs** — What does it cost DOE to get rid of waste material in Paducah? The CAB's Waste Operations Task Force is looking at that. Task force members are concerned DOE has not accurately estimated off-site disposal costs. The task force also questions the assumption that an on-site disposal facility could save money.

The group also continues to examine issues around the North-South Diversion Ditch Remedial Action. The task force is questioning regulators about the methods approved for sampling and characterized soil that will be excavated. Discussions will continue at the monthly task force meetings.



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## Board members get early look at DOE cleanup plan

Some PGDP Citizens Advisory Board members are concerned that a new DOE cleanup plan will not speed up cleanup efforts in Paducah.

Doug Raper, vice chairman of the Paducah CAB, Linda Long, a charter member of the panel, and Becky Lambert, a recently appointed CAB member, attended a recent meeting in Cincinnati, where DOE officials briefed representatives of the nine DOE Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSAB) on the plan.

DOE proposed the plan to accelerate cleanup and more efficiently reduce risks at its sites around the nation. Congress must approve the budget for the plan. State and federal environmental regulators must approve the plans for each state.

The plan would set aside at least \$800 million to fund accelerated cleanup at selected sites. To get a portion of those funds, sites would be charged with developing plans to accelerate cleanup.

Raper said Paducah probably will not benefit from the plan because DOE likely will focus its resources on sites that can be more quickly completed.

"Everyone is going to be putting in for this \$800 million," he said. "My take was that they are going to give that money to the ones that can be finished and closed down.

"We can't do that because this is an operating plant. So I don't think DOE will spend any portion of the \$800 million money at this site. I can understand this."

But Raper said he was worried the new approach would, in the end, leave less money for Paducah because it cannot be cleaned up as fast as idle facilities.

"I am concerned that we will not get enough money to meet the obligation to finish cleanup by 2010," he said. "And where will that leave us? Will the state sue DOE to enforce those commitments?"

Long shared Raper's concerns

and was skeptical of the plan.

"We've had plans before," she said. "Since I've been on this board, we've seen lots of DOE plans. I'm afraid that as time goes by, money will get more scarce. It seems like it is going to take longer than 2010 to clean up this site."

The budget briefing came at the semi-annual DOE Environmental Management SSAB Chairs Conference. CAB members held two days of meetings and discussions and toured DOE's Fernald (Ohio) site.

Long said the conference was a good opportunity for advisory board members to share experiences. She was especially impressed by the Fernald tour.

"It was good to see a place where they have actually taken buildings down, a place where they are making good progress," she said.

### Board wants plant water lines fixed

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representatives from DOE and the Kentucky Division of Waste Management.

The CAB asked DOE to begin the survey and repair leaks as

soon as possible.

DOE is required to respond to recommendations from the CAB, but is not obligated to accept recommendations made by the advisory panel.