



PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

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Chair

July 10, 2002

Mark Donham

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Rev. Gregory Waldrop

Ms. Jessie H. Roberson
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Ms. Roberson:

On behalf of the board members of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), we value the leadership and diligence your office has invested in the Top-To-Bottom review of the Department of Energy (DOE). However, we are very disappointed and concerned that the CAB was not afforded an opportunity to provide any input into the process at PGDP. We are confident that the wide range of technical expertise and valuable familiarity with the local issues at PGDP could have been very beneficial and provided additional insight from the public perspective into the process.

Deputy Designated Federal Official

W. Don Seaborg, DOE
Ex-officio member

Ex Officio Members

Carl Froede, Jr.
Environmental Protection
Agency

Jim Lane
Fish and Wildlife Resources
(Kentucky)

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Division of Waste Management
(Kentucky)

John A. Volpe, Ph.D.
Radiation Control Branch
(Kentucky)

DOE Federal Coordinator
Patricia J. Halsey

Several board members attended the Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 11-13, 2002. During the course of the conference, we became aware that while a few sites may have had some involvement in the Top-To-Bottom review process, there was no true "public involvement." Regarding the development of Accelerated Cleanup Plans for the sites, many SSABs were involved in the development of the plan. At Paducah, we have not been briefed by any DOE representative and have only been given a very brief, sketchy paper presentation of DOE's proposal. We find it difficult to understand why the opportunity to provide input from the public sector was not available at the PGDP site.

We were recently provided a copy of the Accelerated Cleanup Plan for the PGDP site, and informed that until ongoing negotiations between DOE and state and federal regulators were complete, DOE staff had been instructed not to discuss the proposal. While we generally support DOE's effort to reduce risk and accelerate the environmental management cleanup at PGDP, we are concerned that the mere development of the plan is causing even more project delays. These continued delays between DOE and regulators could negatively impact the funding for the Accelerated Cleanup Plan at PGDP, and seriously impair further progress in actual cleanup at the site.

In conclusion, we wish to go on record that the CAB, appointed by DOE to represent a diverse population and provide advice and recommendations to the Department, believes the decision by DOE not to solicit input from the public for both the Top-To-Bottom review and the Accelerated Cleanup Plan at the PGDP site does not accurately reflect the very purpose of our charter which states, "the EM SSAB will provide input and recommendations on strategic decisions that impact future use, risk management, economic development, transportation, long-term stewardship, and budget prioritization activities."

In the future, we respectfully request that DOE provide the opportunity for input from the public early in the decision-making process, since these decisions affect not only the PGDP site, but the surrounding community as well.

Ms. Jessie H. Roberson
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We expectantly await your reply.

Sincerely,



Mark Donham, Chairman
Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board

MD:ll
LTR-PAD/CAB-REC-02-0002

c: J. Anderson, Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization
J. E. Bickford, Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet
G. Boyd, DOE-HQ
Senator Jim Bunning
N. Courtney, CAB
M. Crosland, DOE-HQ
R. H. Daniell, Kentucky Division of Waste Management
C. Froede, Jr., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
D. Greene, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
P. Halsey, DOE-ORO
M. Holland, DOE-ORO
J. Johnston, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
V. Jones, CAB
M. Kemp, CAB
R. Ladd, CAB
R. Lamb, CAB
R. Lambert, CAB
J. Lane, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
H. C. List, Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet
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