



OHIO UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

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Press Release: PortsFuture project to organize community Visioning Teams

On March 15th and 17th, the PORTSfuture public outreach project will host two kick-off meetings to begin organizing community Visioning Teams that will represent diverse community perspectives on possible future uses of the Department of Energy facility in Piketon, Ohio.

"This project is an opportunity to ensure that public opinion is systematically incorporated into decisions about the future of the facility" said Michele Morrone, Associate Professor of Environmental Health Science.

The first meeting will be held Tuesday, March 15th from 5:30p.m. to 8p.m. at the PACCAR Medical Education Center, 446 Hospital Road, Chillicothe.

The second meeting will be on Thursday, March 17th from 5:30p.m. to 8p.m. at the Scioto County Welcome Center, 342 Second Street, Portsmouth.

The residents of Jackson, Pike, Ross and Scioto counties are invited to participate by becoming members of a Visioning Team, hosting a meeting in their community or sharing ideas and opinions via the PORTSfuture.com website.

Attendees should RSVP at (740) 593-2222 or info@PORTSfuture.com.

To learn more about the project please visit www.portsfuture.com

History:

The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Pike County, Ohio, was constructed from 1952 to 1956 to enrich uranium for our country's nuclear defense program. Uranium enrichment at PORTS shifted from defense purposes to energy production in 1964 and the United States Department of Energy (DOE) assumed responsibility for the site.

When the demand for nuclear power began to diminish in the late 1990s, uranium enrichment activities declined as well and PORTS began the process of shutting down. Currently, PORTS is being cleaned up with oversight from State of Ohio regulators.

The DOE has provided a grant to the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University to conduct a public outreach effort. The Voinovich School will facilitate a community visioning process to solicit input from community members regarding possible future use scenarios for the site. These future use scenarios will be submitted to the DOE for their consideration.

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