

Voinovich School receives Department of Energy grant

ATHENS, Ohio (July 20, 2010) – Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public affairs was awarded a \$500,000 Department of Energy (DOE) grant to seek community input through public outreach into the development of a publically-approved end state vision for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) located near Piketon, Ohio.

The public outreach process will include gathering information from the community through surveys, focus groups, key interviews, and attendance at local fairs, festivals, and other locations. In addition, community visioning teams will work to create scenarios for the site.

"Our role is to be the stewards of the community's vision for the future of this site and to make sure they are represented," Voinovich School Project Manager Scott Miller said.

According to the DOE, the Voinovich School was selected because of its management of the Consortium for Energy, Economics and the Environment (CE3), and its track record of building collaborations between the university and other academic institutions in previous public consensus-building projects throughout Appalachia.

A publicly-approved plan will be presented to the DOE once the project is completed, in fall 2011, Miller said.

The project team consists of professional staff and faculty from the Voinovich School, School of Public Health Sciences, and College of Health and Human Services. In addition, several students will work in various capacities over the course of the project.

"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.

Public outreach events will be posted on the project's website: www.portsfuture.com or interested parties may call 740-593-2222 for more information. Current events schedule include an exhibit at the Pike, Ross, and Scioto County Fair.

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