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**Southern Ohio
Neighbors Group**

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8 January 2009

Piketon Site Specific Advisory Board
US Department of Energy

Dear SSAB members and DOE officials,

This letter will introduce two attached letters from prominent members of the Ohio archaeological community, regarding the Barnes Works site. These works, pictured in Plate XXIV of *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* (1846), may be the oldest (earliest) large geometric earthwork complex in the Ohio Valley. The central portion of the site consists of a 20-acre circular earthen enclosure paired with a 17-acre square enclosure, together with many smaller works in the shapes of perfect ellipses and other geometrical forms. Separately, archaeologist Paul Pacheco has submitted testimony to the Department of Energy as part of the GNEP scoping process explaining that current archaeological theory maintains that such sites extend for many miles in each direction from the central "circle-square" configuration. In other words, homes and workshops were clustered sparsely around the large geometric earthworks, extending for miles. (This is explained at length in Chapter 1 of Pacheco and William Dancey's book, *Ohio Hopewell Community Organization*, 1997.) By Pacheco's calculation, the entire DOE reservation at Sargents may fall within the archaeological significance range of the Barnes Works central site.

In 1952, the Ohio archaeological community mobilized to protect the known resources potentially impacted by the Atomic Energy Commission land purchase. Preliminary surveys were conducted that identified eight prehistoric mound sites in the area, as well as "the largest Adena Mound between Chillicothe and the Ohio River," which was "in the immediate vicinity" of the planned development. This latter reference represented a small confusion of two different gargantuan mounds – the Vulgamore Mound near the intersection of Seif Road and Route 23, and the Barnes Mound, on what became the DOE fence line with the Barnes Home property. A DOE contractor intentionally destroyed the Barnes Mound in 1979. (It appears that the 1952 surveyors were not told of the Barnes Works earthworks, and were thrown off by the 1846 designation as being in Seal Township.)

After the survey, AEC agreed to allow salvage archaeology during plant construction, and at least three newspaper articles appeared lauding the accommodation between "the Atomic Age" and "the Stone Age." However, no sooner did those articles appear than AEC terminated the agreement and refused access to the construction site by Ohio archaeologists. Whether any salvage archaeology was accomplished has not been disclosed. As a result, the public and the professional community are in the dark about whether archaeological resources were encountered during construction, as surely they must have been, given the terrain.

The secrecy of 1952 proceeded through the era of federal preservation laws with near total agency non-compliance. DOE did retain archaeologists in the late 1990s to survey the reservation in a cursory manner, but when those archaeologists encountered the soil that remained from destruction of the Barnes Mound, they were not informed of the prior mound location, or the origin of the soil. Thus, there has been no effective archaeological survey of the reservation that has occurred in the light of legal information disclosure, or with the benefit of recent archaeological advances, or required consultations with American Indian tribes, archaeological professionals, and local landowners. This non-compliance is, frankly, illegal.

Recent archaeological advances add to what we know about the extent and significance of archaeological resources at the Piketon site. The Pacheco-Dancey "Dispersed Community Model," shows that such sites were far larger than once presumed. The old distinction between "Adena" and "Hopewell" cultures has broken down, though these labels are still often used for convenience. Indeed, the Barnes Works represent a prototypical "transition" site, and should properly not be classed as either Adena or Hopewell, but rather as belonging to the unified "Scioto Civilization." (Terminology, therefore, is flexible.) Prior confusion about locations because of unfamiliarity with Pike County history and the tremendous number of mounds in the immediate area of Sargents has now been resolved by local research. Also, the Clay Barnes collection of artifacts at the Ohio State Museum has now been located and associated with the site. Preliminary dating of the central site is now possible on the basis of archaeoastronomical work done in the past decade.

Both of the attached letters come from professionals familiar with the Sargents site. John Hancock, professor of Archaeology at University of Cincinnati, has visited the site on more than one occasion and has supervised work on the impact of the creek that runs from the DOE reservation through the central portion of the Barnes Works. William Romain, in his book, *Mysteries of the Hopewell*, used aerial photographs to demonstrate that the Barnes Great Square was very precisely aligned to the true cardinal directions, the only such prehistoric structure to be demonstrably aligned with such precision in the Western Hemisphere.

Their letters, and those of others submitted either as part of the USEC licensing process or the GNEP scoping process, demonstrate that there is profound interest in preservation and potential restoration of the archaeological resources at Sargents Station. What we have at Sargents is utterly unique and has tremendous potential for generating vibrant economic activity related to tourism and study.

Respectfully,

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January 7, 2009
26933 Greenbrooke Drive
Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138

Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman
Secretary of Energy-Designate Stephen Chu
To Whom It May Concern

Greetings,

My name is Dr. William F. Romain. I am an archaeologist specializing in Hopewell archaeology. The Hopewell were Native Americans who lived in central and southern Ohio roughly 2,000 years ago. The Hopewell are best-known for having built a number of very large, geometrically-shaped earthwork complexes, mostly in situated in southern Ohio. Most of these complexes have been destroyed by urban encroachment or farming operations. The very few that remain are currently under consideration for designation as World Heritage sites. As such, Hopewell earthworks represent an irreplaceable cultural resource – part of our national heritage.

Several significant Hopewell earthworks are located in Piketon, Ohio. Among these sites is the Barnes Works. The Barnes Works is significant in its demonstrable incorporation of Native American religious beliefs in its design and orientation.

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the potential negative impact that Department of Energy (DOE) development could have on Hopewell earthworks situated in the Piketon area.

To mitigate any such negative impacts, it is requested that prior to development, the DOE conduct a thorough cultural resource and environmental impact study of the area in consultation with archaeologists, Native Americans, and local land owners.

Sincerely,

William F. Romain, Ph.D.

- author of "Mysteries of the Hopewell: Astronomers, Geometers, and Magicians of the Eastern Woodlands" (University of Akron Press, 2000)

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March 25, 2008

To: Melissa Nielson, US Department of Energy

From: John E. Hancock, Professor of Architecture, University of Cincinnati
Project Director "EarthWorks: Virtual Explorations of the Ancient Ohio Valley"

I have just learned that a Citizen's Advisory Board is being formed to discuss the future of the Piketon, Ohio, DOE Plant site. This is great news, and I write in order to help bring the Department's attention to an important aspect of the plant's location and environs that, unfortunately, is not well known. I urge that steps be taken to ensure that the CAB will have members appropriately qualified to deal with cultural heritage resource matters, in view of the fact that Piketon lies near the heart of one of North America's richest, yet least understood, ancient Native American legacies.

The first settlers in this region stood in awe, amidst **the largest concentration of monumental earthen architecture in the world**. These included effigies like the Great Serpent Mound, and hilltop enclosures like Fort Ancient. But the most spectacular were the many embankments and enclosures formed into huge, perfect, geometric figures. The study of these monuments, and the often-spectacular artifacts found among them, made southern Ohio the birthplace of the science of American archaeology. The first publication of the new Smithsonian Institution (Ephriam Squier and Edwin Davis' *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* of 1848) was devoted to them.

The circle and square at Piketon, known as the Barnes Works or the Seal Township Earthworks, are the only ones of these huge monuments with a perfect, cardinal orientation. They are featured in Squier and Davis, and despite their scant remains, stand at the center of probably one of the densest concentrations of archaeological remains in the entire region. Collections and records at the Ohio Historical Society, and reviews of early aerial photographs, confirm that **this immediate township (now Scioto Township) was home both to unique earthworks and spectacular artifacts** (some of which are or were on DOE property). This stretch of the lower Scioto valley, with its earthworks and other features, linked Chillicothe (now home to Mound City and Hopewell Culture National Historical Park) and Portsmouth, where many square miles of geometric embankments surrounded the Scioto confluence.

Two centuries of archaeological research have shown that these works were created by ancient Native cultures (most often called "Adena" and "Hopewell") dating back about

2,500 years. Two centuries of degradation, ignorance, and other factors have largely erased this distinctive legacy from the public consciousness, and to an alarming degree also placed it outside the reach of preservation law. As a writer, photographer, teacher, and producer of public education media on this topic for over a decade, I have become well acquainted with all the reasons why the “invisibility” of these remarkable monuments and cultural landscapes persists today, and also why it is most unwarranted and unfortunate.

Public awareness of American antiquity and our earthwork-building cultures is now growing again, thanks to efforts of other federal agencies such as the National Park Service and the National Endowment for the Humanities (which funded our visualizations, exhibits, and publications), as well as independent producers and other entities and agencies both here and in Europe. Most notable is the increased interest by county Convention and Visitors’ Bureaus who recognize the tourism potential of this legacy, and the recent addition of Ohio’s major earthwork sites to the Department of Interior’s UNESCO World Heritage nomination list. In addition, a collaborative of Ohio-based organizations including ours is creating a comprehensive “Ancient Ohio Trail” heritage tourism route, which will include the Piketon area, and which will be publicized later this summer.

In short, the immediate vicinity of the Plant site has important cultural assets from a significant world-class culture. Attention to this distinctive cultural legacy is only going to increase, and discussions of the DOE site’s future ought to regard these factors as potential assets. Co-incidentally, since 2006 I have also been the Principal Investigator on Design Consulting Contracts with Stoller and DOE, to develop a visitors’ center and exhibits at Fernald, where, as I’m sure you know, an exemplary process of citizen inclusion helped transform a nuclear site into a first-rate community and national asset. At the new Fernald Preserve, the emphasis is on nature. At Piketon, we would have an equally rich cultural legacy to restore.

I urge you to take these factors into account as you create the Citizens Advisory Board, and as the DOE and its partners facilitates the way forward.

Yours sincerely,

John E. Hancock
Professor of Architecture
<http://www.earthworks.uc.edu>