



Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

July 2010

Background on Public Notification of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Cylinders Transferred from East Tennessee Technology Park to Piketon, Ohio Facility

Background:

- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiated a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) in 1994 for the long-term management and use of depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF₆) produced during uranium enrichment operations at the gaseous diffusion plants in Oak Ridge, TN, Paducah, KY and Portsmouth, OH. The PEIS was issued in August 1999 and announced in the Federal Register (64 FR 43358).
- Public Law 105-204, signed in July 1998 while the DUF₆ PEIS was being prepared, directed the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan for construction of plants at Paducah, KY and Portsmouth, OH to convert the DUF₆ inventory.
- DOE awarded a contract in August 2002 to Uranium Disposition Services, LLC for construction and operation of the two mandated facilities in Kentucky and Ohio.
- An amendment to the Record of Decision for the Final PEIS was prepared and announced in the September 2003 Federal Register (Vol. 68, No. 176, 53603), providing DOE's plans to transfer DUF₆ cylinders from the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) in Oak Ridge, TN to its storage facilities at the DOE enrichment facility at Portsmouth, OH.
- A Final EIS (FEIS) for *Construction and Operation of a Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Conversion Facility at the Portsmouth, Ohio, Site* (DOE/EIS-0360) was issued on June 18, 2004. The FEIS included information on the transportation of cylinders currently stored at the ETTP to Portsmouth.

Determination for Transfer of Cylinders to Portsmouth:

- Portsmouth was chosen for storage of the ETTP cylinders based on the availability of storage capacity and the desire to balance cylinder inventory (the Paducah Site stored more than 36,000 DUF₆ cylinders while the Portsmouth Site stored 16,000 cylinders). All known DUF₆ cylinders were to be removed from ETTP by 2009, in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.
- Training of more than 500 emergency response personnel along the travel route was conducted by DOE and state emergency management agency staff.
- Cylinder transfers from ETTP to Portsmouth began March 17, 2004 and approximately 5,000 cylinders were transferred when the project was completed ahead of schedule in 2007. There were no safety incidents.
- The DUF₆ cylinders from ETTP will be processed through the DUF₆ conversion plant at Portsmouth.

Public Notifications:

- Information on the PEIS public scoping meetings, meeting transcripts, fact sheets, and other materials are available online: <http://web.ead.anl.gov/uranium/eis/>. The Portsmouth scoping meeting was held November 28, 2001.
- DOE provided information on the cylinder transfer project during numerous public meetings, including specific public meetings on the DUF₆ Conversion Facility Project on February 20, 1996, November 12, 1996, November 28, 2001, and January 7, 2004. Meetings were advertised in local newspapers and through postcard mailings. A public hearing was conducted January 7, 2004 during the public comment period on the DUF₆ Conversion Facility Draft EIS. Information on the cylinder transfer project was provided during the May 25, 2004 and December 2, 2004 DOE public update meetings on the Environmental Management program. Completion of the project was discussed at later meetings. This information is available in the DOE Environmental Information Center, 1862 Shyville Road, Room 207, in Piketon, OH.