



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

February 23, 2018

Mr. Craig W. Butler  
Director  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43216

Dear Mr. Butler:

Thank you for your December 6, 2017, letter regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) *Revised Comprehensive On-Site Waste Disposal Facility Remedial Design/Remedial Actions Work Plan for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Piketon Ohio Phase III Balance of the On-Site Disposal Remedy* (DOE/PPPO/03-0751 &D2) ("Revised RD/RA Work Plan"). Your concerns appear to be associated with the two conditions with respect to DOE's excavation of the plumes and landfills within Perimeter Road mentioned on page 45 of the Revised RD/RA Work Plan. Specifically, you indicated your belief that DOE would have "wide latitude" not to remove the plumes and landfills in order to provide the necessary engineered fill for the debris to be placed into the On-site Waste Disposal Facility.

In response to your concerns and the concerns expressed by others, I understand Secretary Perry and Senator Portman spoke regarding this matter to discuss a resolution. Further, as a part of the Department's efforts, the Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office will remove the two caveats found on page 45 and will accordingly, resubmit a Revised RD/RA Work Plan to your office. With these changes, it is my belief that DOE is making the commitment you seek to excavate and consolidate the plumes and landfills within Perimeter Road as needed to meet the backfill requirements for the disposal facility in a manner that is enforceable by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Robert Edwards, the Manager of the Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office, (859) 219-4002.

Sincerely,

James M. Owendoff  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

cc: Robert Edwards, PPPO  
Joel B. Bradburne, PPPO

