

OUR SITE. OUR FUTURE.

DECISION PROCESS

Several decisions must be made in order to safely decontaminate and decommission (D&D) the Department of Energy Gaseous Diffusion Plant located in Pike County, Ohio. Some decisions are of particular importance because they affect the overall plan for the project.

- Deciding whether or not to tear buildings down;
- Determining the community's future vision of the site;
- Establishing final cleanup levels for water and soil; and
- Deciding where the waste will go.

There are several key participants in the decision making process:



D&D of the plant will be conducted under a regulatory process called CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act). CERCLA was created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and DOE's compliance with CERCLA is enforced at the Gaseous Diffusion Plant by Ohio EPA. CERCLA requires a disciplined approach to remediating, or cleaning up, a site.



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Overview of the CERCLA Process

1. Identify potential risk to human health and/or the environment caused by past practices
2. Investigate to determine the extent of contamination
3. Set cleanup objectives
4. Develop cleanup alternatives
5. Screen the alternatives using CERCLA criteria
6. Ensure public and regulatory acceptance
7. Make final decision and implement cleanup

Based on current funding projections, most major decisions regarding site cleanup are expected to be complete by the end of 2012. DOE will continue to engage the public to ensure community values and priorities are built into the decisions proposed to Ohio EPA for the site. However, formal public comment periods will also be held prior to finalizing major decisions.



This figure illustrates the primary phases of the decision process and the decisions that will require public input. This figure does not represent DOE's final decisions. The timeframe is based on current DOE funding projections.

U.S. Department of Energy
Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant
Public Meeting, Sept. 13, 2011
Waverly High School, Waverly, Ohio

Chart Key

■ Decisions ■ Public Input ■ Work Activity

