

U.S. Department of Energy Portsmouth Site



National Historic Preservation Act Activity Update

July 2012

NHPA Consulting Party Meeting

A meeting with the Consulting Parties for the PORTS Decontamination & Decommissioning (D&D) project was conducted on May 24, 2012, to gather input on measures that DOE could consider to mitigate impacts from proposed D&D actions. The presentation "Recording History at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant" was presented to update participants on the efforts to identify potential historic properties at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The presentation also included information about the items that are being salvaged for further evaluation, as well as the comprehensive summary of PORTS cultural resource surveys, which will explain the site's architectural and archaeological resources. Several questions and comments were made following the presentation, and some excellent recommendations were made, such as: contact past site workers of Peter Kiewit Construction to obtain more information of the early history of the plant; construction of a multipurpose facility to preserve items and the history of the site; and more frequent communication with the Consulting Parties. The next Consulting Party meeting is tentatively scheduled for late September 2012.

Consulting Parties who were not able to participate in the meeting and interested members of the public can access the presentation materials and provide input to the U.S. DOE through the virtual meeting module and questionnaire located on the Fluor-B&W Portsmouth web site at www.fbportsmouth.com. The materials are still available by clicking on the "Community" tab to access "Stakeholder Documents" under National Historic Preservation Act.



See construction photos from the 1950s, watch interviews with site workers, and read about the site's contributions to the nuclear industry.

www.portsvirtualmuseum.org

Development of PORTS Historic Context Report

Work has been initiated on the development of a report that will document the history of PORTS, including the role of the facility in the DOE complex. This type of report provides information on the nature and context of PORTS and is referred to as a Historic Context Report. The report, which is one of the mitigation measures that DOE will use to offset impacts from proposed D&D actions at the site, is being developed by a professional architectural historian and will include information on the entire site, including the gaseous diffusion process buildings, support buildings, and other mission facilities. The report will address the site from its inception in 1953 to the present environmental management activities. Development of the Historic Context Report will continue throughout the remainder of 2012 and into 2013.

For more information, please contact the

U.S. Department of Energy at 740-897-5010

Copies of completed reports on historical and archeological resources can be found at

<http://www.pppo.energy.gov/nhpa.html>



Collection of Salvaged Items from PORTS Facilities

The identification and collection of items of potential historical interest from PORTS facilities continues as an immense and collaborative effort involving a number of Subject Matter Experts. A description of the items of interest is recorded into a computer-based inventory. This inventory maintains a record of all of the photographed items and where they are located within PORTS. Pending necessary security, classification and environmental reviews, the salvaged items may be made available for display by DOE or other parties to document site history. The items may also be featured in the Virtual Museum. A presentation on the status of the collection of items was made to the PORTS SSAB Site Legacy Committee on April 10, 2012. Status was also provided to the PORTS NHPA Consulting Parties during the May 24, 2012, meeting. Some of the items were displayed at the public meetings in January and May 2012 and will be displayed at other venues, such as county fairs, throughout the year.

Archaeological Field Work

Phase I Archaeological surveys to identify prehistoric sites on historic-era farmsteads and the PORTS site are complete. Phase II surveys were recommended by the archaeologists for five individual prehistoric sites and have been recently initiated. Archaeologists are analyzing the results of all the fieldwork conducted to date. A comprehensive Survey Report of the Historic-Era structures is in development as well as a comprehensive Survey Report for the Prehistoric settlements. The results of the surveys will be used in the upcoming CERCLA documents and to support alternative analysis and decision-making. The photograph at right shows the locations of historic farmsteads on the DOE Site. Copies of completed reports are available on DOE's website:

<http://www.pppo.energy.gov/nhpa.html>



DOE is preparing a Summary Report on the farming communities displaced by the Atomic Energy Commission.

NHPA addressed in Record of Decision

				↓	
Process Building D&D	Evaluation of Alternatives, Informational Meetings and Workshops	Proposed Plan	Public Comment Period	Record of Decision	Work Begins
Waste Disposition	Evaluation of Alternatives, Informational Meetings and Workshops	Proposed Plan	Public Comment Period	Record of Decision	Work Begins

NHPA and the CERCLA Process

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act has been identified as an Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement (ARAR) for CERCLA actions at PORTS. Resolution of adverse effects will be included in the Records of Decisions.