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D&D Planning and Future Vision



Aerial photograph of Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant showing the three gaseous diffusion process buildings in the center. These three buildings alone are the size of 158 football fields.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has begun planning for the Decontamination & Decommissioning (D&D) of the gaseous diffusion plant facilities at the Portsmouth Site, now that uranium enrichment operations have terminated and DOE has made the decision to no longer keep the plant in a restart mode.

Since October 2005, DOE has contracted with the United States Enrichment Corporation to place the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant into **Cold Shutdown**. The Cold Shutdown project entails equipment deactivation, uranium deposits removal from process equipment, and removal of PCB and lube oils to reduce worker hazards and the amount of wastes during eventual D&D.

DOE is currently developing a competitive procurement process for the D&D project, which has been estimated to have a cost range of \$5-12 billion. The conceptual cost estimate for the project is \$7.8 billion, assuming that current annual funding levels for the site would be maintained. The total project cost and schedule could be reduced if the site annual funding is increased, but the annual funding is subject to the federal budget prioritization and Congressional appropriation process. A contract award is expected in 2009.

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September 3, 2009
Portsmouth Site Specific Board, Monthly Meeting.



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The X-333 Process Building (above) and the X-533 Switchyard, to the right, are expected to be two of the first major gaseous diffusion facilities that will be removed as part of the D&D project at the Portsmouth Site.

The D&D project will be a major effort. The three former uranium enrichment process buildings alone are the size of 158 football fields. The total square footage of all 134 gaseous diffusion facilities is more than 10 million square feet, the largest in the DOE complex today and the equivalent of two Pentagon buildings.

As the site moves forward with D&D activities and final cleanup, continued public involvement with DOE will be instrumental in determining the community's interests for future uses of the federal reservation.

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