



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 25, 2020

Mr. John Tappert, P.E. Director  
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
MS T-4B72  
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Environmental Assessment for Proposed Demolition Activities; Piqua, Ohio  
Decommissioned Reactor Site

Dear Mr. Tappert:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)<sup>1</sup>, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is notifying you that we are currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed demolition activities at the former Piqua Nuclear Power Facility, now called the Piqua, Ohio Decommissioned Reactor Site. The proposed demolition activities are considered a federal action, thereby requiring our NEPA review and this notification.

The decommissioned reactor site is located adjacent to the Great Miami River at 123 Bridge Street, Piqua, Ohio 45356. It was decontaminated and decommissioned (D&D) by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1968. The D&D included the removal and offsite disposal of all high-level radioactive waste; low-level radioactive waste was entombed onsite in concrete. Two buildings (the reactor building and auxiliary building) remain onsite. The buildings were being leased and occupied by the City of Piqua until 2018, when they expressed they were no longer interested in utilizing the buildings. The site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. DOE has no current or anticipated future needs for the site beyond maintaining continued protectiveness of the entombed low-level radiological waste that remains onsite.

The purpose and need for DOE action is to protect human health and the environment from risks associated with unoccupied buildings and vacant property that no longer contribute to the active DOE mission, and to reduce long-term stewardship costs associated with the site. Alternatives being evaluated in the EA are:

- (1) Taking no action and continuing a modified lease with the City of Piqua.
- (2) Full demolition of structures and backfill to grade of surrounding landscape; the entombment would either remain in a protective configuration onsite or be disposed of in a licensed and permitted disposal facility.
- (3) Termination of lease agreement with City and disposition and/or reuse of property to or by a third party.
- (4) Partial demolition of structures.
- (5) Conversion of former reactor site into museum/visitor center.

<sup>1</sup> National Environmental Policy Act (Title 42 *United States Code* Section 4321 et seq. [42 USC 4321 et seq.]); the Council on Environmental Quality "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act"; the requirements of DOE Policy 451.1, *National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program*; and DOE "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures" (Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 1021 [10 CFR 1021])

DOE has tentatively selected alternative (2) as its Preferred Alternative.

LM is preparing the EA and providing public involvement opportunities during the NEPA process consistent with NEPA requirements. Currently, it is anticipated the draft EA will be distributed for public review and comment in 2020. LM will consider all input from the public, consulting agencies and tribes, and other stakeholders on the draft EA in its decision making. LM will prepare either a Finding of No Significant Impact or an Environmental Impact Statement based on the results of the EA evaluation.

LM respectfully requests comments on the identification of potential environmental concerns associated with the proposed activities as well as any other related issues you may identify as important to the proposed EA.

Please forward your comments to DOE by April 26, 2020.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EA, please contact Brian Zimmerman, Piqua site Manager at (513) 648-3340 or [Brian.Zimmerman@lm.doe.gov](mailto:Brian.Zimmerman@lm.doe.gov), if you have any questions. Please send any correspondence to:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management  
10995 Hamilton-Cleves Hwy.  
Harrison, OH 45030

Sincerely,



David S. Shafer, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Site Operations

cc

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