

## WM2013 Conference Panel Report

### PANEL SESSION 88: Featured Sites US DOE-EM Lexington, KY Office (PORTS and PAD)

**Co-Chairs:** William Murphie, *US DOE*  
Gary Benda, *Bartlett Services, Inc.*

**Panel Reporter:** Lisa Burns, *WAI Energy and Sustainability Consultant*

#### Panelists:

1. **Vince Adams**, *Portsmouth Site Director, US DOE*
2. **Dennis Carr**, *Program Manager, Fluor B&W PORTS (FBPORTS)*
3. **Mark Duff**, *Program Manager, LATA KY Paducah*
4. **Kent Fortenberry**, *Chief Engineer, B&W Conversion Services (BWCS)*

Approximately 70 people attended this panel session which focused on the development and success of the DOE Lexington Project Office. The DOE Lexington Project Office, also known as the Portsmouth Paducah Project Office (PPPO), manages the activities at the Portsmouth (PORTS), Ohio and Paducah (PAD), Kentucky former Gaseous Diffusion Plants. These two sites are currently undergoing environmental cleanup. This panel session addressed activities taking place at these two sites and the process of project development and cleanup.

#### **Summary of Presentations**

**Vince Adams** started out by describing the DOE PORTS site and one of the most complicated DOE transitions to ever take place. Vince described the FY 2012 efforts in realigning the site from operations to D&D, aligning the work force for the new task, positioning security to meet the new mission, and optimizing the site infrastructure. Making it even harder, the transition was completed during a time of declining budget appropriations. Vince described how the site met this challenge by implementing a uranium barter program to help meet the yearly budget shortfalls. Vince also discussed the regulatory challenges facing the site and the efforts that needed to be managed in order to move forward with the cleanup. Vince highlighted the success of the DOE – Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) - Community Reuse Organization – that has generated more than \$4.4M and 300 community jobs by transitioning assets into the community for reuse. Vince also commented that PORTS continues to work towards a more permanent recycle/reindustrialization program by addressing the metal suspension and metal moratorium issues with DOE HQ. Vince ended his presentation by stating that PORTS is trying hard to improve relations with stakeholders through public outreach and by collaborating with officials on waste disposition and future land use.

**Dennis Carr** began by describing the FBPORTS or FBP scope of work which includes the dismantlement and disposal of the gaseous diffusion plant facilities, cleanup of contaminated soils, remediation of groundwater, assessing the landfills, and supporting the community vision for long term use. Dennis stated that FBP is 15 months into the current contract and has assumed the permanent transfer of 415 facilities into their scope of work. It is expected that the cleanup will generate approximately 1.4 million cubic yards of debris. To address this large amount of waste, the site has been working with the regulators on numerous regulatory decision documents and the site expects Records of Decisions by the end of 2013 for the process building D&D and

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waste disposition. Dennis stated that if approved, the onsite disposal facility could be under construction by the winter of 2013. The site continues to perform work and is actively engaged in cut and cap activities at the X-326 to remove 2,400 converters prior to dismantlement. Dennis highlighted several completed projects that occurred in FY 2012 including the dismantlement of the X-101 and X-100 complex and document vault relocation which included the relocation of 1,700 cu. ft. of classified documents. FBP also shut down the old coal-fired boiler and began operations of a new gas-fired boiler which resulted in a savings of \$2M per year and a tremendous reduction in carbon emissions.

**Mark Duff** also began by describing the LATA KY work scope (worth \$411M in FY 13) which includes five operable units; Groundwater, Inactive Facilities, Burial Grounds, Soils, and Surface water. Mark stated that LATA KY has been operating the cleanup contract for 2 years with a high safety performance record. Mark continued by highlighting several key projects:

- Southwest groundwater plume remediation to start field work in FY 13 – soil testing completed in FY 12 and determination of bioremediation or long term monitoring expected in FY 13.
- C-400 groundwater plume will begin TCE recovery in FY 13.
- Northeast groundwater plume optimization.
- C-340 Metals Plant Demolition completed in February 2013.
- C-410 Feed Plant will be ready for demolition in May 2013.

Mark stated that there have been significant challenges with transite removal on the two plants as well as the risk of contamination beyond the control boundaries. Both are being addressed as D&D moves forward. Mark also discussed the amount of waste to be generated during D&D. It is expected that 4 million cubic yards will be generated with 1 million cubic yards to go into the existing industrial waste landfill onsite. The other 3 million cubic yards are being evaluated in a RI/FS with expected record-of-decision in FY 2014.

**Kent Fortenberry** started his discussion with a description of the DUF6 process and the activities that took place in FY 2012. The FY 2013 Operating Strategy is to define an optimal, stable, and sustainable throughput for each plant. Kent went on to say that this will be accomplished by using a phased approach on the throughput increases, collecting and evaluating large amounts of data, and designing a controlled process for identifying and resolving design and operational issues. Kent did discuss the challenges that both plants face, including developing a basic process control system, the conflict between plant availability and the identification of plant limitations, the limited time and opportunity for modifications to the process, and the coordination, integration and technical sharing between the two plants. Kent ended by stating the FY 2013 process goals: PORTS to process 5,513 MT and PAD 7,352 MT.

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### Questions and Answers

In response to a question on the corrosion of the off-gas systems, Kent responded that the staff is working on this issue. Bill Murphie went on to say that the design of the DUF6 facilities continues to be adjusted and modified now that it is operational. He said the investment in operability is a good value to DOE since the DUF6 facility will operate a long period of time.

A question was asked to Bill Murphie about the shutdown of the USEC portion of the PAD facility. Bill stated that USEC will shut down operations at PAD in May 2013 and he stated there would be a 9-12 month timeframe for shutdown and transfer to facilities to DOE. Bill also stated that it will be a much more challenging transfer than the PORTS process due to the continuing operations at PAD and no cold shutdown. PORTS had 10 years of knowledge and analysis prior to transition of the facilities, which is not the case at PAD.

Bill also responded to a question from the Weapons Complex Monitor staff on the type of contract that will be used by DOE for the deactivation work to be done in preparation for long term surveillance and maintenance. Bill stated that DOE will use the lessons learned from other contracts to decide on small business opportunities and on if the contract will be fixed price, etc. DOE is currently evaluating this possibility and the use of a contractor to perform capital and infrastructure improvements at PAD.