

## **DUF6** Project



## PRESENTED BY KENT FORTENBERRY

#### **Chief Engineer**

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## **MISSION**





21,000 cylinders of DUF6 (245,000 Metric Tons) Mission life of ~18 years Three lines – six conversion units

36,000 cylinders DUF6 (440,000 Metric Tons) Mission life of ~25 years Four lines – eight conversion units



# **DUF<sub>6</sub> Conversion Process**





## **FY 2012**





- All lines ran simultaneously for extended periods SAFELY
- Reached production goal of 6109 MT
- Total production: Paducah 2800 MT Piketon 3400 MT



## **FY 2013 OPERATING STRATEGY**



Optimal, stable, sustainable throughput has not yet been determined.

The FY 2013 Operating Strategy is designed to define it.



## **FY 2013 OPERATING STRATEGY**



- A phased approach of small, incremental throughput increases, followed by steady state operations
- A comprehensive collection and evaluation of plant data
- A controlled process for identifying and resolving design and operational issues, and ultimately for identifying the optimal stable, sustainable throughput







## CHALLENGES



- BWCS must identify the optimal stable, sustainable throughput.
- Conflict between plant availability and identification of plant limitations.
- Basic Process Control System
- Oxide powder sampling protocol needed for process optimization
- Limited time and opportunity for modifications.
- Coordination, integration, and technical sharing between the two plants is essential



# **TECHNICAL PRIORITIES**





- Process Offgas Blowers
- Conversion Process Optimization
- Oxide Transfer Issues
- Distributor Plates
- Nozzles
- Rotary Valves
- Material Handling (cylinder movement)



# MODIFICATIONS

#### Current



#### Process Offgas System isolation valves

- Autoclave Isolation valve limit switch modification
- De-ionized Water makeup to Backup Scrubber
- De-ionized Water spray to Backup Scrubber blower
- Steam boiler isolation
- Power filters

#### Modifications under consideration

- Steam flow transmitters
- Fluidizing steam isolation
- Deionized Water flush to Primary Scrubber blowers
- Isolation valves for HF drain lines
- Transfer Drum vents
- Vacuum pump / DUF6 feed line re-design
- Hydrogen accumulator







## PLANT AVAILABILITY





## **2013 GOALS**



#### Metric Tons DUF6 processed

Paducah FY2013 7352 MT (projected) 2045 MT (1<sup>st</sup> four months)

<u>Piketon FY2013</u> 5513 MT (projected) 2290 MT (1<sup>st</sup> four months)