

## ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

SUITE 1000  
1101 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-4374

(202) 828-2317  
FACSIMILE (202) 828-2488

[www.energyca.org](http://www.energyca.org)

January 2, 2008

Hon. James Rispoli  
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: Energy Communities Alliance Support for the Ohio Stakeholder Advisory Committee (Portsmouth)**

Dear Assistant Secretary Rispoli:

For three years local elected officials and other community leaders have been requesting the Department of Energy establish a formal community involvement process in Piketon, OH to address cleanup and related future use options at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS). For three years DOE has “discussed” this need with them but little action has been taken. Earlier this Fall in response to the DOE site manager’s request that the community identify how DOE should engage the community, local officials – organized under the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) – formed a new group called the Ohio Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC).

The SAC has been endorsed by all levels of government – from the township level up to Governor Strickland and Ohio’s Senators. Also, the SAC has been developed with and is supported by local and international labor organizations, economic interests, and other local leaders. Despite this critical support, Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) has been told that DOE resists supporting this forum. Community leaders are frustrated to the point of wondering if community involvement will occur at the site.

As you have advocated, community engagement is integral to successful environmental cleanups as local leaders bring critical perspectives to the many technical and policy issues DOE, Congress and regulatory agencies will address. As details of the PORTS cleanup are coming to light, the few members of the community aware of the DOE's plans are clamoring to learn more and weigh in on the process. The local community remains committed to partnering with DOE and its contractors to remediate PORTS in a manner that meets both local interests and state and national priorities.

ECA has learned that Ohio EPA has been engaged by DOE on a variety of issues from the regulatory framework for cleanup to specifics of an on-site disposal cell for cleanup debris. ECA has also been informed that the Ohio EPA has indicated that DOE should involve this community on all cleanup matters, employ lessons learned at other sites, and not approach the PORTS cleanup in a piecemeal fashion.

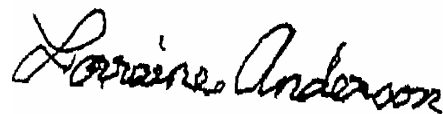
SODI has followed the precedent established at Rocky Flats – DOE's biggest cleanup success story of any site – but goes one step further by bringing together both elected officials and other community leaders into a single centralized forum. SODI has also adopted procedures that ensure the SAC will be open and that Committee membership will reflect a broad cross-section of the community, while maintaining the group as independent of DOE, a key element of the community's support for the process.

### **Requested Actions**

Please create a community involvement vehicle supported by local and state governments at PORTS. To accomplish this EM should support the Ohio Stakeholders Advisory Committee to create a formal community involvement process. This Committee has all of the key ingredients necessary to make it a certain success for DOE and the community. In supporting the SAC, DOE will be supporting a key tenant of ECA's policies and DOE's successes.

Please contact ECA's Executive Director, Seth Kirshenberg with any questions at (202) 828-2494.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Anderson,  
ECA Chair  
Mayor Pro Tem, Arvada, CO

cc: Melissa Nielson, Public and Intergovernmental Accountability, US DOE  
Doug Frost, Public and Intergovernmental Accountability, US DOE  
Tom Winston, District Chief, Ohio EPA  
Senator Brown  
Senator Voinovich  
Gov. Strickland  
Greg Simonton, SODI  
ECA Board of Directors  
Seth Kirshenberg, Executive Director, Energy Communities Alliance