

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Plant location:

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant is located in McCracken County, Kentucky, on a 3,556 acre site owned by DOE. The plant is about 10 miles west of Paducah.

Plant size:

The plant has 161 buildings on 800 acres with 19 miles of roadway and 5 miles of railroad.

Plant work force:

1800

Located in Western McCracken County, the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) was constructed in the early 1950s with the sole mission of enriching uranium in support of the nation's defense and power production needs.

The Energy Act of 1992 created the US Enrichment Corporation to conduct uranium enrichment activities. Today, DOE manages a lease with the United States Enrichment Corporation for their operation of uranium enrichment facilities. DOE also holds a Management and Integration contract with Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC to perform lease management, UF₆ management and environmental management.

In 1994, PGDP was included on the National Priorities List. Subsequently, a Federal Facility Agreement was executed between DOE, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the US EPA for a long-term site cleanup plan. A primary focus of site remediation deals with groundwater plumes, contaminated with TCE and Tc-99, which have migrated off site. Current cleanup strategies are moving forward under four operable units – groundwater, surface water, soils and sediments, and burial grounds. A study is under way to determine the feasibility of constructing an on-site disposal cell. DOE is currently engaged in negotiations with the Commonwealth of Kentucky on an order governing DUF₆ cylinder yard management on site.

Key Stakeholders

Paducah Citizens Advisory Board — A DOE Environmental Management-chartered advisory board whose focus is on cleanup activities.

Purchase Area Community Reuse Organization — PACRO. Focus is looking at ways to use plant personnel, facilities and resources.

Western Kentucky Wildlife Management Area —WKWMA is operated by the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Regulatory Interface

Kentucky Cabinet for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection

Kentucky Cabinet for Public Health

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (cylinder yards)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (regulates only USEC operations)



OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS

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