



Division of Hazardous Waste Management

Response to Comments

Project: United States Department of Energy (USDOE) Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant Hazardous Waste Renewal Permit for Storage
Ohio EPA ID #: OH7890008983/04-66-0680

Agency Contacts for this Project

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Ohio EPA held a public hearing and comment period on February 28, 2011 regarding the draft hazardous waste renewal permit for the USDOE Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. This document summarizes the comment received at the public hearing and during the associated comment period, which ended on March 12, 2011.

Ohio EPA reviewed and considered the comment received during the public comment period. By law, Ohio EPA has authority to consider specific issues related to protection of the environment and public health. Often, public concerns fall outside the scope of that authority. Ohio EPA may respond to those concerns in this document by identifying another government agency with more direct authority over the issue.

General Concern

Comment: Citizen concerned with Ohio EPA issuing USDOE a renewal hazardous waste permit for storage. Citizen is also concerned for the safety of visitors touring the facility.

Response: In the State of Ohio, any industrial facility can apply for a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for the treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste. In this case

USDOE is seeking a storage permit for hazardous wastes that are generated on-site. USDOE has submitted a permit application which meets or exceeds the legal requirements for seeking a hazardous waste permit. Ohio EPA will issue a hazardous waste permit which contains permit conditions regarding the safe storage of hazardous waste. The Division of Hazardous Waste Management program conducts quarterly inspections to ensure that USDOE is in compliance with these permit conditions and state rules and regulations, which are designed to protect human health and the environment.

Additionally, the permit requires the facility to develop procedures for the health and safety of those who actively handle hazardous wastes. Employees are trained at least annually on these procedures.

USDOE has other internal procedures for the safety of visitors that are not required by Ohio EPA hazardous waste rules or regulations.

End of Response to Comments