

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 11, 2011

David Huizenga  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave SW  
Washington DC 20585

Dear Mr. Huizenga:

Congratulations on assuming the position of Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. The work ongoing at the Department of Energy's (DOE) former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) is critical to the success of Southern Ohio's efforts to rebuild what was one of the region's largest economic engines. I look forward to continuing to work with the Office of Environmental Management (EM) ensuring an expedited cleanup of PORTS that will ensure community-directed future reuse of the site.

The PORTS site is located in the heart of Ohio's Appalachia region. Pike County and its 28,000 people have a long history with the DOE which has historically been one of the region's largest employers until the PORTS closure in 2001. The Decommissioning and Decontamination (D&D) of PORTS will allow the site to once again become an economic engine and will provide numerous opportunities for future reuse.

Under your predecessor's leadership, the PORTS site grew its workforce to more than 2,600 people and reduced the overall timeline for the cleanup by more than two decades. In addition, past management and community relations grew to a new level of trust and understanding. Today, the majority of the site has returned to DOE control and the Site Specific Advisory Board will soon begin its fourth year of service. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the cleanup has transitioned to D&D with the site contractors ramping up the cleanup in the near future.

The site has many challenges. From determining future reuse, to completing the worker transition, to continuing to improve on the progress the local PORTS office has made with the community; your continued focus in making the site a priority within EM will be critical to building on these successes and overcoming the remaining challenges. I am also concerned that DOE's proposed reshuffling of departments could place EM under the National Nuclear Security Administration and would only add to, rather than subtract from the focus and funding of the EM mission.

As Pike County faces an unemployment rate of more than 15%, your efforts putting people to work today and investing in the site's future is more important than ever. As budgets continue to shrink the future of the site will rely on your continued focus on maintaining the current funding streams and providing a robust D&D, while working with the community.

I look forward to talking with you soon about your plans for PORTS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherrod Brown