



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585
May 20, 2019

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

Dear Governor DeWine:

Thank you for your May 16, 2019 letter to Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management Anne White regarding the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. As a father, grandfather, and former Governor, I understand the urgent need to address the concerns of your citizens. I pledge to you that the Department of Energy (DOE) will continue to work closely with the State of Ohio and Piketon officials to safeguard the health and safety of the community.

For decades, DOE's Environmental Management program has maintained a robust environmental monitoring program to protect the safety and health of communities and the environment across the Nation. Specifically in the area of Portsmouth, the program includes continuous sampling of air quality at six air monitoring stations on DOE property and ten air monitoring stations in the surrounding community. Under longstanding DOE procedures, if, at any time, data from a monitoring station exceeded health and safety standards, DOE would immediately notify the proper state and local officials.

In the interest of further transparency, I have directed the Department to release the complete set of raw air monitoring data for all 16 Portsmouth sampling locations, on and off-site, for 2015 through the first quarter of 2019. This provides a more complete picture of the information we have. This data has been provided to authorities in Pike County, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Department of Health.

In addition, I have also directed the Department's Environmental Management leadership to immediately review its existing monitoring and communication processes.

I fully support the community's desire for a third party study to be conducted by an independent entity of its choosing. I appreciate Ohio University's decision to use its existing DOE grant to fund this test of the Piketon community's four schools and other areas of interest. My Environmental Management officials eagerly await the community's selection so that the review can be completed as quickly as possible. I urge the community to quickly identify an expert company or individual to conduct this study so that testing can be done before the upcoming school year.



I look forward to continuing to work with the state and local authorities to resolve this issue. If you need additional information, please contact me or Assistant Secretary Anne White, at (202) 586-5216.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY

Rick Perry