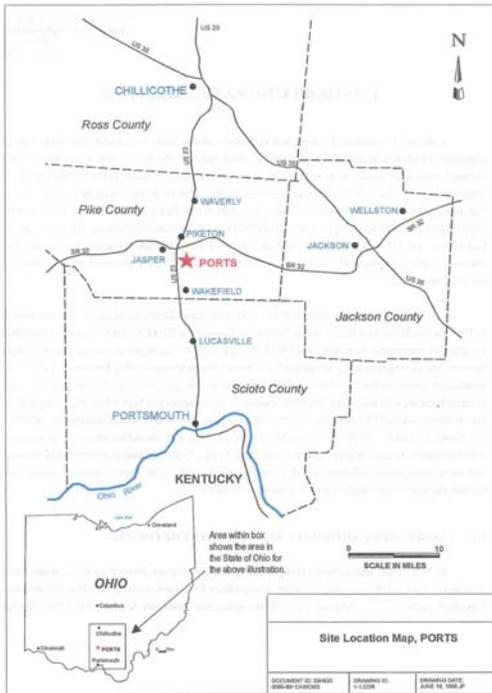


Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant



The PORTS facility was constructed between 1952 and 1956 and is owned by U.S. DOE. The active portion of the PORTS plant occupies approximately 1,000 acres of a 3,714-acre U.S. DOE reservation in south central Ohio, approximately 80 miles south of Columbus, 20 miles north of Portsmouth, and 1 mile east of U.S. Route 23.

The principal process at the PORTS facility was the separation of uranium isotopes via gaseous diffusion for use in commercial reactors and for use by the U.S. Navy. The production facilities are leased by the United States Enrichment Corporation which was formed in 1993 as a government-owned corporation by the Energy Policy Act of 1992. The company became private in July 1998. Other portions of the site are leased to the Ohio National Guard and the Defense Logistics Agency. U.S. DOE remains the owner of the property. In May 2001 the facility ceased enriching uranium and was placed in cold stand-by mode. Cold stand-by was ceased in September 2006 and the facility was placed in cold shut down. US DOE is in the process of planning for the eventual D&D of the former gaseous diffusion plant.

In 1989, U.S. DOE and the State of Ohio entered into a Consent Decree that outlined the requirements for handling hazardous waste generated at the PORTS facility and for conducting investigation and environmental remediation at the site. Additional Consent Agreements have also been negotiated involving USEPA's role per CERCLA, as well as integration of RCRA and CERCLA into an overall cleanup process. Since the Consent Decree was signed in 1989, several landfills, ground water plumes and various units have been closed, remediated or removed under Ohio EPA oversight. Currently, Ohio EPA is working with US DOE to plan for long term decontamination and decommissioning of obsolete buildings and infrastructure at PORTS. Negotiations addressing natural resource damages are also ongoing. This clean up is among the largest in the State of Ohio.

The contaminants of concern are volatile organic contaminants, radiologicals, PCBs and PAHs. The major environmental concern at Portsmouth is volatiles in ground water. IRMs (barrier wall and trenches) have been installed to prevent migration of ground water plumes to surface water and areas off site. The cleanup of numerous [depleted uranium hexafluoride](#) (DUF6) cylinders at Portsmouth is also being addressed. A conversion Facility has been completed and will be operational in 2010. There are numerous environmental issues associated with these cylinders ranging from potential release of DUF6 into the atmosphere, to the potential exposure to offsite populations.

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