



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Called Joint Meeting with McCracken County Fiscal Court Monday, June 24, 2013 at McCracken County Courthouse

Community Update of the Operational Transition of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

The Paducah City Commission and the McCracken County Fiscal Court held a joint meeting to discuss the transition of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Mayor Gayle Kaler says, "Taking care of those workers is our main focus." Mayor Kaler explained that over the past few weeks a group, the Citizens Action Committee, has been meeting each Monday to discuss strategies for the plant site. Committee members include Mayor Kaler, Judge-Executive Van Newberry, City Manager Jeff Pederson, USW Local 550 Vice President Jim Key, Chamber of Commerce Chairman Lynn King, City Commissioner and Chamber President Sandra Wilson, attorney Duncan Pitchford, lobbyist John Cooper, Paducah Economic Development (PED) Chairman Ken Hunt, PED President/CEO Chad Chancellor, and Charlie Martin with PED. Congressional representatives and a representative from the Governor's office also attend the meetings. Martin says, "The community is united in trying to preserve these jobs. It's important for us to keep the pressure up." Martin listed the recent correspondence that has been sent to the federal government from Paducah. Several leaders are meeting with legislators and the DOE in Washington, D.C. on July 10.

USW Local 550 President Donna Steele says, "DOE owes it to everyone in the community to clean up this site properly." Chancellor says, "I feel personally as a taxpayer that the DOE needs to clean this plant up." Chancellor stated three requests that he wants to see from DOE: 1) fund the cleanup for the site; 2) act on the Expressions of Interest received by DOE; and 3) allow the community to have a place in the decision-making process with transparency in the process. Chancellor says community leaders were expecting to hear something from the DOE by June 15. However, at this time the community has not received information. Chancellor especially wants to know about the three companies with which he has had meetings that have submitted expressions of interest with two of the companies wanting to run the existing plant and the third company planning to build a new facility at the site. Martin says, "It's important for the community to know what opportunities are out there for the DOE to take, and we need to know why the DOE is choosing not to take them." Martin explained that time is of the essence since within six to eight months most of the plant's workforce will be forced to find employment elsewhere. Chancellor says, "The DOE needs to be thinking of Paducah every day."

At the end of the meeting, community members were able to make comments and ask questions. The Paducah City Commission and McCracken County Fiscal Court then made a motion to draft a joint resolution to include the USW, PED, and the Chamber of Commerce. The resolution would request the clean up of the site, the elimination CERCLA waste cell construction plans, and the development of the site especially in regard to the Expressions of Interest.

On May 24, 2013, USEC Inc. announced that it had not reached a deal to extend the uranium enrichment operations at the Paducah plant beyond contracts that expired May 31. USEC leases the plant from the DOE. USEC is taking steps to cease enrichment. The Paducah plant is the only U.S.-owned and operated uranium enrichment facility in the United States

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