



# Draft Hazardous Waste Permit Renewal & Comment Period

January 2023

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**Facility Name:** Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

**U.S. EPA I.D.:** OH7 890 008 983

**Location:**

3930 U.S. Route 23 South  
Piketon, Ohio 45661

**Facility Owner:**

U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 700  
Piketon, Ohio 45661

**Facility Operator:**

Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC  
P.O. Box 548  
Piketon, Ohio 45661

**Activity:**

Permit renewal for Storage

**Comment Period:**

January 6, 2023 – March 17, 2023

**Submit Comments to:**

Ohio EPA  
DOE Ports Coordinator  
Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049  
(614) 644-2924  
PUBLICCOMMENT@epa.ohio.gov

## What is the history of the hazardous waste program?

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), an amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act, was passed in 1976. The main reason for the

amendment was to address the growing volume of municipal and industrial solid waste generated across the United States. A few goals established by RCRA include: to protect human health and the environment from potential hazards of waste disposal, to reduce the amount of waste generated, and to ensure that waste produced are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

When RCRA was written, U.S. Congress' intent was for the states to assume primary responsibility for implementing the hazardous waste regulations with oversight from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). U.S. EPA must approve each state as an authorized state. To become an authorized state, each must demonstrate that the state program is at least equivalent to and consistent with federal laws, provides adequate enforcement authority and provides availability of information similar to the federal program. Since 1989, the State of Ohio has been an authorized state by U.S. EPA for the majority of their hazardous waste program.

Currently, the State of Ohio is not authorized by U.S. EPA to issue a permit for organic air emissions (40 CFR Part 264, Subparts AA, BB, and CC) from hazardous waste storage units.

## How can I become more involved?

A public meeting will be held at 6 pm on February 15, 2023, at the Pike County Career Tech Center located at 175 Beaver Creek Rd., Piketon, OH 45661 to receive public comments. Citizens who want to participate virtually must register in advance at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/709671412170057051>.

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Verbal comments will be received during the public meeting. All persons, including the applicant, may submit written comments relating to this draft action. Written comments for the proposed cleanup plan and the draft permit renewal may be emailed to [publiccomment@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:publiccomment@epa.ohio.gov) or mailed to Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization, Attn: DOE Ports Coordinator, 50 W. Town Street, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, OH 43216-1049. Written comments must indicate which action the respondent is commenting on, please indicate if the comment is for either the Draft Permit Renewal or the Statement of Basis Document. Ohio EPA may modify the proposed permit or take other action based on new information or public comments, so your opinion is important.

The comment period begins on January 6, 2023, and ends on March 17, 2023. Copies of the permit application and the draft permit are available for review by the public at the following locations:

Ohio EPA, Southeast District Office  
2195 E Front Street  
Logan, Ohio 43138  
(740) 385-8501

Ohio EPA, Central Office  
Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization  
Lazarus Government Center  
50 West Town St., Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 644-2924

A copy of the draft permit is available for review by the public at:

U.S. DOE Environmental Information Center  
Ohio State Endeavor Center  
1862 Shyville Road (Room 207)  
Piketon, Ohio 45661  
(740) 289-8898

The Ohio draft permit is available for review by the public online on the Announcements page under the "January 2023" tab at:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/epa/divisions-and-offices/environmental-response-revitalization/announcements>

The entire record for this draft action is available via Ohio EPA's eDocument portal:

<http://edocpub.epa.ohio.gov/publicportal/edocho.me.aspx>

Using the search function, search under the document type of "Permit" and then refine the search using the facility's RCRA ID number (Secondary ID) which is OH7890008983 and Permit Purpose which is "Renewal". Select from the list of documents, the document dated 09/23/2020.

Within sixty (60) days of the close of the public comment period, Ohio EPA will, without prior hearing, issue the permit (or deny the request) in accordance with Chapter 3734 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). If Ohio EPA approves the application, taking into account public comments, a renewal permit will be issued with terms and conditions as are necessary to ensure compliance with hazardous waste rules.

After the close of the public comment period, Ohio EPA will review all comments received and decide whether to issue the permit. The final decision will include notification to those who submitted written comments during the official comment period. Ohio EPA will also prepare and send to all responders a document answering significant comments. Within thirty (30) days of a final decision, any person who submitted written comments or made a statement at the hearing if one is held may petition Ohio EPA's Environmental Review Appeals Commission Board to review the decision.

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## What does the facility do?

The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant generates large volumes of waste from current site environmental cleanup operations including decontamination and decommissioning of site facilities.

## What would this hazardous waste permit allow the facility to do?

This permit allows Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant to store hazardous and mixed waste in containers in permitted X-330 (23,100 gallons), X-345 (16,060 gallons), and X-705 (1,540 gallons) storage areas. The wastes stored include mixed RCRA and radioactive wastes, mixed RCRA and PCB wastes, mixed RCRA and asbestos wastes, and environmental restoration generated wastes. The RCRA wastes include wastes which are characteristic hazardous for ignitability, corrosivity, and toxicity; and F-listed wastes which include spent solvents, wastewater sludges. Wastes are stored in 2,5,7,10, 20, 30, 50, 55, 85 and 110 gallon drums, 4 ft X 4 ft X 6 ft and 6 ft X 6 ft X 8 ft metal boxes, polyethylene bottles and other containers.

## What is the regulatory basis to support this permit renewal?

The Director has determined that the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant has submitted an application for renewal one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the expiration date of its present permit which was issued by Ohio EPA on March 25, 2011. The Director has considered the application, inspection reports, a report regarding the facility's compliance with the present permit, and the rules adopted under ORC Section 3734. The Director has found that the Part B permit application meets the Director's performance standards and that the facility has a history of compliance with this chapter, rules adopted under it, the existing permit, and orders entered into, which demonstrates reliability, expertise, and competency to subsequently

operate the facility under this chapter, the rules, and the permit.

## Who can I contact for more information?

For additional information, or to obtain notices in a different language, please contact Christina Boehm at (614) 728-8961.