

APPENDIX 6
FOCUS GROUP TRANSCRIPTS

APPENDIX 6A
FOCUS GROUP TRANSCRIPTS: ROSS COUNTY

Appendix 6a

Ross County Focus Group Transcript

*(Some sections are blacked out to ensure confidentiality
in accordance with Ohio University Institutional Review Board protocol)*

(Inaudible) we'd like the discussion to be informal, so there's no uh, need for you to wait for us to call on you to respond to any of the questions that we ask. And, we, we actually encourage you to respond directly to the comments that other people make. That's what this is about - building on other people's opinions and ideas. Uh, if you don't understand one of the questions we ask, please let us know. Uh, we are here to ask questions, to listen, and to make sure everybody has a chance to share. If we seem to be stopped on a topic uh, I may interrupt you, and it's not that, that, if I have to do that, don't feel badly about it. It's just our way of making sure that we get everyone's perspective and opinion. We do, we are ask you that you keep each other identities, and participation, and remarks private. And, we hope that you'll free to speak openly and honestly in the course of the next hour or so.

(Inaudible)?

I just want to, again, reiterate that everything that's said tonight is gonna be aggregated, so uh, nothing will be true to the individual participants. And, uh, you will receive a small compensation for your participation tonight. And, we don't think that there are risks from your participating in this focus group, 'cause your names will not be identified. So, with that said, I'd just like go around the room and ask you, one time, just to tell us your first name only uh, the county you live in, and the town you live in, and how long you've lived in the region, and then any other information you'd like to share to get us started. So, just not chewin'.

(laughter)

Not chewin'.

(laughter)

I was a food service worker for a long time, I wait for the chewin' to ask the questions. So, you want to start?

My first name's Don, I live in Chillicothe, Ross County.

Okay.

Uh, I've lived here uh, four years.

Okay. Yes.

Barb uh, in Ross County. Chillicothe. Uh, I've lived here probably 35 years.

Thirty-five?

Uh huh.

Okay. Do you want to go next?

Yeah, uh, my name's Bill. I live in Chillicothe, Ross County. I've only lived in Chillicothe for a little over three years. But, I've lived in the general area, Portsmouth, Columbus, Westerville for 60 years.

Okay. Good. Okay.

Uh, Jeff. I live in Pike County on the border of the A-plant site.

Okay.

Uh, my name's Pam. I was born and raised in Chillicothe, and I've worked at the site for 20 years.

Hi, I'm Jerry [REDACTED], I've lived here all my life. Been down at the plant for 36 years. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Live in Ross County, glad to be here; chit-chat about what we're gonna do.

(laughter)

My name's Laura. I've lived in Chillicothe about, uh, lived here about 34 years. Worked at the plant, [REDACTED], about four years.

Okay.

My name's Robert [REDACTED], and I've probably lived here around 50 years - something like that. In uh, uh, Ross County. Born in Frankfort, Concord Township.

(laughter)

And, we live in Huntington Township in our (inaudible).

I'm Elaine, and (inaudible). Ross County - lived here years.

Thank you everyone. I, I just made my mental noted to myself that I should table (inaudible) for our next one so that we could put the names. So, if you want to ask somebody else a question, so that's noted. Okay. Here we go.

Could, could I just ask - is anybody else, now or formally a worker at the plant? And, (inaudible).

You can ask the question, but we're going to share that (inaudible).

(Inaudible) that work there. My Uncle Elmer, he was a guard.

Yeah.

Some of my high school buddies worked there.

I have a granddaughter who's an engineer there.

We are gonna ask that question shortly. But, again, you don't, don't feel like you have to uh, 'cause, 'cause we don't know. We don't have that information here. So, first, I want to start with some big picture questions. So, I, I want to ask you to think about this four country region - Scioto, Pike, Ross, and Jackson, and tell us what you think the most important issue is that's facing the region right now?

(Inaudible).

Jobs.

(laughter).

(Inaudible).

Lack of.

Lack of. Lack of jobs?

Jobs.

Yeah.

Jobs.

We have relatives that, that have lost their jobs like at RCA, because of outsourcing to India. And, uh, so as a family uh, I'm sure that our families are very concerned there maybe potential jobs in the future down there. In fact, we have of our relatives that have uh, applied for jobs

like in maintenance, down there, and uh, so I think that's a critical area we're interested in. Of course, their safety as well.

Yeah. Do other people want to expand on jobs? Or, add another issue that's important to this region? (Inaudible) region.

I think you need to have sustainable jobs. I think you have uh, right now, you have jobs that's there's a lot of unknown, and there's only a short period of time, and I don't know if that's really gonna get you past ten years. I'm worried about becoming 30 years, and making sure you have jobs that stay.

Okay. Anybody else can build on that?

I'd like to add on to what she just said, the issue of fake jobs. The fact that politicians come around every two or four years, and promise thousands of jobs at the A-plant site uh, related to projects that never were and never will be feasible, and never will happen.

Do all of you have an opinion on the political nature of the job situation?

I'd agree.

You agree, okay.

(laughter)

I agree.

Okay.

As far as in, in my 36 years of experience with the, at the A-plant. I went to work there when it was Goodyear in 1974. And, at that point, the first, the first, within the first two years, I was there, they started with a plant expansion - gonna build another enormous building. They got as far as takin' up the parking curbs in the parking lot, gettin' ready to do the excavation, and then unknown, outside influences, cancelled the whole project. So, politically, it's unfortunate that it has had such an influence on that plant site down there, as it has.

Uh huh.

When the G-set plant was shut down in eight-seven, okay? It was up in, we had a train up and running. It was just (inaudible), and political influences brought it to a ragin' halt right then.

Would it be fair for me to summarize that it's real jobs verses the promise of jobs? Is that what I'm hearing?

Bingo. (Inaudible).

(Inaudible), and I'm not seein' anybody disagreeing with that.

We don't feel confident at this point because of he's been saying, and others, that it's not a, there's not gonna be a, a big plant that develops there, because, so far, the, the history of the (inaudible) there hasn't been much of a plant there, especially the last 10 or 15 years. So, when you hear that, you feel a little skeptical about what you're going to do. And, with change in politics and political power uh, we never know what's gonna happen, it seems.

So, it's uncertainty. Let's think about how your community values - think about where you live and your neighbors. How they value environmental protection, and how they value economic development? Do you think that the people you, that live in this region, the four counties - who are your neighbors - do they value environmental protection and economic development equally? Or, is one more important than the other, at this point in time?

In my, in my opinion?

Yeah.

In my opinion, in Southern Ohio,

Uh huh.

jobs are, jobs are more important. Okay? If it weren't for the A-plant, we'd all be, we'd all be workin' in the sawmills or papermill, which is a direct insult to the environment.

Uh huh.

'Cause, they've already shut the coalmines down in Southern Ohio. And, I still burn brush piles from time to time. I don't start (inaudible) (laughter) tires, but uh, I still burn brush piles when I got a brush pile to burn.

So, Jerry's saying that he thinks economic development might be more a priority than environmental protection, do other people feel that way? Or,

No.

they think (inaudible)?

(Inaudible).

We gotta have both.

Well, I think they go together.

Go together.

If you're gonna do planning, you have to plan for uh, like is there gonna be a gradation league or something like that? Uh, if so, what areas would be most in danger? Uh, I would be concerned this nuclear power plant down there, we only live 25 miles from there. Uh, what would happen if something in like uh, in Pennsylvania, uh, meltdown or something. A potential meltdown. How would that affect us? I would be concerned, and hopefully, they would have a response for that, you know, so we don't (inaudible).

So, I hear safety as being necessary too, right?

The safety issue is important. But, I would be, I would (inaudible), I think the, the economy and jobs are a priority, but we should always remember that safety issues are very important as well.

Okay. So, you just brought up somethin' about (inaudible) possible alternative energy source, which is nuclear power.

Uh huh.

So, there's been a lot of, there's a lot of talk that you might be aware of about different sources of alternative energy, including things like nuclear and natural gas, wind, and solar. Let's talk about your opinions on these options so (inaudible) talk about solutions to our energy problems. Do you have opinions about nuclear, or wind, or solar, or?

Well, there's satellite - I don't think that would work in our region at all.

(laughter)

Not in my area.

It's kind of windy around here, but not that (inaudible).

(laughter)

(Inaudible).

I still think, I think nuclear power is, is actually (inaudible).

I don't have a problem with nuclear power at all, right now.

The only problem I have with it is what are you gonna do for (inaudible)? You know, it seems to me like they're closin' down some of the western uh, deposit areas for nuclear waste, and uh, uh that bothers me. It, it bothers me that they're gonna take that nuclear waste and take it through Chillicothe, you know, is that safe? You know, that, that kind of bothers me a little bit.

Or, if they have an emergency, do they have a plan - if they do have a spill on the road.

Right.

So, (inaudible) Chillicothe and Port Clinton, all the other towns around.

You just don't know about it. We never know it.

Well, way out to uh, Rocky Flats, I think, or somewhere they're haulin'.

We would went out to Huntington Pike one day, and there were white guys in white uniforms with masks on,

Detox suits.

de, decontaminating something that spilled on Huntington Pike, on Thompson Hill out there. And, we never could find out why that, what that was, or you know, where they were taking it, or whatever, you know? Nothing was said in the paper about it, but it was something pretty serious. They thought it was dangerous. You know?

(Inaudible).

Yeah.

Well, four, four years ago, it was actually proposed that Piketon become the gaseous diffusion plant, become a repository for all the high level nuclear waste in the country. And, that proposal, which was never made public, but was worked on in secret, went to the stage of the ramps outside of the A-plant were rebuilt in order to facilitate trucks that would carry the spent fuel into Piketon. And, then when that proposal was made public, uh, five thousand people in this area, signed a petition opposing that plan for the site. And, the entire proposal was killed and never made public in order to save the political careers of the politicians that supported it.

So, Jeffrey - you're bringing us into kind of the next group of questions that I want to talk about, and that is about the plant specifically. So, we'll have a little discussion about the region, in general. So, the question I want to ask you and, and maybe if (inaudible) or uh, Bill, right? Bill?

Bill.

A (inaudible) name I've, maybe you could start us off. Uh, if someone from outside the region were to ask you about the A-plant, how would you describe it?

I knew very little, specifically, about the A-plant.

Okay.

I mean, I, I know it's a place where they process uranium, or they used to. I don't even know if they still do now.

Okay.

I now it's a big employer. Uh, and I know that there's proposals to expand it for reprocessing uranium. But, that's,

Alright.

the extent of my knowledge about, about the A-plant. Uh,

How about you, Barb, how would you describe it if somebody from outside the region wants you to describe it?

I, well, first of all, it's a way of life, and we, I think, most of the public has accepted it, except danger and the EPA situation. Uh, I, I think everybody is encouraged when they see (inaudible), or the (inaudible). Uh, but I think it's just a way of life and we have to accept nuclear. And, I think (inaudible) doing that. I'm sure they make a lot of mistakes, as everyone else does,

Uh huh.

at different plants. But, uh, I, I foresee that they will be, I know that they have talked about their EPA uh, regulations a lot in the last uh, 12/15 years, that we know about. 'Cause, I can remember when they didn't have any regulations on what, where, or what we could do (inaudible) we need to get atomic (inaudible). And, right now, they're suffering for that, because they're having to make settlements. But, uh, I think, I think they've progressed (inaudible) concerns. I'm sure they're also (inaudible), you know, that we don't know about, and there's probably spills that we don't know about. Uh, but I think it's just something we have to accept as long as everybody keeps on their toes and tries to make sure that the EPA is, in fact, you know, as much as we can, as we know.

Okay. Other thoughts? Somebody from outside the region?

That gentleman there's worked there uh, for a long, long, long time. And, uh, he can tell you if there's been progress on updating things. I uh, I know at one time you went into the, into the withdraw area, where they withdraw the uranium, and the guards down there didn't even have

protection uniforms. They wore regular guard uniforms, and their weapons, and they went in, and then, I think, what was it? How long ago was it before they started wearing the white suits and the masks and so on?

About 15 years ago.

Yeah. And, so I think they had come along and said, "Hey! We got so many people dyin' down here with cancer, and, and other things from this," that they did start improving the dress code for those areas.

And, those are OSHA,

(Inaudible)?

those are OSHA guidelines.

Yeah. Uh huh. And, uh, so there has been some improvement. How many, I don't know, but there's been (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

Yes.

Uh huh.

Does anybody want to build on that? Somebody from outside the region? Tell me about that A-plant. What's that all about?

Outside the region? What do you mean?

Well, outside the (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

Somebody comes here from Cleveland, and they're like, "What's that? What's that A-plant?" They don't know anything about it.

Good place to work and good money. (laughter)

Alright.

Well, there, it's really important to point out, and I think there's some misunderstanding, certainly, in the community that for the last nine years, the only jobs that the A-plant are involved in clean up,

Right.

(laughter) there's no plant there. There's been no production for nine years.

And, they're making great strides with clean up.

So, when we talk about jobs at the A-plant, for recent history, we're talking about environmental clean up.

Correct.

It's the same thing. It's not one verses the other. And, the community needs to be educated on that point. Not asked what they think, 'cause people are under the wrong impression.

(Inaudible).

Well, I think that needs to be stressed so that the public is aware of how much clean up is goin' on. 'Cause, they're making great strides uh, in cleaning up, you know, everything from (inaudible) waste, to the chemicals, to I mean, (inaudible) they use, they're cleaning up the, of the cascade, you know, uh, just a lot of different things that have been (inaudible).

I know (inaudible) lots of people (inaudible) security down there recently.

Hmm.

Uh, who's still works there?

Uh, I do. I do.

I mean, isn't that right?

I, yeah, but my, my issue is that I, I do not understand why there isn't more information shared.

Uh huh.

Because, I mean, don't get me wrong. I mean, I hold a very high level clearance, and you know, there's things that could be shared that are not, and that leaves this perception that we're trying to hide stuff. And, I don't think that's true. Now, I can't say, I can't speak for everybody, you know, but....

You can keep goin'. You're doin' good.

(laughter)

but, but why, you know, there's lots of great things there. Now, do, do I think that we're havin' a lot of trouble recruiting talent.

(Inaudible). (laughter)

And, when you do not have the qualified recruitment, I mean, (inaudible) you gotta have, there's lots of, there's lots of employment down there, and there's different area skills. But, you have to have the leadership, have the appropriate management skills, the leadership skills, and the qualifications to know what you can share and what you can't share from a, a national security side. But, you can't hide behind that umbrella for everything. Because, there's certain things that can be shared that, I think, are just not shared, and I don't understand why.

So, you bring up one of the, the key things that we wanted to talk about, tonight, with you- was communication information about the plant. And, then in thinking about this type of information exchange and, you know, releasing information, uh, there's, there's a couple things I'm interested in knowin' from you, and one of 'em is who do you think is the most important source of information about the community in general, and the plant specific? Who, who? That doesn't have to be a person, it can be an organization.

Well, your, your local newspaper uh, is one of 'em. Perhaps the, the TV, radio stations, and so forth.

If you were reading the local newspaper, who would you want to see them talk to? Who would be the source of information, you think, is important?

I'd find somebody that worked there, that you know, I know several people that, you know, have worked there, or do work there. And, I know one person I was talking to said that at one time uh, they just dumped all that carcinogenic stuff out in the back parking lot, and left it there for years, and their big concern was uh, that it would contaminate ground water. They didn't have much concern years ago, but now, and I'm just wondering is, is that correct information or should I have gotten my information from someone that, you know, other than just what you hear, you know, word of mouth?

The second part of that question is who you trust?

Yeah.

There, there's a large group of independent people who have been studying and writing uh, uh, and making films about that plant for 30 years. There's documentary films about the plant, there have been books and articles written about the plant. Uh, one of the best sources, probably the single best source of independent information is Ohio EPA, which has been in there....

You can't get any information from the Ohio EPA. I called up there about that spill that we were talking about on Huntington Pike;

yes.

they didn't know a thing about it. Or, they wouldn't tell me a thing about it. So, that's why I didn't like....

Well, well, they are constrained because they're a government agency and there are rules they have to follow. But, but on a continuing basis, in terms of trustworthiness,

Uh huh.

I think there's a lot more trust in Ohio EPA than there is, for example, (inaudible).

Do you have a particular person in mind? (Inaudible).

Yeah. Maria DelMonte has been the lead person on (inaudible).

But, but that's the other thing, though, it may have, the, when they did the testing, it might have not of went above a limit that required the notification to the Ohio EPA. So, they could have (inaudible), not even been notified.

When (inaudible) d-con suits though, and clean up with, with sprays, and I've got the travel over that road every day,

Yeah.

I say, "I'm turnin' off my air conditioner and things (inaudible)."

But, that's all for worker safety sometimes.

Yes.

Sometimes all that protection is the worker's safety

(Inaudible).

and then the industrial safety (inaudible).

Well, they may not know what they're dealing with. Yeah.

It could be.

(Inaudible).

It's, it's more of a protecting the worker that's cleaning up that hazard.

Right.

But, it's an education process. And, and, and why not give that education process to the public. You know, stop thinkin', you know, the public cannot understand personal protection equipment and stuff. I, I, (inaudible).

I would like for the EPA man to say, "Well, I don't know a thing about it, but give me your telephone number, I'll find out, and get right back to you."

Yeah.

That would be a good (inaudible).

So, you were saying get the information. How do you get the information?

Well, the reason why I came to this,

Okay.

is because you, you got to have checks and balances. I mean, I've, I've read the, I, I can tell you. I've worked down there. I read a lot. But, I don't, necessarily, you know, say that I disagree. You have to have a check and balance.

Uh huh.

When you're questioning, that's makin' people say, "You know, okay. Why, why," it's just like I uh, the laboratory. It's, I worked in the laboratory for 20 years, I went to an SSAB meeting, and they said, "Well, you can't trust the laboratory." And, I'm goin', "What do you mean you can't trust the? I work there."

(laughter)

You know, and then someone goes, "Well, how do you know everyone feels like you do?" And, after I went to that I said, "Well, I guess I really need to say

I don't....

why do I know that?" And, I actually had, (inaudible), and I actually did a American quality two hour presentation, on my own time, and explained, you know, (inaudible), I have the powerpoint that said, "This is all the things in place that make sure that we do the public

safety.” There was nothing in that, in that powerpoint that couldn’t be shared with the public, but it took a little bit of time to answer that question. You know? And, so I think it’s good, because you can’t have, you can’t have a the public not askin’, “Why, and why, and why, you know, how do you know you’re safe? What are you guys doin’?” I mean, there’s nothin’ wrong with those questions, but it does take a little bit of time, and I asked about, you know, “Why aren’t we out in the schools at the fifth grade level doin’ science experiments? Trying to do this, you know, develop these chemists, and develop these engineers?” And, they’re like, “Well, the corporation’s mission is to make money.” So, that’s why I like the Voinovich initiative, is because why not use some of that clean energy (inaudible) money for education of the public, let alone because, you know, my philosophy was you go tell the fifth grades how great science is, they’re gonna, that’s when they’re receptive to it. Not, not givin’ ‘em scholarships. A two-thousand-dollar scholarship what does that get? They’re already, they already decided what they want to do in college.

You got several things there. One thing that I want to follow up with (inaudible), the question is how do we get to the public? Who, you know, what’s the means? We use the newspaper, do we use, do we use each other? What’s the most effective way? You mentioned schools as being one possible approach. But, how, how do we get out there and talk to the public. Where do you get your information?

Well, I, like Robert, I believe that, I think that it’s the newspaper for me. But, I know that’s the generational (inaudible), not everybody reads the newspaper. But, I’m, I’m and avid, avid reader. I read both the Dispatch and the (inaudible) everyday. But, I have to say, though, you know, but my knowledge is limited about the A-plant, but most the information that I’ve gleaned is from the Gazette and there’s nothing there. And, I don’t, I don’t know if that’s a breakdown between the Gazette not having any investigating reporters, or the communication department of the (inaudible) that runs the plant, or what, I don’t, I don’t know. But, I do know that’s where I get my information.

Uh huh.

So, I, I, personally think that that would be the primary avenue or lifeline that, for getting any information to the public.

Okay.

I know a lot more about the national things that are happening, happening nationally, ‘cause I’ve, I go to my computer and I put in CNN uh, Washington Post, sends me emails, CNN sends me emails, MSNBC sends me emails uh, uh, Salon uh, net, the Nation uh, I try to get a broad spectrum of different sources, but it’s mainly national news. I get very little information except the Gazette on my computer. We don’t take the paper. It’s too expensive. There’s not much in it.

(laughter)

But, uh, I, now she watches channel ten, and four, and six, in Columbus. So, she gets more uh, local news than I do. And, I know more about what's happening in Washington, DC, than I do in Chillicothe.

What do you think, Jerry? You're being quiet down there. (Inaudible).

(laughter)

What's our strategy?

Currently, the uh, it would be really, really good if all the people of southern Ohio had the opportunity to read in the newspaper and on their website, just what is going on at the plant in the clean up now, and the new contractor that is coming in with their ten year contract. And, and specifically the ground water clean up that they're doing is really, really, really extensive right now. It's just amazing the big hole they got dug down there. And, yes, the public uh, would be interested in, in seeing that, because it's all been hush-hush, and the perception of secrecy, okay?

And, who's the bigger contractor? You have the small ones, that you know, that they have somethin' big, they have to get three levels of approval to brag about it. And, then when they do, they get a bigger contractor that brags about somethin' else that don't know anything about what was goin' on. I mean,

So, it get's buried in your bureaucracy.

yes.

The information that you see, that you would like to read locally, gets buried in the (laughter) internal bureaucracy down there at the plant. Believe me. It's, (inaudible) there.

And, they don't let us, I mean, the only reason why we (inaudible) is that we came to this as a public, as a thing. I mean, there's lots of good people down there. There's lots of people uh, feeling, the same thing that people that don't work down there.

Oh,

And, it's like we really are doin' good stuff. I can't say it's all, there aren't mistakes and stuff, but....

So, you mentioned bureaucracy, and that's one of the questions that I want to ask you. If there's all these levels of government that are makin' decisions about the plant. There's the federal government, there's the Ohio EPA, and then the local government like township trustees. Of all those different levels of government, who do you trust the most?

(group laughter)

(Inaudible).

The people you know (inaudible).

You mean the least.

(group laughter)

Yeah, the least.

(Inaudible).

It's all based on....

(Inaudible) the least, then you must have somebody (inaudible).

Well, it's, it's all based on election, it's based on knee-jerk reactions, and when they go to the top management in charge, we're gonna make sure we have jobs. So, then they get those non-essential jobs that don't keep us sustaining, and it's because the short time period that you have to do to make the politicians look good for that time period.

Uh huh.

Is that, I mean, that's, (inaudible).

That's, that's right.

And, you say what's the easiest scope you can do to make the politician look good? And, that's why you got what is....

Regardless of the level? Local, state, or federal - is that what you're sayin'?

Yes.

Yeah. They're just worried about makin' sure that you can put an article in the Gazette that says, "Yeah, we're gonna have this many jobs." If they can do a retirement layoff, and then hire a hundred new, young, employees then they created a hundred new jobs instead of....(laughter)

(Inaudible) that's not....

it's, it's all a game. Okay?

So, they,

(Inaudible)

not all people are gettin' paid, we'll then hire people that don't take as much money, wages? Is that?

Well, yeah. But, then, you know, it's still a good job, so they stay there and, and stuff.

So, the politician wants to keep his job,

They just want....

he's not as concerned about....

they don't care. (Inaudible).

(inaudible) the publics.

The (inaudible) hires.

And, so, it, it becomes a, a who do you trust?

Uh huh.

You asked the question,

I asked the question.

would you like a real, clear, specific example?

(group laughter)

I'd would like your opinions. I really would. I think this whole room's good. I like this. I just don't know

Yeah.

if anyone's gonna come out, I mean.

Who do you trust? Huh?

(Inaudible).

Last spring, you know, our good governor, he showed up down at the plant, and several others, and announced that they was the possibility of building a nu, thermal nuclear generating plant.

And, that was all secretive.

Okay. I mean,

You know, and it's three or four years away. And, they kept it all secret. And, it's like,

And, there's Mr. Obama that promised the steelworkers jobs. Okay? All the way down. Okay? To the, just almost the dog catcher. (laughter) Okay? That promised somebody somethin', okay? Politically. If they would make jobs in southern Ohio. Well, I'll guarantee you they'll never build a thermal nuclear generating plant at that site. It's not feasible.

How do you know that?

The Davis-Bessie plant.

Uh huh.

Up on the lake. I was there when they unloaded the lid for the reactor. I wanted to see it. And, my older brother and I, we drove up there in a forty-nine Studebaker, (laughter) to watch it happen.

What year was that?

It was the biggest lift, okay, that had ever been made. Weight-wise and size-wise. And,

There, there isn't even a proposal. They haven't even said where on the site they would build it.

(inaudible) paper that says something about. They kind of led us to believe

No.

they're considering something like that.

No. No, no, but they won't say where. They won't say where on the site.

(Inaudible) just getting it third, it's, it's (inaudible), they're saying....

Physically, you cannot get the lid to the reactor. The lid for the reactor is 18 inches thick, it's a high nickel steel.

We've been to (inaudible) so we know (inaudible).

Okay? And, so physically, you, you can't get it to the site. It has to be cast in one piece.

Hmm.

That means it's got to come on a barge.

Yeah.

And, the second physical reason why you can't build a plant down there is you do not have a ten thousand acre lake - an enormous body of water, which is your emergency cooling.

It'd be better off on the river then, huh?

It would have to be on the river, and

Yeah, and do a pipe (inaudible).

like, like Three Mile Island. Okay? The reactor core itself, it's actually below the river level (inaudible).

And, I will add to that, that that site was chosen in 1952, when there were no environmental or historic preservation laws.

Yes.

That site is one of the most environmentally and historically sensitive sites in the state of Ohio. It would take 50 years just to get through the regulatory hurdles of getting a nuclear reactor sited on that site.

Yeah.

But, but I'd like to answer your....

(Inaudible) about the trust question.

Yeah.

I'd like to back up,

The trust question. (laughter)

and I'd like to actually shock those of you that do know me uh,

(group laughter)

by saying that I actually trust most the Department of Energy, now. Because, DOE is changing. DOE is turning a new, over a new leaf as its mission changes from production to clean up. Now that DOE is focused on clean up, they are becoming a more responsible agency. However, DOE has a tremendous legacy of mistrust. DOE has lied to this community for 50 years, about what went on at that, that, that plant site. And, DOE is never gonna regain trust, and it's never gonna get in a position of doing good education, where there's a good communication with the community until DOE comes clean about the history. So, DOE has to start by going back and putting together a document that tells what really happened there. Why were workers exposed to beryllium, which DOE has never told even the workers. It's the most contaminated beryllium site in the nation. But, DOE never told the workers why there was beryllium at the site. And, that is not classified. So, and that's just one of a list of (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

So, think about the people in the community, though, not, you know, your neighbors, who don't, maybe, know anything about the plant, do you think they, they have different, do you think they trust their local elected officials?

I think they don't even think about.

They don't think about it?

No.

It's just a place that gives you a job, in the past, and they're hopin' that the future will bring 'em a good job, again.

Let's talk about other organizations that are affiliated, that are non-governmental organizations. And, I'm gonna list a few of them. And, then I'm gonna ask you your opinion. If you, if you feel that you want to share your opinion about the work of each of these groups - and there are four that I've identified, that I'm aware of. That are uh, non-governmental organizations, or (inaudible) governmental organizations. And, one of them is SODI, one of them is the SSAB, one of them is a group called SONG, and then the other group is the Sierra Club. So, have you ever heard of SODI, SSAB, SONG, or the Sierra Club, and if you have....

I was a member of that for a while. Uh, I think they do a lot of good work, and of course, you have to balance the good work they do as to some of the jobs that are needed in the area where they work. And, sometimes, I think, they try to balance that with the (inaudible), because you can't do, (inaudible) to save certain trees or something, but you have to balance that (inaudible) a certain forest just for jobs either.

So, the Sierra Club seems like, how do the other three groups, SODI, SSAB, or SONG - ever heard of those?

(Inaudible) are all biased because (inaudible),

You have heard of them?

Yeah.

Okay. Your opinion is that they're biased?

Well, SSAB, how you get on there is basically through DOE.

Okay. Because, other people don't, I don't think other people have heard of them. Have they?

No.

Maybe, if, if you could share what SSAB is, you know, your knowledge of it, (inaudible).

(Inaudible) uh, the SSAB is a Site Specific Advisory Board that was set up by the Department of Energy. It's supposed to be comprised of uh, I don't know how many board members, but there's, there's, I don't know, 14, 20. They also have like the Ohio EPA, it's on the board, they also have, I think, the Health Department - I haven't been there for a while. I used to go on a monthly basis. But, uh, they have a monthly meeting. I, I think they sort of sometimes don't have it. And, they'd set up a charter, and there's an actual website. I don't know how much documentation is out there for you to view, but every month, you're supposed to be able, and they have two parts of their agenda that has common, public comments. Now, the only thing that I have, you know, I, I, you would probably say the reverse, but I mean, I'm not an employee that works out there, and I think they discriminated against me because I'm a worker out there. And, I'm actually a USEC worker which means they said I'm not actually a contractor that does work for the DOE as part of the clean up. So, really, they make me, I'm not allowed to be on there. But, I'm an actual non-destructive (inaudible) manager, a very pure technical manager, and I'm actually a very vocal person as you can see, I'm here. And, I keep (inaudible), (laughter) I'm doin' it on behalf (inaudible).

You brought, you brought up another acronym and that's USEC.

Uh huh.

And, I, just so you know, there's a lot of acronyms that are out there. And, it's hard to keep track of 'em all, right. And, just to share with you a personal story (inaudible) I went to a training by the federal government a number of months ago. And, I was so bored at the training, so what I ended up doing was just writing all the acronyms, and (inaudible) 12 hours,

I had over a hundred acronyms written down, and I didn't know (inaudible) some of 'em were. So, does anybody know what USEC is?

USEC, no.

Do you know what it is?

United States Enrichment Corporation.

(Inaudible).

(Inaudible).

So,

USEC is the United States Enrichment Corporation.

Yeah, we, we used to be DOE owned, and then in 1995 we privatized, and they actually, we became the United States Enrichment Corporation. And, then we have, we have done work out there, but

(Inaudible).

we've always said that was the government services site, and a lot of comments that get made against us that we're the works program. But, I didn't say that. But, you know, because you have the indecision of whether you'd start up again, or not start up. You know, meaning create gaseous diffusion process. Producing (inaudible). And, of course, when they made the decision of, to shut down Piketon, as opposed to the Paducah, that was a real political decision, and not a very technically smart decision, because they had to spend a whole lot of money to get the Paducah plant up to do what were doing.

(laughter)

So, meanwhile, we've been (inaudible) for how many years? Ten years?

(laughter) Ten years.

(Inaudible).

I'm keepin' track, we have like ten minutes left.

That's fine.

Circle us back around. So, no one, a couple of people have heard of SODI in this area, but no one else has heard....

Is that the Southern Ohio Development Initiative?

Diversifi....

I would like to say, it, it is. Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative. SODI claims to be the "community reuse organization for the site." They claim to represent the community. Not only have you folks never heard of SODI, but the people of Pike County have never heard, yeah, (inaudible). Also DOE, almost, I should say almost all, 95%. SODI has also been part of the two consortiums that have proposed a nuclear reprocessing plant, a nuclear waste storage facility, and the nuclear reactor. They claim to be a community group. They're actually part of the contractor community. They have gotten millions of dollars from DOE. It is entirely a conflict of interest. We believe it's illegal. And, SODI needs to be challenged. They do no community work whatsoever. And, they do not represent this community.

Well said.

So, that's an opinion about SODI. And, a lot of people haven't heard about it, so that's one of the few things we wanted to find out was if you even heard of the group and, and what your opinions were. What about SONG? Have you heard of a group called SONG? (Inaudible).

(Inaudible).

(laughter)

S-O-N-G.

S-O-N-G, Song.

(Inaudible).

If you hum a few bars I'll try and (inaudible).

(laughter)

Okay. I know that you've heard of it. So,

I'll recuse myself.

Okay. It'll take just a second to say what SONG is.

SONG is,

The acronym maybe.

SONG is Southern Ohio Neighbors Group, which might ring a bell with some of you. It's the group that I'm affiliated with, and we took out the petition against the uh, nuclear waste dumping scheme.

Thank you.

Yeah.

Well,

That's the one (inaudible) do.

from out standpoint,

You know, a place to dump something down there, you know.

Pike County (inaudible).

You're a little extreme because it sort of hurts us, I think, in the little way.

But, that's okay. That's part of the check and balance.

It's a check and balance. It's a check and balance.

There's a lot of good men worked hard so you had that right to do, and I'm darn glad that you do it.

And, I, and I will say, my history comes from I worked for the (inaudible) union at the site. So, my own history comes from working with the workers at the site.

I'm awfully glad that you've done your work. From a worker's standpoint (inaudible) management.

I, well, don't get me wrong, I'm, you know, (inaudible).

Let's circle back just a couple more questions, specifically, about, specifically about the plant. Uh, do you know what work is being done at the plant, and who's doing it? I know you do, but other people that...

Cleanin' in up.

cleanin' it up.

Other (inaudible) had a, had a contract down there, 'cause I have a friend that is a mechanical engineer that worked for (inaudible) Marietta. That's been several years ago. But, I didn't know (inaudible) upset me, he ordered parts for (inaudible) parts to fix things that are like pipes and whatever they have down there to fix, you know.

I think all they're doing now is clean up, isn't it?

(Inaudible).

Don and Barb, do you know what work is being done, and who's doing it?

No.

(Inaudible) and, and (inaudible).

Right. It should have been cleaned up by then.

I think (inaudible).

You're thinkin' (inaudible)?

Yes.

And, (inaudible), and I left uh, in ninety-six and came (inaudible). That was my biggest complaint down there. Money was good, the work wasn't hard uh, they didn't harass you too much, but it was just the idea that they wasn't protecting their workers.

And, that was, when did you leave the plant?

Ninety-six.

Okay. Uh, anybody else, here, have a personal connection to the plant? We know that you guys have personal connections, and we talked for a minute before we started. So, if you want to share, this again, you don't have to share. But, if you have a personal connection to the plant - family or friends who work there currently? No?

I have a nephew working there.

Uh huh.

He's been there 30 years.

Yeah, I've got a second cousin working there. I, I have no idea what he does. He's been there forever, but (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

You know my dad. I'm John Ward's daughter.

Who?

John Ward's daughter.

Oh, okay.

Okay. So, overall, how important do you think the plant is to the priorities of the region?

A lot of good jobs and a lot of good money. I came from a junkyard, no education, nothin'. I bought me a farm, raised two kids, put 'em both through college. Got masters degrees.

Yeah.

Without that plant down there, I'd still be workin' in the junkyard or a sawmill somewhere fixin' diesel trucks, diesel (inaudible).

(Inaudible). (laughter)

The, the reason we have route 23 for, for uh, (inaudible) is because of the atomic plant, you know. That, it helped (inaudible) on route 32 as well. Uh, so it had an impact on our transportation, in terms of highways (inaudible).

Well, I feel that (inaudible) would be a ghost town today if it wasn't for the plant.

Yeah.

It is a ghost town.

It is a ghost town. (laughter)

(Inaudible).

Yeah.

(Inaudible) thirty-percent. But, (inaudible).

Oh, God, yes.

But, like I say, it does look like a ghost town compared to then (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

Yeah, (inaudible).

You know, I'm really, now important is the plant to the economy down there? You know, I've been there a while, and maybe or maybe not know what I'm doin', but I'm reasonably well paid, okay?

(laughter)

(laughter) Whether or not I earn it is another question.

That's important.

But, at any rate, uh, maybe the average wage in Pike County, Scioto County, somewhere around 15 dollars an hour, does that sound reasonable?

Probably a little high.

Yeah. I'd say it's high.

Alright. The ave, what is the average uh, hourly uh, job at the A-plant? Somewhere around 25. Okay? I'm, I'm a big above that.

Yeah.

And, you're three times that, I know. (laughter)

(group laughter)

At any rate, it's really, really been an important....

Well, remember, management gets cut real soon, you know, (inaudible).

At any rate, it's been really, really important, okay, to uh, Scioto and Pike County, Highland County, Vinton County, Jackson County. We've still got uh, fellas that drive from Ironton everyday, and from across the river.

Uh huh.

That other place or whatever.

Yeah. All over the place.

But, at any rate, it's really, really been important, economically. Like I say, without it, you know, I'd be at the very best a, a 15 dollar and hour worker and I may or may not have been able to put my kids in, in school.

Uh huh.

And, the plant has never had a major layoff has it?

Huh uh.

I don't ever remember one.

Uh, a couple of, a couple of 'em (inaudible).

(Inaudible) four. Major layoffs?

Yeah.

Ninety-four.

Ninety-six.

(laughter)

(Inaudible) very first one was (inaudible).

(Inaudible) around (inaudible).

Employees on their shoulder and said, "By the way, we're gonna escort you out, because we don't trust you any longer."

Uh huh.

Uh huh.

It was really bad.

(Inaudible). (laughter) If they don't trust ya.

Well, that's (inaudible).

Alright. So, we have five minutes, and I just want to ex, explain to you the rest of the project so that you know what's happening, and then to offer you opportunities to engage further with what we're doing. So, we spent uh, time in, I had spend the summer talking to people who have some history with the plant, just to get some ideas what we should be asking about. And, now we're doing these focus groups, and what we're really trying to do with the focus groups is reach people that aren't necessarily engaged with the plant. Okay? They sort of know what's goin' on, but they're not (inaudible), but we want to get opinions from people that aren't attending meetings - the public. That's who we're trying to talk with. So, we're doin' this focus group tonight, and then we're doin' another focus group tomorrow in Waverly, and then we're doing one more in Jackson, next week. And, all this information, Connie and I are compiling and, and we're writing a public opinion poll or public survey. And, we're gonna be doing telephone survey, which there's lots of problems with that now because people use cell phones so much. But, we're still gonna try and do this on the phone. And, we hope to get a measure of what the public feels, what they believe, what they're afraid of, what they think is important. So, all these things, we're gonna be, we're gonna be asking the public in this random poll uh, in the fall. So, as we get all this information gathered, come January, we're gonna be asking people to volunteer to be on community visioning teams, and we hope to have six or eight different teams assembled, and the teams will meet, they'll, they'll have a big kick off event where we dump all the information that we've gathered, and we're also doin' research and gathering information from other places as well, and then we're gonna, we're gonna ask you to work in these teams to come up with a vision for the facility, and how it might fit in with the region. We have no preconceived ideas. You know the region better than we do. We're just here to help facilitate the discussion. That's what we're doing, and to organize it, and do all the (inaudible). So, that's where we're headin' with the project. And, it's gonna be ongoing for some time. So, I would encourage you to stay, you know, if you, if you, we have a website if you'd like to uh, be contacted. You know, let us know. You have our contact information, now. And, then when the fall comes for (inaudible) a visioning team, if you want to participate in one of those - let us know. We'd be glad to have you on a team.

What's your website?

What's that?

What's your website?

Oh, it is Portsfuture, all one word, dot com. I should have brought pens. Make a note of that too, for tomorrow. I've got pens with the, the website on it, right?

What was that first word?

Ports. P-O-R-T-S-future. One word.

With an S on it?

Uh huh.

That word.

And, then (inaudible) has some housekeeping for us uh, for tonight, to, to close up.

(Inaudible) participation, we have uh, (inaudible) cards, that we'd like to give to you.

Can I say anything, or just add a note. There is a sign up sheet, we have (inaudible). That's all, that's all I need from (inaudible).

You need them to sign?

Yeah, (inaudible) sign it and....

(Inaudible). Did I read this in the Gazette, or? Are they planning on a (inaudible) building, of uh, doing something about uh, spent rods or good?

Not any more.

Not any more?

Four, four years ago. And, that's probably when I heard about that, and I thought, "Well, maybe there's been," no.

It's good to meet somebody that works down there, 'cause as a citizen in this area, we just don't have much contact with anyone. We don't know what you do. We uh, it's nice see a real person from there,

(laughter)

or you know, get some, get some information (inaudible).

Well, we heard about the spent rods from the site.

Yeah.

We didn't even know about....

We appreciate your comments.

Yeah.

I, I...

We heard from whistleblowers.

Yeah.

Workers coming to us reporting what information was being kept secret at the site.

Uh huh.

As, you (inaudible).

There seems to be a lack of sharing of information. You don't know what decisions have been made, you know? It's kind of weird to me that the developing, what we're doing here is, we don't know what they decided to do down there in terms of what they're gonna, what they want there or, or what's feasible to have there, once they make that decision. And, then you'd have something to relate, to interact with. Right now, everything seems to be up in the air.

Yeah.

You know? And, uh....

That is a direct, that is, as it was pointed out earlier, here, by my coworker, that is a direct fault of the management of the plant down there. Okay? And, the internal,

Okay.

the internal bureaucracy that, that, that goes on, okay,

It's been there for years. It's been like that for years and years. Years and years.

(Inaudible) corporation? They're afraid to say somethin' 'cause someone might get the information and use it against 'em?

I'm what you consider a first line manager. Oh, I'm not allowed to talk.

That's fine. That's fine.

So, I think they feel (inaudible).

(Inaudible) bureaucracy.

Oh, I, when, when they did the SSAB in (inaudible), oh! I actually went to the person that was tapin' it and I said, "I didn't say I worked, you (inaudible)." 'Cause, I was doin' (inaudible) on behalf of bein' a chemist.

Yeah.

APPENDIX 6B
FOCUS GROUP TRANSCRIPTS: PIKE COUNTY

Appendix 6b

Pike County Focus Group Transcript

*(Some sections are blacked out to ensure confidentiality of participants
in accordance with Ohio University Institutional Review Board protocol)*

10 participants: 3 women, 7 men

....us to call on you, just, if you have something to say uh, don't understand the question, please let me know. And, the big thing is, we're here, really, to listen and ask questions. So, and we'd like everybody to have a chance to share. If it looks like we get stuck on a topic, I might interrupt you and, and if you're not saying much, I may call on you directly. So, teachers here know, you know, if people aren't saying much,

(laughter)

you're gonna be called on to respond, right? It's really important that we get everyone's perspective and opinion. We're gonna ask you all to keep each other's identities, participation, and remarks private. And, we hope you'll feel free to speak openly and honestly. And, that's why we're gonna go around, in just a second, and you can introduce yourself. We're gonna, everything that's said in here today, we're gonna analyze as a group. So, we're not gonna say, "(Inaudible) said, 'da, da, da, da, da.'" It's going to be participant number, so anything you say is not gonna be tagged with your uh, identity. And, so what I want to do, now, is just go around the room real quickly, and just ask you, we have these names things now, but just to say your first name - we don't need your last name - uh, how long you've lived, what county you've live in, how long you've lived in the area, and then anything else you'd like to share with the group - just so we can get to know a little bit about where you're comin' from. So, do you want to start, Rick?

Yeah. My name is Rick, and I've been here 35 years.

And, do you live in Pike County?

Pike County.

Alright. Very good.

Okay. My name's Matt, I've lived here for, I think, 43 years. In Pike County.

Pike.

I'm Henry from Pike County. I've been here since 1949.

Okay. Oh, how many years?

(group laughter)

A lot of time, right? Alright.

Uh, I'm (inaudible), I've been here right around 14 years, and I live in Pike County.

Okay.

I'm Melissa (inaudible), I've lived here, also, for 14 years, but I've been coming up here for about 40 years, all, all my life. My grandmother (inaudible).

My name's Jack. I've lived here since 1996, in Pike County.

Okay.

I'm Andrea. I'm from Ross County. I've been here, I've been in Ross County for 43 years.

Eileen from Pike County; I've lived here 50 years.

Uh, Keith uh, I've been here approximately ten years. (Inaudible).

Okay.

Gene, Pike County. And, (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

Graduated from here.

Alright. So, we're gonna start with some general questions about uh, community priorities. I see you're taking notes - if anybody wants copies of the discussion guide, I'm happy to give those to you. We have (inaudible); we can get you a copy electronically. To know what we talked about. So, first of all, I want to ask a few questions about the community, the four county region in general, and the first question I have is what do you think, if, if you're lookin' at Pike, Scioto, Jackson, and Ross, what is the most important issue facing this area?

Jobs.

Yeah.

Okay. Let's talk about jobs.

Jobs. All over. (laughter)

Yeah. The whole country, really, but yeah, especially an issue here.

Factory jobs.

Yeah.

Skilled, skilled (inaudible).

We're, we're losing a lot of jobs?

Uh huh.

Employment is, and I don't know what the employment rate is, but I bet it's way low than the rest of the state. I drive route 32 a lot, and I see all these service trucks coming from Cincinnati, and you know where they're going. And, I'm comin' from Pike County to work at the A-plant; they're coming (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

(Inaudible) let's say well paying jobs.

Uh huh.

Alright. Any other issues that come to mind besides jobs? Important.

Stagnant economy.

Okay.

Part of it's driven my limited natural resources, too.

Okay. Can you expand on that a little bit, (inaudible)?

We don't have any mineral resources in this area of Pike County.

Okay.

(Inaudible) County, Adams County, other than aggregate stone for, you know, concrete, that are, that are worth mining. So, that's, that's a, something that other states, other parts of the state got coal and other resources that make up part of the economy, and we don't.

Okay.

And, so, our, our biggest asset in this county, in that respect, is probably lumber, which is being cut at a pretty good rate.

(Inaudible) timber when it's, when it's going on, it seems like that it's (inaudible) and uh, I just wonder what the state on uh, (inaudible).

So, resource extraction and, specifically, (inaudible).

Right. Right. And, as he said, we are running (inaudible) because of that, we uh, we (inaudible) is uh, (inaudible).

Uh huh. And, that kind of leads into the next question that I have is in thinking about your community, and thinking about your neighbors and people that you talk to on a daily basis, do you think that your neighbors in this community value environmental protection and economic development equally? Or, do you think that one is more important than the other? Environmental protection and economic development?

Economic development.

You think it's more important?

Absolutely. Yeah.

Okay.

Yeah. I agree.

Judging by the amount of litter that's on our road, it's, you got people, they don't care for the environment. They, they take it for granted.

Okay.

Yeah.

I didn't even (inaudible) by the lack of jobs. A lot of people, you know, can't, can't see beyond just wanting jobs. And, maybe, don't think about the environment uh, (inaudible) just needing employment.

In that respect, it's uh, kind of like (inaudible) understanding, it's kind of a catch-22. You're sacrificing one for the other, and in other words, it's longevity or right now, you know? And, people want it right now, you know. (laughter) And, that is economically and uh, you know, with those issues there. But, uh, yeah, speaking of the A-plant, I, I've run into this too, people

that are uh, you know, physically affected by some of the effects of, you know, what went on working at the A-plant.

So, is that?

Radiation (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

So, probably a health concern?

Oh, yeah. We've run into some of that.

Okay. (Inaudible), how about you? How about your neighbors? What do you think? Environmental protection, economic development - are they equal or?

Probably more toward economic than protection of the land.

Okay. Uh, there's a lot of solutions being talked about, a lot opinions uh, being talked about when it comes to alternative energy solutions. And, some of these are things, like you hear people talking about nuclear power, you hear people talking about natural gas, you hear people talking about wind and solar; and I wonder what your opinions are on some of these different alternatives that are being talked about - nuclear, natural gas, wind, and solar? What are your opinions on those options?

I'd like to see more uh, more wind and solar. I think it's a good thing. It's clean. It's good for everyone. And, it's not as uh, well, it's not as (inaudible) as a uh, as far as nuclear's concerned, where you turn it on, it stays on. I mean, solar and uh, wind - not as consistent as far as production. I think it can be very important and along with that, I think it's also important (inaudible) efficiency. I mean, one way that you cut back on the uh, power that you actually use is to increase the efficiency with insulation, better windows, and things like that. And, it's, it's, it's all important. Every little bit that you can do is gonna help.

So, another option that I didn't even mention is conservation, is what you're, does that, does that sound fair?

(Inaudible).

Yeah.

What about other people's thoughts on nuclear, natural gas, or?

I don't like nuclear being used. I like to see nuclear uh, electric power plant built down here at the A-plant site.

And, what benefits or risks do you think? Why, why are you?

I just think it's, it's the best to use right now.

On the plant site?

Uh huh.

Okay.

Yeah, and....

And, we're not concerned about nuclear.

yeah, we're burnin' way too much coal, puttin' way too much CO₂ in the air. I mean, look how hot it is right now. First day of summer, or fall, and it's 93 degrees outside. And, I, my other thing I do, on the natural stuff, I study, you know, I look at nature and look at what, this, this year we had an extremely early spring. Uh, we had plants and animals coming out of, you know, coming out in, way out, two/three weeks early, this year. (Inaudible) cicadas were out in June, they usually don't come out until July fourth. You know, there's, just everything was early this year. And, it's, it's, you know, things are gettin' warmer slowly, and uh, of course, you know, carbon dioxide's a big part of that. And, every pound of coal we burn puts more CO₂ in the air. So, nuclear, right now (inaudible) what we can do is the best alternative to satisfy people's energy needs, and try to do something to back off on CO₂ emissions, try to save our, save the atmosphere, 'cause (inaudible) as, as fast as we're puttin' CO₂ out in the air, we're cuttin' down rainforests, we're cuttin' down our forests, we're movin' the largest things on this plant to take CO₂ out of the air, trees; and we're usin' faster than that. So, it's, it's a vicious cycle. And, we got to do somethin'. Now, and this country has built a nuclear power plant in what? Forty year? Nuclear power plant? I think it's 40 years. And, and, other countries, Japan uh, they, you know, they're pretty much all nuclear now, uh, France is at 80% nuclear, and they got all very well designed little plants, and if you need more power, you can build two of 'em, you know. You don't, and in America, ours, we don't have a standardized design for nuclear power. But, we need to stop and look at that and get that goin'.

So, other thoughts? Let's stay on nuclear for a minute. Other thoughts on nuclear?

Well, there again, I'm sure you've gotten the fliers in, of course, on the other side, (inaudible) lobbyists, they're coming in, "Well, you know, oil, petroleum, stuff like that, you're gonna cut down thousands of jobs." And, so you know, they're comin' from that point. And, there again, you know, he's comin' from the point of, "Well, you know, looking at, you know, our posterity, (inaudible) the ones that follow after us, you know, what are we leavin' for them?" So, I mean, the, the government pretty much does that, you know, what they're gonna fix now, and not being considerate of, you know, our children, our grandchildren, or (inaudible) like that. So, you

know, kind of an in between there. You know, the thing right now and that, and I'm all for, you know, (inaudible) energy, (inaudible) about that, and for environment uh, you know, (inaudible) environment and then how it's gonna affect our children and our grandchildren.

Yeah.

You know, worry about that. Other people, (inaudible), you know, right now is the economy and that situation. So,

Okay.

I just (inaudible).

I think there's a happy medium there.

Okay. What do you (inaudible)?

No, that's alright.

I, I think nuclear power is kind of scary. I mean, it produces a waste that they don't really know what to do with. They try to store it and it's still dangerous. It uh, if they have an accident, you can destroy counties, states, regions. I mean, it, it has its definite drawbacks. I mean, you know, sure, it, it produces this great CO2 free, well, it's not even CO2 free. It takes a lot of CO2 to produce all, all (inaudible) production. Anyway, it, it has its intrinsic problems. And, I feel if we're going to solve those problems, I think they're gonna need to be real careful with what they do and how they deal with it.

Uh huh.

Go ahead.

I'm uh, uh huh. I'm just concerned no matter how safe you think something is, there's always a chance of some kind of (inaudible) accident. Uh, be it, you know, the technology or human. And, with nuclear, something, if something does go wrong, you know, it just can have such a devastating effect that, you know, it's very concerning to me living in this area, (inaudible) in this area. Wanting my family, my children to be able to stay here. Uh, (inaudible) future. Uh, it's, it's very frightening to me to think of having this (inaudible).

Uh, this is called Portsfuture, right?

Uh huh.

How can we plan the future of somethin' if we don't know anything about it? I mean, the A-plant is such a secretive place. You hear that there's, you hear all kinds of rumors. There's a whole (inaudible) buried out there 'cause it was too radioactive to (inaudible).

(laughter)

You hear about two-headed frogs, you hear all these stories. You can drive by and hear sirens goin' off that are just like unbelievable. (Inaudible), and my daughter, here, you know, is the place gonna blow up? There's no education for the regular public people. I mean, and we're not all regular, but you know, some people don't care. I care, and I'd like to know what's goin' on there before I can plan the future of a place. Maybe there's no future. I mean, what is in there that's not uh, accessible? What is too hot that you have to be protected even to be around it? On one hand, you hear uh, it's gonna take ten years to tear this thing out. And, now we hear that they're gotta (inaudible), they're gonna be buildin' something there. They need to educate people. And, I think us, in this room, need to have more information of what's goin' on there, now, in order to be able to plan a future for it.

So, that's a really good point. That brings me, kind of leads into one of the things we want to talk about tonight, was communication and information. And, in thinking about the A-plant uh, what, what's the most important source of information, in general, about the plant?

There is an administrative record, DOE public library is located at the (inaudible), and I'm not sure what the hours of operation are everyday, but you could, I'm sure, call, and (inaudible) and get in touch with someone who's at that facility.

So, people need to go the facility and look at the records?

It has records of the plant from start to today. Or, whenever the latest document was published there.

I will say, I will say this, at, at one time, they did take people in there to give 'em tours. Educators. (Inaudible) and I have both been through there as educators to show us what they were doing and how the process worked, and understand what's goin' on. But since nine-eleven, they don't let anybody in there.

Uh huh. Do you want to add something (inaudible)?

(Inaudible) one more point is uh, the thing, on the positive side, with the nuclear energy, is, and I'm talkin' globally and politically, and of course, the way we're going globally, is that with nuclear energy, it would give us the independence to not depend on the foreign oil and that type of thing, 'cause, let's face it, there sacrificin' lives for oil. And, that's not good.

Okay. Thanks.

So, it would give us independence, you know, to not depend on, on....

It, it, well, it's a technology that we have at our disposable now, until we develop better wind power and better solar, yeah. They say if you cover half, about a quarter of Arizona with solar panels, you could supply the whole country.

Yeah.

It cost a lot to do that.

Let's go back to the A-plant for a minute and, and thinking about some, if somebody from outside the region, you know, that hasn't lived here as long as you all have, asked you about the A-plant, how would you describe it?

(laughter)

Well, when I moved to southern Ohio, I went to the library, got an Ohio Almanac. I wanted to live where there was the least population. I wanted to live where there was no strip mines, meaning coal. And, it didn't tell me about limestone. I wanted to live where there weren't many gas wells for pollution. But, I couldn't figure out why 70 percent of the people worked for the government. They don't tell you that in the almanac. Anyways, we chose to come down here, and here 70 percent of the people worked at the A-plant. Didn't say anything about nuclear or anything like that. Or, you know, you're driving around some of the road around the A-plant, and they have these air circulation filters that collects the air constantly to, I don't know if it's, if it's gonna tell you there's a leak, it's gonna be a little bit late. You know, I don't know what they, what those things are for. You can find them all around. I don't know if you've ever seen 'em.

Yeah.

They're fan run, and they constantly monitor the air. Uh, you know, again, I don't know what to tell people.

Yeah.

They tell us not to talk about it (inaudible).

Oh, so you're an employee there?

Twenty-eight years.

(Inaudible) 54?

But, they tell you not to talk about 'em.

Uh huh.

Outside. (Inaudible).

Another fact is that most people don't realize that that's the only source, in this country, of power plant fuel. And, in the past, all the fuel for our nuclear navy. And, it's a very, very strategic target. And, that's the Air Force Bases, one at Blackburn and one at Wright Patterson, they're set here to watch that.

If you have a leak down there, you're supposed (inaudible).

Yeah.

Well, I'll urge everyone in the room to go visit the DOE public library. And, if you have any questions, that's the Department of Energy - their phone number is in the Pike County phone book. Call them up, and they'll put you in touch with somebody that should answer your questions.

So, that's,

(Inaudible).

go ahead.

I guess, I'm more concerned about what's going on in the future than the history. I know some about the history. Uh, it's great (inaudible) resources there, but uh, I'd like to, you know, focus on what's happening now and what's gonna happen in the future. And, I'm not sure how (inaudible). So, then we were talking about (inaudible) uh, knowledge or communication (inaudible) community, I don't know that, you know, a lot of people have the time or the energy (inaudible) seek that out. I just, I wish there was a lot better communication and education of the public. You know, if you could find a way to draw people out, because some people just really have no idea what's going on. Like, when I found out and try to talk to people, you know, about my concerns about what's happening, you know, the (inaudible) response I get is, "Well, I'm not really sure. I just know that we're gonna get jobs (inaudible) jobs." And, it's like, well, you know, what about actually trying to weigh benefits verses risks? I mean, is this something that's really worth jobs to us? Uh, you know? And, and it doesn't seem like there's really a lot of uh, understanding or a lot of knowledge about (inaudible).

Thank you, Melissa. How, you brought up the, there seems to be a theme about communication. You brought up DOE, and there's a lot of different players in government levels that are workin' at the plant or has some sort of decision making to pass through the plant. There's federal government, there's state government, and local government. Melissa,

who would you trust the most? Like, I used to be a waitress. I'll wait for you to get something in your mouth and then ask you a question.

(group laughter)

So, who would you trust the most, or who do you trust the most to give you information about the plant? Federal government? State government? The federal government, like the DOE, state government like the Ohio EPA, or the (inaudible)?

Probably the EPA. I would, I would probably feel more comfortable with the EPA than, you know, the DOE.

You could also find contacts for this, the region five of the Ohio U.S, or I'm sorry, the Ohio EPA, it has jurisdiction over the plant site. And, you can get contact information for them at the DOE public library also.

Uh huh.

And, they're all quarterly public meetings, that I would urge everyone to attend. Just to go and ask your questions and get some answers for yourself.

I think some (inaudible) are important too. Uh, you know, as far as trying to (inaudible) things, or have, you know, some sort of uh, a watchdog that's not involved in the government.

And, they also have a citizen's advisory board set up for (inaudible).

So, yeah, I want to ask some questions about citizen groups, but in just a second. But, I want to stay on the levels of government for just a minute. So, Jack, Jack (inaudible)?

I would, the trust issue - I don't trust you guys.

Oh, you don't?

You're gonna give me a 30 dollar Wal-Mart card? What, what are your folk's interest in this and what are you gettin'? 'Cause, you're not the only group doin' this. There's other meetings, there's other groups. Wantin' to plan for it's future or whatever they're called. There are many of 'em out there. I've seen the ads for 'em. But, what's your interest and how are you funded?

So, we're on, we have a grant from the (inaudible) to do this.

Funding, okay.

Yes. So, we're independent researchers, and our whole mission is to facilitate a discussion. We don't have a stake in the region like everybody in this room does. And, that's being totally

up front with you. We're social scientists is what we are, and we're skilled in trying to create public dialogue. And, that's pretty much it. But, (inaudible).

Never trust a social scientist.

Yeah.

(group laughter)

Okay. That's pretty, that's the best explanation.

So, you're an impartial third party?

That's what we're trying to be is an impartial third party. Okay? That's what we're trying to be.

I'd feel better if you weren't named after George.

George?

Oh,

Uh huh.

(laughter) okay. Uh, George Voinovich is where, where, (inaudible) went to school, so he's an Ohio University alumni. So, that's (inaudible).

So, I guess, politics, you know uh, this information uh, you know, what are you going to do with it? Who gets it? (Inaudible).

Uh huh. I can, I can talk about that now. So, we get a, 'cause that's somethin' I talk about at the end, but we're, we're, this situation tonight, we're writing a public opinion poll, and then we're gonna do a survey of people in just the four counties. So, what you're gonna have on the other side of that is quantifiable information about what the public thinks, believes, knows, about that plant from somebody that does, you know, from a research organization that's not affiliated. So, it should be, if we're doin' our jobs right, it should be a (inaudible), unbiased uh, data that you all can use in your work, or whoever can use, you know, public data.

Who, who'll get it? In other words, (inaudible), why you think it might make a difference?

So, that after we get the public opinion poll, we're, we're gonna (inaudible) someone in January, a bunch of community visioning teams, this is my spiel at the end, but I'll put it out there, and, and these teams, we're lookin' at gettin' six to eight teams together, that we'll do

logistics and help facilitate, to get all this information that we gather now, and then to come up with alternative ideas for the future of the (inaudible).

So, is this kind of like a report card for the DOE? How good a neighbor they've been? How, how, how

It could be.

good of information they've provided? Where they need to improve?

So, we're, we're not speculating on what could come out of, but these are some things, issues that have been raised already. So, this issue of communication and trust. And, so I, I haven't heard anybody advocating trust for the federal government. Does anybody have? You want to speak up for trust for the federal government? (Inaudible).

I read a lot, a lot of the product from the plant was for the military, and the military is (inaudible) secret, especially during the Cold War. There's probably a lot of stuff there that the people don't, you know, they weren't forthcoming with as far as information. And, and people don't know how, you know, trust wise, 'cause military is very good about hushing things up. You know, what's for national defense and that was that. That was an excuse for whatever they wanted to do. So, I think, I think there's probably some of that in there.

Okay.

Yeah, that's part of that.

I'll vote for the Ohio EPA.

Ohio EPA. Alright.

If I'm gonna trust anybody.

I feel they would have our best interests at heart.

How about your local officials? Like your township trustees, or county commissioner, or?

We don't know how much information they get.

(laughter) Yeah.

Yeah, they may not get anymore than we get, right?

Yeah.

I don't think they get much more than we do.

That's what Dale Reed said recently. He says, they think like with (inaudible), they're givin' us information, (inaudible) information, we're gettin' it out there. So, yeah, I think local.

I, I've been told that by the (inaudible) that they really don't know what's going on. It's all (inaudible), they don't have any, any say in that.

Okay.

Well, you bein' a social scientist, you probably know that when somebody tells you everything's okay, you know it's not okay. 'Cause, you can go down 23 and all a lot of these highways and there's big billboards that you USEC puts up, tellin' how much they're doin' for the community, and how everything's okay. And, they're probably lyin'.

Okay.

Now, there are four projects goin' on down there at the same time.

Right.

I believe.

I mean, big ones.

Uh huh.

That was one of the questions I wanted to ask was - do you know what's being done at the plant, and who's doing it?

No.

No.

Yes.

Who's doing it?

Yes.

Sort of.

Well, we, every once in a while there'll be something in the newspaper about

You got a contract (inaudible).

one of the contractors, and one of these, these different projects.

(Inaudible).

If you (inaudible) all that, you would get that, a good idea I think.

But, you got Duke Energy, and (inaudible), that French company uh, they've got the decommissioning of the, uh, the (inaudible) diffusion. They have USEC's centrifuge program, they have a ground water analysis and abatement to get that trichloroethylene that's percolated down, out. Now, those are the four big ones that I have some idea about. Now, is there anything else?

Yeah. The (inaudible) plant. It's converting all the cylinders of the (inaudible).

Oh, that's the one that just got funded?

Right.

US (inaudible), and....

USEC.

Yeah.

So....

Probably one of the biggest employers out there is the, the security.

Yeah.

There are a lot of security. You don't know anything about it either.

Since nine-eleven, they had to do that for sure.

So, it sounds like everybody in this room follows news about the plant pretty closely.

No.

No! You don't?

I don't get the paper.

You don't get a paper? Okay.

You could buy, you could buy our paper (inaudible).

(laughter)

Why would I want (inaudible).

(laughter)

I do have (inaudible) about it.

(Inaudible).

Okay.

I don't, (inaudible), I guess the real big question is, well, they promised the grants, the things were planned, the Obama, the thing, okay? They were promised all that, and it hasn't been happening. So, I guess that's a, probably a big, (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

Yeah. (Inaudible), why haven't they got the grant. They put it out in what? Idaho, and this type of thing, and there's still one left, and we're the only one it for it. So, why haven't they got?

That's USEC's loan guarantee - is that what you're talkin' about?

Yeah.

Same problem as the people down there. (Inaudible).

For the centrifuge plant, right?

I think it's for the centrifuge plant.

(Inaudible) money (inaudible).

I mean, I, that's a big concern to be questioned and, you know, basically, (inaudible). (laughter)
So, you know, (inaudible).

Are you sure he promised it? Because, my understanding is more local officials that actually promised it.

No, he wrote a letter.

No, he did. I was there.

(Inaudible) as a candidate - wrote a letter.

Are you sure Obama?

Yes, yes. I've seen the letter.

Obama did it. I was there.

It was in the paper actually.

Yeah.

(Inaudible).

I think everybody in the room (inaudible).

(Inaudible) I understand (inaudible).

(Inaudible) three months before they, they chop us off.

(Inaudible) politics work.

Okay. So, we're having a couple different conversations goin' on. It's gonna be hard for us to record it. So, I want to bring everybody back

(laughter)

and go back to the issue of uh, communication. And, Melissa brought up some of the groups, there's other groups that are involved in uh, things that are goin' on at the plant. And, I'm wondering if you've ever heard of SODI, SSAB, SONG, or the Sierra Club? And, what your opinion is of the work of these groups? So, I've got SODI, SSAB, SONG, and Sierra Club. What have you, what have you heard about them?

Now, those are the folks that show up at Old Navy.

Have you ever heard of SODI?

Yeah.

Yes.

Uh huh.

You've heard of SODI.

Yeah.

So, what's your opinion of their work? You have never....

What's SODI mean?

Can somebody help Jack?

Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative.

So Brian, what's your opinion on SODI? Can you share it?

I don't like 'em. I don't trust them. I think that they uh, they don't have the actual community in mind. They're, they're a private corporation. And, they're, they're fueled by profit. And, uh, the profit goes in their pockets, and I don't believe they uh, they, you know, they actually care what happens to the community. They, you know, they're trying to provide jobs and other things like that. But, they, I just don't believe that they uh, they have the, the (inaudible) in their best interest. It seems that (inaudible) several projects like (inaudible) nuclear fuel, storage, and things of that sort. Uh, (inaudible) uh, which is, which has also dealt with like processing spent fuel rods uh, and other things. Always another crazy project. And, they seem to be kind of (inaudible) and all their money comes from grants from the Department of Energy. So, everything they do, basically, is for the Department of Energy. They, it's, you know, they're, to me, I think they're like little (inaudible) for the DOE, although they indirectly (inaudible) DOE, but (inaudible).

Andrea, you haven't said anything. Do you have somethin' you want to share about SODI or SONG, or SSAB, or the Sierra Club?

Uh, SODI, I just know that they developed or, I mean, they were created to uh, to develop the area. But, I don't know what they've done. I don't know what their accomplishments have been. And, it's not published. I don't see it anywhere.

Okay.

And, I know, you know, I think, you know, of course, Pike County needs more things. Because, I have a 19 year old, a 25 year old - they tell me they're leavin'. You know? I'm, I'm worried about that. They're not stayin' around here. As soon as uh, my youngest one gets out of (inaudible), you know, he's, he's lookin' to go out of the state. And, he's talkin' about, you know, doin' (inaudible) all the youngsters talk (inaudible). You know, my, my uh, 25 year old's been unemployed for a year, you know, there's nothin' here but the A-plant. So, I hear all these, do

these other great things, well, solar, I can't even afford to buy a solar panel. I would love to, in my pond, put a solar pump. Well, they're expensive. (laughter) Uh, nuclear, I feel it, it's clean. Uh, I, I feel that's the, the, the abundance of, of, of energy. Coal, we say we don't want coal, what's gonna happen to Jackson County when, when the steam plant, you know, stops, stops runnin' at the A-plant. What's gonna happen to uh, Oak Hill? What's gonna happen to (inaudible). You know, I don't even know if Jackson even has a, a uh, a, you know, are they represented? Or, are we carin' about Jackson County?

We're goin' to Jackson next week.

Oh, okay. Well, that's good, 'cause, you know, what we do in Piketon will affect all the surrounding counties. And, I guess, my biggest concern, I don't want my boys leavin'.

That's for sure.

How about another group? SONG or the SSAB? Have you ever heard of the SSAB? Melissa, do you have somethin' else you want to say?

Can I just say one more thing about SODI?

Sure.

Uh, my, my big problem, I guess, with SODI is uh, the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative - so they're supposed to be diversifying - they're a community, reuse organization by definition. Uh, it just seems to me that they could be doing a lot more to diversify. I mean, (inaudible) pursue, you know, different nuclear things that's fine. But, there's a lot more that could be brought to this county. Uh, you know, you can consider other things. You can't be completely dependant on nuclear. There have been, there's been nuclear proposal after nuclear proposal after nuclear proposal, for how long? When are we actually gonna get anything that's gonna produce a significant amount of good paying jobs. And, all this time, nothing else is, is being pursued. So, I would really like to see SODI's work be a little more expansive. Uh, you know, I think they could do a lot of good by diversifying. (laughter)

Thanks for that perspective. Do you have something you want to share, Jim?

Oh, I really like uh, using coal. I just think they should spend more money to find ways to uh, make it safe and clean. You know, good for the air.

Okay.

Because, we have that vast uh, mineral deposits, we should be using them, I think.

Okay.

Rather than oil.

Thanks for that.

What, what is SONG?

What is SONG? Does anybody know what SONG is?

Southern Ohio News Group?

Southern Ohio Neighbors Group.

I still didn't get it.

Southern Ohio Neighbors Group.

That's the protesting group.

That's the citizen's group that I would consider more of a watchdog group. I came, I came to know them when the G-(inaudible) was on the table.

What's the G-(inaudible) proposal? I'm not really (inaudible).

The G-(inaudible) was the uh, (inaudible),

(Inaudible).

partnership. And, basically, it was uh, (inaudible) project to try to start reprocessing nuclear fuel to potentially be able to reuse some of the components from different spent fuel rods.

(Inaudible).

And, I mean, it's been done, I guess it's being done in France; (laughter) the safety of it is questionable. Uh, but you know, the, the likelihood of us actually ending up with a reprocessing facility here, was probably very slim. Yet, the first step was to find somewhere to bring all the spent nuclear fuel from all over the country, and they were even talking, potentially, abroad. And, so the concern was that it would all end up being brought here, and then nothing would happen with it. And, so we would end up just basically having indefinite storage of all the, you know, extremely dangerous, (inaudible) spent nuclear fuel but it's, you know, extremely radioactive. (Inaudible) reactors.

Yeah. There's a lot of (inaudible) in there, they're pretty nasty.

So, I'm very concerned about that. And, that's why I (inaudible) who was trying to, you know, educate people about what was going on, and what, you know, the potential was with the (inaudible).

I went to a couple of meetings of an organization out at the vocational school. That started with P, and it had a little short name. And, there was some lady that,

PRESS?

PRESS.

PRESS. I wonder'd why you didn't mention them.

I'll mention it from now on.

Yeah.

Uh, how important, how important do you guess think the plant is to the priorities of the region? (Inaudible), how important do you think?

It's a hundred percent important to this area. It's the most important thing.

Big time.

Jobs wise, technology wise, energy wise. I'm not sayin' it's the most important thing, that people should (inaudible) in their lives,

Pike County.

but (inaudible) wise, it's (inaudible).

Okay. How about other people?

I do too.

Rick?

It seems that the county's put all of its eggs in one basket. And, it's, it's been the Portsmouth Plant. There are a few smaller companies in the county, but they're, some of are going under and, and some are just (inaudible). They don't employ as many people.

Yeah, I don't, I don't think it's a matter of the county putting their eggs in one basket. It was the government that put the basket in our backyard.

Well, it was because we had (inaudible) natural resource they needed. We had water.

Water.

Lots and lots of (inaudible).

That, that, that and trees are our two biggest natural resources in this area. And, that's why the plant is here.

'Cause, they can pump a million gallons of water a day.

A day.

Out of the aquifer, 53 degree water, and cool their equipment.

That's why it was built.

And, not run out.

Yeah.

That's why it's there. That and....

It's the same reason, (inaudible) in Cincinnati, they were built on top of a aquifer.

Right.

The Great Miami River.

Again, I would recommend highly, that anybody that has any questions go to the DOE public library. Go to one of the quarterly, daily, public meetings, ask your questions. Call the DOE tomorrow. Look up their number in the phone book. Call them up, and if they have a website DOE.gov, USEC.com is another website. You could look for whatever USEC's into. Everyone of the major contractors at the plant site has a website.

Have you, have you done that yourself? Have you contacted DOE, and have you been satisfied with the response that you've gotten?

Well, I have supported the mission of the plant for a long time.

Okay.

And, went to the public meetings, been part of the (inaudible) out there. I'm glad to be part of it.

Has other people, other people contacted, you, you (inaudible) contacted, you've been satisfied?

Uh, DOE - I've been to a lot of meetings.

Okay.

And, just as an observer. I'm not advocating one side or the other. But, uh, it, it's interesting that every time that I've had a question and contacted, I can't think of the guy's name. Uh, Simonton, Si, Simon,

Yeah.

Simonton. Greg.

Yeah.

Simonton.

Okay.

(Inaudible).

Uh, every time I've asked him a question, he, he's told me pretty, pretty straightforward, you know, what, answered my question and aimed me in the right direction.

You've been satisfied?

Yeah.

And, you feel pretty, trust him?

Oh, no. I don't trust him.

(group laughter)

I mean, when they pump trichloroethylene, 100%, out of the ground water on the plant site, and say that that's not a problem, Norton Chemical in uh, Massachusetts uh, went bankrupt because they spilled one 55 gallon drum, and it got into the uh, ground water uh, water supply and it produced childhood leukemia. And, the lawsuits took 'em under - there's a movie about

it. And, there are pools (inaudible) when they first started their, their, their initial drilling, there are pools that they can pull up almost 100% (inaudible).

Okay.

That's the biggest problem with the plant. There's a lot of chemicals out there on the ground, in the ground, around the place. That 50 years ago, weren't considered dangerous. You know, like TCE or, or uh, what's it called carbon tet, you know, you used to wash your hands in carbon tet. You know, it was a good degreaser. Now, it's, it's a carcinogen, you know. We discovered a lot of these chemicals were harmful later. And, then they have, "Oh, we got to clean that up, now." So, that's a lot of the (inaudible) clean up old stuff that we didn't use to think was a problem. Uh, like TCE, you know? Originally, so that had to be hard, you know, it's not. (laughter)

Does anybody have a personal connection to the plant? Like, I think (inaudible), you've shared already that you worked there. Like a friend or a family member. And, you don't have to tell us this if you don't want to. That works there or? You do?

My brother.

Your brother works there.

He's the president of the union.

Okay.

And, my future son-in-law is a, is a, is a chemist, and he actually brings in samples (inaudible) what's in it. (Inaudible) to clean it up.

Uh huh. Do you think that people who have personal connections with the plant, feel, view the plant differently, perhaps, than those who don't? Okay.

Yeah, I would think so.

Yeah.

And, I have a brother (inaudible), see it, we know what's goin' on, but that doesn't necessarily (inaudible).

(laughter)

(Inaudible) uh, if you know it, you understand it, you're not as afraid of it.

Uh,

But, when you're, when you're outside (inaudible) communication, (inaudible).

I think the government and the DOE, you know, in general, have to be very careful with media today, because if they say just one thing out, the media will take it and run with it. And, then it's a political snowball, you know, for everybody else from there on up, you know? So, they have to be very careful of what they say.

So, let's go back to that question about the media then, and back to, I guess we have the newspapers, so where, and then Patty had shared with us, you know, you can go to this library,

That's the best resource around.

okay. So, what are our other, besides uh, from that, what are our other sources of information? Do you use the internet to get information about the plant? Do you use?

I get mine from your college radio station.

Okay.

We get our news and then WOSU, or no - WOU radio in Athens.

Okay.

And, they uh, a lot of times talk about what's goin' on at the A-plant.

We use the uh, internet. When we first found out about what was goin' on down at the plant. We used the internet, basically, researched the past history and the contamination, and cancers, and, and found out about the (inaudible) and a lot of the other stuff that uh, that's happened there.

Most, most of it's (inaudible) stuff.

Alright. What about the people outside this room? So, I'm assuming that everybody here, this is an assumption, I might not be right, I'm assuming that everybody here is really interested in what is happening out there, and that's why you're taking the time to talk to us. Do you think the people outside of this room care as much about the plant like maybe you do? And, how, there's two parts to that question - this is my own (inaudible).

Right.

(laughter)

(Inaudible).

And, then how do we, what if we contact those people? How do we engage the people outside this room in discussions about the plant?

I actually am a chair of the ASQ section and, you know, I can only,

What's ASQ?

American Society for Quality.

Okay.

And, uh, and our, our local chapters are from uh, Ross County all the way down to West Virginia, in the Huntington area. And, then they branch out to uh, uh, Jackson, Adams County, and what it is is a group of quality professionals from Adena Hospital uh, people out at the plant uh, educators. It's a not for profit organization and unbiased, I mean, it's an unbiased group.

So, working with an existing group like uh,

Yeah.

(inaudible).

We're a branch, and, and bring them back the communication. Dr. Davis from Adena hospital, he's a (inaudible) there, he's, he's a member of our organization. You know, he's, when we're talking about, you know, he'll say, "What's going on down there?" You know, he's interested. The hospital's interested.

The hospital's interested.

We can, we can speak from experiences as teachers, with a lot of our kids mirror their parents opinions, and a lot of people, frankly, you know, they're afraid of the can't see. They can't see radiation, they're scared to death of it. And, they don't know what's goin' on in that place. And, a lot of people have, you know, are scared of the plant in general. They think it's gonna explode. All kinds of misinformation, really, because they, they just don't understand it, and they're, they're afraid of it.

Uh huh.

We, you get a lot of it. (laughter)

You know, I, I get my information from The Watchman, The Gazette, of course, The Times uh, there's another one there. Uh, where I, I, I check 'em everyday for stuff.

Uh huh.

And, I think that's important that they, that the news people keep telling us what's going on.

Do you think people outside this room want more information about the plant?

I think they want jobs.

They want jobs?

They want information if it concerns the possibility, the possibility of a job for them in the future. So, they want to know if there's something going on down there at the A-plant, especially if it looks like there is going to be a job. 'Cause, they really do want to know if there's (inaudible) information for that.

With uh, negotiations for the cabinet plant fallin' through uh, it's, it's critical.

Kind of.

What's that?

No, no. It is critical.

(Inaudible) and educate them, I mean, it's, it's the adage, you know, well, your neighbor don't have a job, (inaudible), I don't have a job, it's a depression, you know? It's, it's educating them of the impact and, of course, the impact of (inaudible) 450 thousand dollars in lost taxes. Uh, it affects your services and your lives. So, you know, to let them know, I mean, to solve the economy, obviously, you put people back to work, they pay taxes, they spend money, (inaudible) snowball. So, that's, with that, and essentially having that, that grant, you know? If they had that grant, then these business would be impacted by that. Just, just that they know that it impacts their lives, what goes on down here. So, otherwise, you know, that's down (inaudible)?

Jack, what do you think?

Uh, it's about job, but like I say, I see all these people on 32 drivin' from Cincinnati or wherever.

Uh huh.

You know, you don't, if they were gettin' work at the A-plant, and make it to where all the contractors have to have an office in the county, or somethin' in the area, and the money doesn't just go from the A-plant to Cincinnati, or the A-plant to Columbus, and it actually has to make a stop in our county somewhere. I don't know how that could happen, but if it's required that all the people workin' there had an office in this area, some, somehow control the money,

to stop some of the money, so there could be janitor jobs, there could be uh, people workin' in offices, here.

Well, in response to what you're sayin' and what she said, it's a vicious cycle. Because, her boys are leavin'

Right.

because there's no jobs here. And, so if everybody's leavin', you know, who do you have left, what skilled labor do you have left to work with this contractor in this area, so it's a vicious cycle.

It is, but there's a lot of schools around here that these contractors could say, (inaudible) at schools and say, "I'm gonna need this many people, 'cause (inaudible), it takes ten years, right?"

Right.

It's gonna take ten years. She's gonna have five kids be uh, 30 by then.

(group laughter)

I'm a little bit off on my math.

(group laughter)

(Inaudible).

Anyway, (inaudible).

(group inaudible).

I mean, the kids go to learn auto parts, and have you been to a vocation school?

No, I have not.

They, they have a restaurant - how to be a waitress, and how to (inaudible). That's a great thing. But, that's not a big money maker. I mean, there's still no communication between the A-plant and what they're gonna need. It's just, how much money comes in and goes out; and we never see it.

Recently, uh, I don't know how many, I don't know if it was like a six million dollar project, but uh, to build an air and nitrogen plant (inaudible) process building so that they can go ahead and (inaudible). Uh, all that work was done by local labor. It's the first time I've ever seen it done, and it was great to see it. It was done in the last three months. It's called an accelerated DOE

project. I don't know (inaudible), and they've used all local tradesmen, the Hansen Concrete trucks - I don't know if you've seen them goin' up and down the....they, they had (inaudible). And, I thought that was a, a step in the right direction.

You know, skilled labor, like he said, that's why they come from other areas. Uh, you know, and then, at the same time, I've seen some people, like down at Shawnee State or something, they're gonna have some classes that, and it's not, it's kind of vague, classes about the A-plant, or you know, whatever goin' there, but it's gonna cost you a thousand dollars to take the classes, or somethin' like that. So, and it doesn't say whether you're gonna get the job. Have you heard of that?

Uh huh.

Okay.

Yeah.

So, I mean, that's, that's, that's, you know, a good thing, like you said, training our local people for those skilled job, so they don't have to call the outside contractors. Uh, but there again, you know, it's like some people's not gonna be able to do those classes, or they're not sure, "Well, if I do this class, am I gonna get a job? Who's gonna give me a job." That's some stuff that's goin' on.

Great. Okay, (inaudible) - did you have something else you wanted to share?

No, I'm not sure how related this is, but uh, I just know that, you know, talking to different people, I heard, this is hearsay, maybe it's true, maybe it's not, but there have been other industries that have considered locating here (inaudible). (Inaudible) was mentioned to me uh, some sort of a bottlery. I mean, there have been various things that, you know, were possibilities for here, but never, you know materialized. Or, you know, weren't welcomed (inaudible), I don't know. But, I still just wonder about (inaudible) uh, you know, who's (inaudible) to offer, you know, good jobs to people. And, you know, in my mind, I'd like to see something that I feel more comfortable and safer with (inaudible). Uh, but I also think that, you know, from an economic perspective, it makes sense to (inaudible), you know, different options, or different (inaudible), pursuing other things as well.

(Inaudible).

Huh uh.

So, we're windin' down now, and I just want to reiterate what the next steps are for our project, and encourage you to stay engaged as much as you want to throughout the next, I think it's about eight months are so, we'll be workin'. So, we'll (inaudible) everything we're doin' is, you know, public record, and it'll be available, well, hopefully it'll be useful to all of

you, everyone in that report counts. And, then in January, we're gonna be pulling together community visioning teams, all volunteer, anybody who wants to participate on these teams. We're gonna have six to eight. And, we'll have a kick-off session where we'll bring everybody together and we'll share with you everything we've found. We've done (inaudible) interviews, we've talked to a lot of people that have one-on-one, that had historical knowledge about the plant and the community. And, we're doing these focus groups. We looked at some media over the past 20 years. And, then we're gathering a lot of stuff that exists out there, that other agencies and stuff, reports and stuff, so we're gonna give that to everybody who's interested in workin', and then we're gonna facilitate discussion in these groups. So, ultimately, what we hope to come out the other end is a series of ideas for the future of the region, including the, the A-plant as, you know, (inaudible). So, that's where we are. Yes, Jack?

Uh, one suggestion just come to mind, if you're askin' how to get a hold of the public?

Yeah. Okay.

There's a ton of nursing homes around here, go to the nursing homes, talk to the old people, see what they have to say about the A-plant.

Somebody mentioned to us in another meeting about a retired, a retirement home that was just for past employees, or, or a group of, so we'll follow up on that. I appreciate that suggestion. So, what we're gonna do, we, we have your gift cards as, as a thank you for participating with us, tonight. And, Rob has them and he has a sign in sheet, and because this is public money, we have to ask you to put a name, an address, and a phone number, on the sign in sheet. That's gonna be kept completely separate than the interview, than the focus group information. So, and if you're uncomfortable (inaudible), like I said, a name, a, we just have to have a name, an address, and your phone number, too? Or?

No. Just a signature.

Signature. So, we can give you your gift card.

It's (inaudible) accounting.

It's (inaudible) accounting.

What, can we put our uh, a note down there that we'd like to be informed when you have that January meeting?

Absolutely. We have (inaudible).

Yeah. Tonya can take (inaudible) in the, in the, in our notes. Our meeting notes, yeah. And, actually, we have a website too, we're just gettin' started on the website, so there's not a lot

of stuff on it yet, but it's Portsfuture - it's all one word - Portsfuture.com. And, we'll be putting updates, and once the survey information is ready, it'll be on there as well. So, we really appreciate you comin' to talk with us tonight. It's been really interesting to listen to you.

(Inaudible).

Yeah. (Inaudible) with the telephone survey, because....

Yeah, especially in (inaudible) political times.

well, not just that,

(group laughter)

that's part of it, but another part of it is this thing right here.

Oh.

Is we can't get, we can get random call lists for landlines, but it's more difficult for us to get random call lines for cell phones. So, and that's some....

APPENDIX 6C
FOCUS GROUP TRANSCRIPTS: JACKSON COUNTY

Appendix 6c

Jackson County Focus Group Transcript

*(Some sections are blacked out to ensure confidentiality of participants
in accordance with Ohio University Institutional Review Board protocol)*

....discussion. There's no need for you to wait on us to call on you to respond to any of the questions. Uh, if you don't understand a question, just let me know. Uh, if we seem to be stuck on a specific topic, I may interrupt and try to move us a long 'cause we only have an until six-thirty. Uh, we're gonna ask that you keep each other's identities private. Uh, that's why we're only gonna go by first names. And, what we're gonna do is once we get all the, the transcriptions, we're gonna analyze the, the main themes that are coming out of the focus groups. That's what we're really looking for, some main themes. And, when we're finished, you'll receive a small gift for your participation in tonight's focus group. I want to let you know that, feel free to keep eating. Keep eating because we've got pizza coming too, so don't like be shy about any of this. Just, if you want to talk with your mouth full, that's fine with us. So, my name is Michelle, and uh, I'm on the faculty at Ohio University, in social and public health, and with the Voinovich School, and....

I'm Tonya, and the same. I'm faculty, also, at OU.

And, my name is Vlad, and I'm also with the Ohio University Voinovich School.

So, then if you could just tell us your first names, every, so we could see, and what town you're from, and how long you've lived in uh, in what county, and how long you've lived in the county - that would be really helpful to us. So, Matt, why don't you kind of start.

Uh, my name's Matt. I'm, I'm on the Morgan/Athen's border, but I have a connection to Portsmouth. My grandfather was uh, city councilman there, and he was actually the person who was sent to, by the governor to Washington to negotiate the siting of that facility uh, with President Truman. So, I've got a personal interest in it, and uh, have some ideas I'd like to share as well.

Okay. Thank's, Matt.

My name's Walter, and I live in Scioto County, (inaudible), Ohio, and I've worked at the A-plant for 28 years.

Okay. Great. I'm having a hard time seeing you down there, Sean.

My, my name is Sean. Uh, I've lived in the area all my life. Uh, I just had some interest to see what was going on in my area, as a resident.

What county do you live in, Sean?

Uh, Jackson at the moment. I've lived in (inaudible), Jackson, mostly the (inaudible).

Okay.

I'm Gary. Uh, I've lived in Jackson (inaudible) County all my life. I've lived in Jackson County probably for the uh, last 40 years, 42 years, 45.

Okay. I'm Margaret, and I have lived in Jackson County all my life. But, I do pass through Pike County just about every day because I teach over there. So, I'm familiar with a lot of people who work in the Pike County area and (inaudible).

I'm Dustin. I've lived in Jackson County for about five years. I was just interested in what was goin' on with the A-plant.

Okay.

The future of it.

I'm Beau. I've lived in Jackson County all my life. And, I pretty much was interested in what's goin' on.

Okay. So, the first question we have to kind of just open the discussion is, in thinkin' about your community and the four counties that we, that we're talkin' about tonight, what's the most important issue that's facing your four counties?

Jobs.

Jobs.

Yeah.

Jobs.

So, can we talk more about jobs? And, how that affects you and?

Certainly.

I think the lack of jobs.

Lack of good paying jobs. We have a lot of fast food restaurants, gas stations, convenient marts, things like that. But, we have very few main line employers that employ more than 100 people

Yeah.

or whatever, and the minimum, you know, most of 'em are minimum wage jobs. We need....

And, the ones that do have those jobs right now, they're losing them.

right.

It's really bad.

Uh huh.

So, I have to say we're financially depressed (inaudible).

Yeah, I'm actually a business manager and part owner of a company, and we used to build houses and, you know, we struggled for years, kind of in that market, and that has, you know, that's slowed down. Uh, about five/six years ago, we got into the solar business. And, our company's now grown to 30-some employees. And, those are all good paying jobs. Uh, even entry level, you know, 12 dollars an hour and then up to 25 dollars an hour, sometimes higher, you know, prevailing wage jobs. Uh, and so we've just discovered that the renewable energy industry is booming in Ohio and other places around the country. And, I think that there's an opportunity to do that in a lot of places that have, Piketon being one of them, and the A-plant being one of them. So, I wasn't able to make it to the, the uh, energy part, presentation the other day uh, but I know that the DOE is looking for different energy opportunities, you know, to be pursued there. And, uh, I know a nuclear plant is one of them. But, I just wanted to put out there that there's good paying jobs uh, that are safe and, and uh, secure jobs too, you know, in the renewable energy - especially in the solar, solar industry.

So, Matt brings up a point that I was, I was gonna ask you about anyway, is about alternative energy, and then really what your opinions are. There's a lot of options being talked about, nuclear, natural gas, wind, and solar. What are your opinions about these alternatives?

I think we're gonna need to talk to him. (laughter)

(group laughter)

Uh, my husband and I, we've just talked and talked about alternative energy, and we've even talked about doing it at our house. We have a place out in Vinton County. And, so that has been something we've discussed. I think it's a wonderful idea.

And, and what kind of alternative energy? The (inaudible), nuclear, solar, wind?

Uh , uh, I think all of the above. I, I really think you need to look at everything. I think you need cleaner energy. I certainly feel that way. Uh, I, I'm in favor of wind energy. I'm also in favor of the, the solar energy. Uh, anything to make the environment cleaner, we need to do.

Okay. What about nuclear power? How are people feelin' about that?

Well, I, I guess it's, the, the thing that I look at, I have mixed feelings about it, one way or the other, there's certain things that I'd like to know a little more about. Uh, one of the things that is of a concern for a lot of people living in this community is cancer. You know, and whether or not with the nuclear energy if, if that is something that contributes to that problem. Uh, as far as I'm concerned, it's not an issue that really bothers me, but I know from experience from a number of other people, that that is a question.

Definitely.

And, what about other? Health risks with other, the other alternative energies? Or, no? How are you feeling about that?

I think there is. I, I think a lot of people are, when you say the word nuclear, they get frightened because of cancer.

Exactly.

Yeah.

And, I know by working out there, I always heard the comment that they were waiting for the big explosion out there. And, I tried to explain to people that we couldn't have a nuclear explosion out there at the plant. And, you know, it's just I worked there for 28 years, I've lived in Lucasville and (inaudible) all my live. And, there was always a concern of even my parents, who lived within a five mile radius of the plant, but in working there for 28 years, I was in the training department and maintenance department out there, the nuclear part of it was not a fright for me, it was, it was the other chemicals that really were made within the nuclear part of it. So, I mean, it, it, to go ahead and go with the power plant out there, I, I still think nuclear power is one of the safest power sources we can, we can come up with as far as overall (inaudible).

See, I just, I just think that one of the big things is that a lot of people really don't know. You know what I'm saying?

Yeah, there has been a lot of secretive stuff. You know, when I first went out there, they wouldn't tell us anything for

Right.

the first ten years I worked there, I didn't even know what was goin' on. The last 18 I, I started learnin' some stuff. And, the, and I try to tell 'em, you know, that the more you get out into the public, the less fear they have (inaudible)

Exactly.

because of all the secrets, I think, were a big deal. Because the Department of Energy (inaudible).

The idea,

The secrecy causes the problem.

Right.

the fear of the unknown.

Yeah.

I don't care if people, if people don't know something, then they just guess it. And, I think, I think you're a hundred percent right there.

Well, what, what about a nuclear waste problem with the, do we have that?

At, at our plant?

With the power plant?

I, you know, I don't think so with this uh, the conversion facilities that they're building out there now, for the destruction of the original plant, and the, the, the new technology that they've come up with as far as the, the uh, the destruction and the reclaiming of the, of the process, I really don't think we have a problem with, with (inaudible).

Well, there's not gonna be a nuclear (inaudible). There's always been a problem.

There may be some nuclear waste. I'm not gonna say there never,

Yeah.

but I, I think it's, it's on a smaller scale than it used it to be. Because, that new technologies that they've come up with.

Yeah.

That was one of my concerns too. The way, I mean, I realize, I don't pay much attention to it, because I don't deal with it, but I'm sure they made strides in dealing with nuclear waste. Uh, I assume we have to haul it out somewhere. If we didn't I, I'd....

Yeah. I don't know where they bury it now.

To a facility.

That's what I was gonna say.

I don't know.

Where do we go with it?

I, I don't know where it's going right now. It was going....

They were going to Yucca Mountain (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

But, my understandin' is that they've decided that that's not gonna work, and instead (inaudible).

Well, that's why, the new technology that they're gonna come up with, uh, with the destruction of, of the nuclear waste, I think is a safer process than what they used to have to do. It used to be they'd just bury it. (Inaudible).

Well, a lot of it, a lot of it's still, like the high level waste, is still sitting in casts

Right.

at the sites, and the, and a lot of the sites are uh, near water because that's what they use to cool

Uh huh.

the uh, the reactors. So, I know that the nuclear waste is piling up, and we haven't really got a good solution for it. And, I know there's a lot of ideas and uh, you know, they may come up with somethin', but that is an unresolved issue at this point. Uh,

Yeah. They do have, you know, they have quite a few....

but the other issue is that, you know, the cost of nuclear energy's going up because construction costs are so high, and permitting and all that, and just recently, they've, there's been some articles in the New York Times and other places that have pointed out that, that solar energy is now less expensive than nuclear energy. And, of course, coal is still the cheapest. And, coal will continue to be, you know, our primary energy source for quite some time. But, there's, you know, there's a, if you look at new deployment of energy, uh, you know, solar is now cost effective with some of the other ones. And, so even if nuclear, even if the solutions are, are, you know, they come up with 'em, there's still gonna be the waste issue, and if the cost isn't better, then maybe there's, the nuclear plants aren't the best solution. Uh, because it does take so long for them to get built too. And, I know there's construction jobs and everything, but uh, if you're looking at the other issues which, you know, climate change and so on, they're saying, "We need to do things as soon as possible to," and, and they're putting out nuclear as a solution for climate change, because it doesn't create as much uh, carbon. But, it takes 10 to 20 years to get a nuclear plant built.

But, why is that? I mean, the part of it is the fact that it does, it takes so long to get the permits, and part of the problem with the permits is the red tape, because there's so many hoops that they have to jump through, they have gone overboard with the safety, I suspect. I know, when I worked at the plant before the nuclear regulatory commission came in there, we were, in my opinion, we were a lot safer than we were after they came in. There was a lot less red tape. I was in the train department and it was unreal the amount of paperwork that we had to go through as the NRC came in.

Right.

I mean, it was, instead of me writing a, a, a class module, maybe three pages on how to do a certain job, it turned out to be a 15 or 20 page.

Right.

'Cause that's gonna be necessary to some degree because of the nature of, you know, nuclear power. Whereas,

Part of it, yeah. But, not....

less dangerous technologies will come in quicker

sure.

because they don't need those safeguards, you know? So, it's, I know what you mean the

Yeah.

government, I mean, just the regulations, in general,

Yeah.

are crazy. But, in some cases they're needed and you never really know how much they are needed verses how much is overboard because it's so, it's so technologically complex, that's it hard for us to really know what safe and what's not.

Well, exactly.

No, go ahead.

I, I was just gonna say, if, if the regulations work and do their job, you never know if they worked or not.

Right.

And, that's the way of knowin' it, right?

Well,

Yeah, I still think that's the way we want.

Well, then let me ask you one thing

Sure.

before we do that. You're talking about the nuclear energy, and I have to say, I'm becoming a lot more in favor of the nuclear energy right now than I am the coal money. And, my big reason is the coal, to me, is becoming a major environmental issue because I find that (inaudible) or something is considering environmental issue, and now they're startin' to burn all, all these trees. You know, we're clear cutting all these trees, and combining it with the coal and doing this burning, and I'm thinkin', "Look, I don't want my environment that the trees and all this destroyed. I can deal with the coal, but when they're gonna combine that with cutting down all these trees, huh uh. We need something that's cleaner and (inaudible).

Right. They're converging these coal plants to biomass plants, and the biomass plants use a tremendous amount of wood.

Exactly. I just take issue with that.

Well, this is a big picture question I wanted to ask you all about, 'cause you said, you know, jobs were important, and now you're bringing up the environmental issues. So, what do you think, in terms of your neighbors in your community, do you think they value environmental protection and economic development equally? Or, is one more important than the other? Think about your neighbors in your community.

The environment and what else?

Environmental protection or economic development, or they value them equally, or is one more important than the other?

I would go with the economic development.

Yeah.

I (inaudible) more important parts, but it's equal.

Uh huh.

Most people just take the environment for granted. I mean, you see it everyday when you drive up the road, people just throw things out the window. They just take it for granted.

And, I think with the, the economy, the economic outlook in this area, that has to be the top concern here.

Yeah.

Uh, get everybody to work and then we can work on the environment. I think, I mean, that's, that's the big thing. I think the jobs are the most important part. Once you get the, get everybody workin', then we can go step by step on the important, on, on the environment thing.

You know, he said, I'm the old man in the crowd, but if it doesn't work hand in hand, none of it's worth it. The environment works with the economy.

You could still look at some, some of the coal that we dug years ago, and you could go out, well, heading up the Ap, Appalachian Highway, you can look to the left and to the right, near county road 38, and you'll see that red water that's still there from, from where they burned coal or dug up the, the mine for coal and what have you. And, most of the people said, "Well, you know, we need jobs. The environment's not an issue." Well, now people who live there see it as an issue. That's something that I see. I agree that economic side's gonna be first, it's gonna be first and foremost, but down the road, when they see effects, the effects of what's going to

happen, then they're going to have a different attitude about it. But, initially, I agree with him a hundred percent. Jobs, because people need jobs so badly here.

Uh huh.

So badly.

But, the environment can be part of the job situation.

Uh huh.

Keepin' the, keepin' it environmentally safe and, and keepin' the environment in line, and I think that's, I've lived long enough to see these strip mines, around here, that were supposed to heal in a few years, that didn't heal. I see red water that's runnin' down these cricks, that's been here all my life. Uh....

I don't see why they (inaudible).

Down on 93, where they did all that mining down there,

Oh, yeah.

they, they stripped 'em, you go down there now and they reclaimed a lot that.

And, it looks good.

Yeah. I mean, there, there are some areas that have done quite well with that.

Well, but I mean, you can still see signs of mining. Like, for instance, when I was a kid, when I was younger, my grandmother (inaudible) well water. (Inaudible), she lost her well. And, when she did get water back, it had oil in it.

Yeah. And, we don't see a lot of the effects, 'cause a lot of the (inaudible) now coming from the mountain top removal mines in West Virginia,

Uh huh.

and those are areas that can't be reclaimed. I mean, once you take a mountain down and push it in the (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

It, it, you can't replace that. And, so we're not seeing the effects, right now, of the coal we're burning as much, because we have mostly underground mines here. You know, which might have caused some damage, but nothin'

Right.

like what's goin' on (inaudible).

But, you still have all those people in West Virginia, though, that (inaudible) jobs, that's money, that's food on their table, and you know, "Flatten the land, we don't care. You know, we want, we want our jobs."

Yeah.

The, the sorry thing about the new mining technologies are they don't employ that many men.

That's right.

They do not employ that many people.

And, I'm afraid that's kind of what will happen with the nuclear plant too. There will be a lot of jobs for the construction of it, but then most of those jobs will go away once it's built. And, you know, I'd like to see some manufacturing at the site, and the Piketon site, because those are permanent jobs, you know?

Yeah.

They're buildin' things, and

Right.

they'll keep building things,

That's good.

and they're building solar panels, or buildin' whatever, you know, those are permanent jobs. And, not just construction jobs.

Right. But, I think there's a lot of off-shoot industry that have happened, that did happen around the A-plant when it first started.

Sure.

Oh, yeah.

Reconstruction companies came in, the concrete companies around here went nuts for a while uh, the schools, they built a lot of new schools.

Uh huh.

Uh, a lot of maintenance (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

And, this supply and demand, or just the supplying the plants with every day needs because a uh, off-shoot industry of its own.

Right.

Over the last 50 years.

Yeah.

Now, those things are going away because the plant, you know, the workforce has dropped, and that's why a lot of other people are losing their jobs because the outlying, the supply service, their service supply companies are dropping their employees also. So, if you get that back, that would build back up. And, like you say, some offshoot industries around the plant, like solar panels,

Yeah.

uh, maybe some wind, wind, wind uh, turbine engine plants or something like that could spring up too.

It's, it's a domino effect.

Yeah.

It really is.

They're not, I heard some talk of a, of a company that's trying to get a permit to build a nuclear uh, power plant out there, which every time that I have read about a nuclear power plant going online, the electricity rates have dropped like, you know, two hundred percent. Like, when they turned on the El Diablo out in California, their electricity went from uh, 98 dollars a month to 9 dollars and 90 cents a month.

But, that was before, I don't know if that's gonna happen again.

Well, I don't know if it will be that drastic, but I think, I still think you're gonna see some drop in the electric rates if they do build a power plant out there. If they hook it to this rig. (Inaudible).

That's, that's not what I read, because that, 'cause the cost of building those plants is so high now, I mean, they couldn't even build the coal plant in Meigs County; they decided it was too expensive. And, so they, you know, they dropped that. Now, they're gonna build a biomass plant there.

Yeah. It's like you said,

Well, one thing you have to realize, out there though, if they do build a power plant out there, the shipment of the materials to run the power plant is, is nonexistent because they've got a nuclear facility right there that's making the product

Uh huh.

to power the plant.

I want to bring us back to the power plant. The A-plant, specifically. Before I do, Walter, could you pass around the pizza, 'cause I'm worried that there's gonna be so much left that we're gonna be eatin' (inaudible).

I don't think there's any way we're eatin' all this pizza.

I know, right. You're not gonna eat until we're done. So, if everybody else gets filled up.

I don't think that's gonna be a problem.

(Inaudible).

So, so Bob, I would ask you, before you, before you uh,

Want some of that?

No, I'm good. Thanks.

You've lived in Jackson your whole life.

Uh huh.

If somebody from outside the region were to ask you about the A-plant, how would you describe it?

I really don't know that much about the A-plant. I know it's a nuclear power plant.

(Inaudible) corners.

So, it would be difficult for you to describe it?

Yeah.

Alright. How about others? If somebody outside the four counties here, said, "You know, what's, what's this A-plant?" How would you describe it?

Well, it was originally to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons, right? And, uh, and then it was also used to enrich uranium for nuclear power plants. Uh, and

Would people understand that? Do you think?

well, no, as a matter of fact. Even that much, even though that's the basic thing, that is uh, somethin' a lot of people don't realize, that, that the uranium has to be enriched before it's used for those things. And, basically, they mine the uranium and then, you know, it's not concentrated, it's not uh, potent enough to do what they need to do, so they run it through this machine, you know, this accelerator, at least the old way of doing it was to, you know, spin off these certain isotopes, and that would be powerful enough to use for weapons. And, then you could do a little bit lower level and it could be powerful enough to use for nuclear power plants, right?

Yeah. We had, we had, we had three buildings out there. The process came in from, from the uh, what came from the mines into the processing plant, and it was turned into a gas; that was shipped to us and we put it in the system. And, the 33 building, which was the largest facility, took it down to like from point six percent up to like one point six or something like that. Then, it went over into the 30 building and went on up to three, I think three/seven or something like that, was the highest they could get out of the 30. But, and the 326 building was where they went up to the 96 percent for the weapons grade material, or plutonium. And, uh, that was uh, a really high radiation or the highest concentration of (inaudible). The first two buildings, other than the heat and the noise uh, there was no really danger, and like again, everybody's worried about the, the, the radiation, there was really no danger out of the first two buildings. Not, not really that there wasn't any danger, but the danger was quite a bit less because of the low (inaudible).

Uh huh.

Although, I mean, with, but the other chemicals that were involved in the process was what bothered us as workers, more than uh,

There's a lot of mixed waste out there.

right.

Mixed, hazardous/radioactive together.

Yeah.

But, you know,

There's barrels of it.

something that you said that I'm sitting here just trying to (inaudible) about my students, and I'm thinking about Jackson County, and Pike County, and that. You know, everybody's for the uranium enrich, enrichment plant. Everybody is. But, if you turned around and said, "What is uranium enrichment?" They would probably go, "Well, you know, it's, it's the uranium enrichment plant."

(laughter)

They probably would not have a clue. And, it just never hit me until you said that. But, I thought,

Well, yeah, I worked there,

"They wouldn't know."

I worked there for uh, probably 20 years before I, they finally had a class that showed us the process.

(laughter)

I mean, we, I just took it, all I knew was there was stuff, there was supposed to be stuff circulatin' around in pipes. I never saw anything unless we had a leak,

Uh huh.

and there'd be like steam, look like a steam leak.

Uh huh.

But, we finally, they finally started teachin' everybody the uranium enrichment process, and you see the people in the classroom just go, "Oh! I didn't know that. I've been here 30 years, and I didn't know that." But, that was part of the secrecy that they had. They did not tell us anything.

Well, they also didn't give any, from what I understand, they didn't even give any workers, they didn't honor any worker's comp claims for many, many years.

Right.

And, I know a fella, I don't know if you know, Owen Thompson was his name.

Oh, yeah.

And, he was contaminated, accidentally, down there, ended up with a growth, a tumor comin' out of the back of his head, hung down his back this far, and I don't know if he survived? I doubt if he....

No, he was in the 26 building, I believe.

Or, he was one of the, he was a rat.

Yeah.

He went inside the smelter, he went inside to clean up after the welders and they accidentally turned the machine on while he was in there.

Yeah.

Oh.

And, he was heavily contaminated. Well, they sent him, he broke out with radiation poisoning, they sent him home and said he had chicken pox.

Uh huh.

When was that about?

Uh, this would have been in the early nineties. Around ninety/ninety-one. And, uh, I don't know when he was contaminated. But, that's when I met him.

He was already sick when you met him.

Oh, yeah. He (inaudible) down the back of his head like I've never seen anything like that.

(Inaudible), yeah. I was there in seventy-five,

This big and this long.

Oh.

and the safety (inaudible) totally nonexistent. They were, they told us, the, the thing was that it wouldn't hurt us, we could eat that stuff and it wouldn't hurt you. And, that's what they were tellin', I mean, I'm not puttin' anybody down, 'cause that's what they were told from Washington. They just did not give us any information at all. The (inaudible) first time I went upstairs to go to work, they had a release, I put on, tried to put on a gasmask, it was an old army assault mask from World War II, and it was dry-rotted. I had no, no protection at all, and I was stuck in a train 50 feet up in the air.

About seven, seventy-eight, at the first, second strike, or first strike, they, the safety program started gaining speed, and when I, when I left out there, if you went, if you followed the safety guidelines that they had, unless there was something catastrophic happened, you would not get hurt, and you would not be exposed to that stuff. Prior to that, there was some problems. But, it really came around in like the mid-nineties, late-nineties, along there. Their safety program really, really took off and, and it was, it was well orchestrated. Like I said, I mean, you always have accidents; chemical plants have accidents all the time. But, you never hear of those accidents.

Right.

When a nuclear plant has an accident, it's uh, front page news,

Right.

and again, (inaudible).

Well, they've had a few plants that have been close to melting, melting down. There's one up in Toledo, where uh, they're, they, it was eating away at the reactor (inaudible).

That was from a lack of inspection.

And, they weren't inspecting it, and they were falsifying saying they were

Right.

and they weren't. And, by the time they got in there, the thing was this thick and we were that close to havin' a meltdown.

We could have had one out there, but it wouldn't have been, it would have been, it would have been similar to that.

What do you mean by meltdown?

Well, the reactor,

How (inaudible).

the nuclear reaction is happening inside.

Yeah.

I mean, that's different. 'Cause, Piketon doesn't have a nuclear reactor. And, that's the difference between an enrichment plant and a power plant. The power plant's gotta have the nuclear reaction happening, it's creating a tremendous amount of heat, and they're usin' that heat to make steam to turn the boiler, the boilers to, you know, make energy. But, if that reactor gets too hot, and it will melt the cover over it, and then it'll, it'll be a nuclear explosion. And, (inaudible).

(Inaudible) Chernobyl.

(Inaudible).

The steam also was the cause of massive explosion. And, the steam, then the steam ruptures the enrichment, the uh, the uranium piping which causes a nuclear explosion.

Right.

'Cause, they actually have nuclear rods in the, in the reactor, and they, and they go super critical and causes a, a uh,

So, a nuclear power plant is actually more dangerous than what's there right now.

So, Walter brought up, (inaudible) with the nuclear power plant here, about the news, so with the A-plant, how closely do you follow news about that plant? Dustin, do you follow news about the plant at all?

Whenever it's, it's been on TV. I've, I've watched it.

Okay.

But, I haven't noticed anything on TV about it for quite a while now.

Other people? Like, do you like look for news?

I watch, I watch it very closely, because a) I have people who's husbands work there, and uh, students whose uh, parents work there, and for my own personal interest in it, because I'm 30 miles away from it.

Walter.

I follow it all the time.

You want an end piece or center?

Center - it doesn't make any difference.

Just one?

Yeah.

Dropped your fork.

But, I, you know, a lot of people, if, if you ask 'em what they know about the uranium enrichment plant, they just comment with the, probably, "I know there are good jobs and they make good money."

So, do you know, do you know about the work that's being done out there right now, and who's doing it?

No. Not entirely.

Yeah. I mean, some, some of 'em.

Do you know?

Yeah.

Can you tell us about some of it?

Well, they're, right now they're doing uh, some dudes from decommissioning and decontamination work. And, that's the purpose of what's been in the news lately is the DUF6

conversion plant they built, which is to take the material out of the buildings, (inaudible) the original building, and they're actually gonna melt that metal down, the piping and stuff, and distract what uranium they can out of that metal, then they will turn around and, and ship that somewhere, and turn it back into steel.

How do you know that, Walter? Is it from the news or just your personal connection to the plant?

Well, I, I talk to people that are still working up there that have gone over from up in the old plant site, there was a new, and, and a friend of mine has helped, helped build the DUF6 conversion plant. In fact, he's in, with the training department now. Talked to him. So, I still talk to the people that are out there.

Do you know who's doing the work out there? Who's out there right now?

Well, there's uh, Wastren uh,

So, is it government or?

yeah. Well, no, they're all subcontractors.

Okay.

(Inaudible)'s in there uh, USEC uh,

So, it's all contractors.

yeah, they're all subcontractors

Okay.

for the government.

For the government.

In fact, they're getting ready to turn everything, the old plant, back over to DOE now, the Department of Energy.

But, they haven't really had that much in the paper about it, even in the, in the Waverly paper.

Which paper? The Waverly paper?

The Waverly paper. Well, Waverly would be the one that would really be closest to it, and (inaudible).

Well, it's still considered a safe group facility. You know, for years, nobody even knew what it was. You couldn't even get around it for a long time. Then, they opened it up where people could actually drive around (inaudible) road. But, all you could see was a bunch of buildings. I'd say 90 percent of the people in this four county area, don't know what that plant looks like.

Huh uh.

I, I agree with you a hundred percent. I didn't know what it looked like, and I had an uncle that worked down there and told me, "Well," he said, "Come down around," he said, "I can get you around the plant."

Uh huh.

Which he meant the perimeter of.

Right.

Yeah. They need PR a little bit.

They do.

They definitely need PR.

(Inaudible).

Well, they're opening it for tours, even when I was still there.

Yeah.

Really?

They have, they have uh, public tours of the plant.

But, didn't it change a lot, though, even after nine-eleven? Didn't they close off the (inaudible)?

They closed off a lot, a lot of the rooms.

Okay. That's what I thought.

Security got a lot more (inaudible).

Well, I used to be in some of the lots, and their stuff, when they had their sales - that's been a long time ago.

Yeah.

And, uh, I, I did get around it that way.

Right.

And, of course, you know, there was still the old story, a welder that worked for me, was a welder that worked down at the A-plant, and he did a lot of work for me, and he would always tell us to be cautious of what we bought, where, know where it came from. Now,

Right.

I didn't know.

Yeah.

But, these were things that he told me, and whether this was fears of what

Yeah.

I shouldn't have had, or....

A lot of times the guys, even the guys that worked out there, we weren't, we weren't notified of everything. We didn't know.

Right.

I don't think he did either.

Yeah.

I was, I was exposed to probably as much as anybody out there, as far as being in releases - I've been in several. Uh, they took me over to the hospital, and used the wire brushes on me in the shower, and uh, you know, they had the meters there, and kept checkin' my hair. I thought they were gonna shave my head for, for a couple of hours there. But, uh, they finally got me clean, I mean, I was pink when I come out of there from usin' all the wire brushes on me. But, they got me clean. And, then you had to go through urinalysis samples like for the next month before it finally cleared up. But,

You were in like a contaminated area?

what's that?

A contaminated area?

Yeah, oh yeah. I always worked in a contaminated area. I mean, we tore the, during change out, we actually took the, the old pipes out, the old pieces out, and put new in. So, when you, when you cut into the system, a lot of times, there'd be, there would be pockets of, of uranium gas in, in there when you pulled a piece of equipment out, you'd have a release. We'd have to evacuate the building and all that. But, it wasn't, it really wasn't a big deal. I mean, the guys who were workin' there. We probably didn't,

It's hard to tell, though, with radiation, because you can't see it, or smell it,

yeah.

or taste it.

Well, down there we could, because when they had a release, it was, it was US6 gas,

Uh huh.

and as soon as it hits the air it turns into a real thick cloud.

Okay.

And, uh, I was in one area uh, and we had just a small, very minute release, and I could, even in this room, I couldn't see you.

Whew!

It was just, I mean, probably a drop about the size of my fingernail was all that hit the floor.

Uh huh.

And, the smoke comin' off that would fill, would fill this whole room up.

Wow.

That's how, I mean, it's just super, I mean, the moisture hits it and it just turns into a big, big vapor could.

I can tell you you won't have any of that buildin' solar panels.

(group laughter)

Probably not, no.

Let me, let me shift gears a little bit, and talk about communication and information about the plant. Now, Margaret, right?

Uh huh.

You said that you followed the news. What's the most important source of information about community issues, in general, and the plant in specific? Is it the Waverly newspaper, or are there other important sources? Is it your neighbor? You know, who is it?

Uh, I tend to get, of course, I have some friends that work there too, so I get some information from that, but

Uh huh.

probably more from sources, the Waverly News Watchman, and probably NPR - National Public Radio.

The local affiliate, you mean?

Uh huh. Probably from those two, more than anything else.

Okay. What about others? What do you think are important sources?

Uh, well, other than the, the, I still associate with all, a lot, or most of my friends in fact, are, are still working out there, or have recently retired. So, we, we keep in contact with the people that are still out there, so it's word of mouth there. Then, Portsmouth Times and, and the radio station in Portsmouth, is not real good, but they do sometimes if something important happens out there. Uh, but the Portsmouth Times does a pretty good job.

Portsmouth Daily Times?

Uh huh.

Okay. There's a whole bunch of different levels of government that are involved in decisions about the plant. Uh, the federal government - like DOE, the state government - like the Ohio EPA, and then there's local governments - like township trustees. So, when you think about all levels, all these levels of government. Who do you trust the most to give you accurate

**information about the plant? Federal government, state government, local government?
None of the above?**

I would say none of the above. (laughter)

(group inaudible)

Trust the government?

(Inaudible) employees.

I think the, the feds probably would, I, I'm along with him, I really think you'll be probably get a little more accurate information from probably the employees. The feds probably, especially if they're in a bad area, they probably don't want to discuss it. I don't think the trustees know enough about it. Uh, the, like your mayors, they don't want to step on anybody toes because they don't want to lose any votes. So, I really feel like the more accurate information is probably from the people there.

Yeah. I, I agree. I don't think, I don't think the, the township trustees and the local mayors, the governor, if the do come on, they're giving a dog and pony show. You know, there's a lot of smoke and mirrors used out there to justify an additional two million dollars or four million dollars project.

And, they set up, they set up this site-specific advisory board, is that what it's called? You know, which is supposedly uh, a cross-section of citizens, but the uh, citizens who were, you know, objecting or who were asking a lot of questions, and who were knowledgeable about it ended up resigning because they felt like that the Department of Energy, the, the board was just supposed to rubberstamp whatever the DOE told them. And, that's how I learned a lot about it. Uh, uh, then Lee, Lee Black, Blackburn? Is that his name, I think. He uh, he was one of those people that resigned and he's educated us a lot. And, uh, he came to a meeting in Athens uh, and described a lot of, you know, what was going on there, and how, you know, the process wasn't really as open or, you know, as clear as it was supposed to be. And, they were so frustrated they ended up resigning off the committee. Uh, and I know the Sierra Club uh, has been involved in trying to, you know, learn about what's happening there. And, and promote uh, alternatives to the nuclear power plant that's being proposed. And, it seems like that nuclear power plant was kind of going through, no matter, that that wasn't really going through this process of, like you guys are collecting information about what people want, want and so on. But, in the meantime, Areva is already and Duke are already planning the power plant. And, so that's not really comin' out of this process. You know, that's, that's happening no matter what we say. And, and that's what kind of bothers me is the, is the DOE really wants to get citizen input on what's happened there, why are they lettin' the power plant go forward, you know, first? I mean, they're not waitin' until people say what they really want there. So, I think DOE kind of speakin' out both sides of their mouth, you know? That, yeah, we want citizen

input, but we're gonna go ahead and let Duke and Areva do this. And, Areva's a foreign company. They're a French company.

Yeah. (Inaudible). I didn't approve of that at all. And, the government gave Areva a two billion dollar loan guarantee, and it's a French company. And, they won't even give one to USEC who's an American company. You know, I didn't, I didn't approve of that. Uh, and I agree with you, like you said, the DOE does, again, like I said, does the dog and pony show or the smoke and mirrors that they use when everybody focuses on the uh, they tend to put on the big shows and say, "This is what we're doing," and, but they don't want to take any input from the, from the uh, committees that they do (inaudible). I mean, it was the same way out there when we had committees out there for a specific problem.

I can understand, I can understand going through a process of letting these folks design the plant, because from what I've heard from you to, it takes 20 years to get one done.

Uh huh.

It takes us a few months. I mean, whereas if they've got this process started, sure, they can make changes in that process. But, we're just, I mean, it doesn't take us long to make up our minds, we don't have to (inaudible).

But, they're givin' 'em money, they're givin' 'em money too, our money.

They will. They will.

They, they already have. You know? And, that's what bothers me that the two million dollars,

Two billion.

two billion dollars to the French company, and that money could do a lot. What, what could you do with two billion dollars at that site? You could build several factories and create a lot of jobs. Right now. You don't have to wait 20 years, you know?

You know, you're talking about putting plant, different manufacturing companies out there. One of the things that is going on right now is the decommissioning and decontamination of the facility. Right now, you couldn't put anything out there because there's a lot of stuff that's been buried out there on that reservation, from back in the fifties and sixties. Uh, I know for a fact there's a couple pick-up trucks buried out there. That they got, they got contaminated, they bought one guy's, it was a Lincoln, I think it was a Lincoln Continental, he uh, one of the supervisors that had his car, had sittin' in the wrong place and it got contaminated. They bought it off of him and they buried it. I mean, there's a pick up truck out there somewhere. There's, there's a of shop equipment and stuff been buried. So, that's something that they gotta dig up and get rid of before they could even do what you're talking about.

Sean, I sensed you were finished yet. Were you finished?

No, I'm fine.

You okay?

Go ahead. Yes.

I just wanted to make sure we get your view, your viewpoint.

That's fine.

Alright.

That's fine. I, I'm listening also.

Well, something, something I'm gonna mention that from, and these are from some of the people that's worked at the A-plant, and it's, it's some of the, the construction companies that come in, and some of the clean-up crews, and all of that. Uh, I've known some of these people that have kind of made jokes about it, because it's federal money. And, they'll go in there and maybe work for a couple two or three hours, and then kind of play off and not do anything, because they, they're like, "You don't want to get it done too soon because they're paying us to do this. So, you know, take a break, read the newspaper, do whatever you want to do. But, don't get the job completed." And, I think that's bad too.

That's bad (inaudible).

When you bring in these (inaudible), well, but it's a fact. It is a fact that that happens, you know? Somebody, I think what I get upset about is somebody needs to be accountable for the time spent on (inaudible) with this group of people. You know, when they come in to do this. There's x number of dollars out there, and I don't know whether they're paid by the hour, or if it's time and materials, or exactly what it is, but I've heard several of 'em brag about the fact that they collect this money and they'll work for a couple of hours and sit the rest of the time. So, that's not good either.

And, it's our tax money. It's not (inaudible),

Exactly.

when you say it's federal money, that's still

It's our....

That's our money.

You know, people don't think about that though.

No.

It's our money.

And, what, what she's sayin' is true. But, people don't think about that. They think, "Well, it's comin' from the federal government." But, they don't think about it comin' out of their pockets and their neighbor's pockets.

It's your pocket that you're (inaudible).

Yeah.

We've not brought up the SSAB, and then there's some, you said about the Sierra Club too, and then there's a couple of other groups that are, are involved in decisions about the plant, including SODI, and SONG - there's a group called SONG. And, I'm wonderin' if you've heard of, before Matt brought it up, SODI, or SSAB, or SONG, or the Sierra Club, and what your opinion is? The work of these groups.

Well, I'm familiar with the Sierra Club, because I'm a member of the Sierra Club too.

Okay.

So, I'm familiar with that one. But, I'm not familiar with (inaudible).

SODI - I've heard of that one.

Yeah, what did you?

That's the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative or something like that. I've heard of them.

Do you know what they're doin'?

It's, I, it's, from what I understand, it was just a uh, a, a public uh, and private consortium, or not consortium but it's like a think tank to get the, the, the word out to the different uh, agencies as far as what was going on at the plant site. That was my understanding of it.

Okay.

It was more like a uh, well, basically what we're doing here. It was a committee to raise awareness of, of the activities that was going on.

Okay. Okay. So, we're, we're kind of, we're starting to wind down time wise. We just have a few minutes left, and the one kind of closing, defining question I want to have a little bit of discussion about is how important you think the plant is to the priorities of the region?

It's vital to the community. It's, it's, it's the highest paying plant for people. Uh, in Pike County, I can tell you right now, if that plant went out, Pike County would just completely plummet, because it's the backbone for them. It's their money.

It has calmed down considerably.

Uh huh. But, it still is, you know, financially, that's the one that brings in the most money for the, the households there. So, it's, it's really vital for a lot of people, even in this county.

(Inaudible).

Yeah, I agree. Yeah, I agree, I mean,

Or, since 1954, when it came on stream, it's been the largest employer, the best paying job in the area. Uh, still, there are probably in excess of 3000 people directly involved in that plant out there.

Well, Walter, how many of 'em do you know?

(laughter) I know all of 'em.

Well, but I said, but I'm saying, I know so many of 'em

Yeah.

that retired, and guess what? Went right back.

Uh huh.

Turned around and went right back, because you know, it, it was just, I think, one of the comments that they made was that the people were good to work with, and you know, the money's really good. But, they would retire and turn right around and go back. So, they, obviously, they're not concerned about the health issues or whatever, or they wouldn't of gone back.

(Inaudible), but if you think in the long run, the clean up's gonna wind down in ten years, or whenever, you know, that, that happens. And, then what's gonna fill those jobs? And, so that's why, you know, we should be thinking now about what can we do there next. And, you know, maybe think about improving the quality of, of those jobs and not just taking whatever, you know, whatever's handed out. And, that's what,

Exactly.

you know, that....

Well, yeah, and then the, the new centrifuge plant is, is one of the, is one of my main concerns. I mean, I don't know if that was included in this conversation, but the new plant is gonna create enough jobs to absorb the loss from the old plant. Almost, totally. With it and, and the DUF6 conversion plant, it's gonna almost absorb all the jobs that were lost because of the shut down of the original plant.

Are, are the new plants gonna employ that many people, do you think?

Almost a thousand people altogether, between the two.

Really?

Between the two.

Oh.

There's almost a thousand people. Which, I mean, I think at the peak, we were like 25 hundred out there, so it's about half. But, it's still, I mean, that's, that's a thousand people that are bringin' in good money,

Right.

and you know, so.

I think it's very important that we keep that, that plant, and the centrifuge plant, and the clean up efforts continue,

Right.

for what you're saying, for other plants to move in here, like the Ohio State, the extension thing out there. If they could expand on that, expand that area; I think that's a great idea.

Well, what is confusing with all the different plants, and I think what you're talking about is the new enrichment plant.

The new, the new one that they're (inaudible).

The new enrichment process that is gonna replace the old process plant,

Right.

which is shut down.

Right.

It's being decontaminated. And, that's different from the power plant that's being proposed by Areva and Duke.

Right.

And, the power plant is a whole separate thing, which will be a lot construction jobs and then fewer jobs to run it. Uh, and so, you know, this new,

The centrifuge plant. (Inaudible).

the new centrifuge plant is already in the works.

Well, yeah. They're testing it now. That's what they're waiting on the loan guarantees from the government.

Right.

But, it's gonna create about 900 and some jobs, the way I understand it.

At least that's what they're saying.

(laughter)

And, (inaudible) it may cut it down to 500, but still,

Yeah.

I mean, that's 500 that (inaudible) will have, so.

Yeah. But, you know, other states, you know, gettin' back to the solar thing, other states like Tennessee, they have a huge uh, plant, solar plant down there. Uh, that's Sharp, owned by Sharp, which is a Japanese company, but it's still, it's U.S. jobs, right? But, Ohio hasn't, they've got, Ohio's got one solar plant up in the Toledo area, but they haven't been very good about bringing in other solar manufacturing, and other states seem to be getting them. Like, Georgia seems to be getting a lot of new solar panel plants.

Well, is that because of a lack of sun, you know, I mean, we're?

No, because we're (inaudible) manufacturing.

Four months, four months out of the year out here, I mean, we don't,

We don't need to actually install the panels here to make 'em here. You know, and Tennessee isn't much different from Ohio in terms of the climate. So, it's not really so much the climate. Uh, and we're puttin' a lot of solar panels. I mean, we're putting in, like our company uh, last year our revenues were 2.9 million. This year, they're gonna be about six or seven million dollars. And, that's how fast the solar industry is growing.

I need a job. I need to talk to you. (laughter)

(laughter)

Yeah. No. That's, that's where the economic activity is happening right now is, is in solar energy, you know. In Ohio, in a lot of states. And, so it's an opportunity that we're missin' out on, you know, because I'm buyin' solar panels that are built in Tennessee.

Yeah.

I'd love to buy 'em built in Ohio. But, the ones that are built in Ohio are a different technology, they're thin film, and we don't, they're not good for what we do. We need crystalline panels like the ones made in Tennessee. There's no reason why they can't be made in Ohio, you know? So, that's, that's really, you know, my message is let's look at the clean jobs. They're good paying jobs, and it's permanent. They're permanent jobs like the plant, you know, not construction jobs that are gonna run out.

Right

People get all excited, they buy a new house, buy all this new stuff, and then they lose their jobs. You know? Then where are you at?

Yeah, Four/five years down the road, they're out of work, yeah.

Well, we need, we do need to wrap up. And, I just want to tell you what's gonna happen next. What we're doin'. So, uh, this is our last focus group. We did uh, during the summer, some of you may have seen us out at the fairs. We had a booth and we were talkin' to people at the fairs. And, then Tonya and I conducted uh, maybe ten, altogether, uh, uh, interviews with people who have a lot of knowledge about the plant. So, we've learned a lot about, you know, some are employees, and then others. And, then this is the last of three focus groups. So, what we're doing is we're, we're identifying these common themes that we're hearing from just about everybody, and we're gonna be uh, doing a telephone survey, which will probably go live October, end of October. October 24th or so. And, it's really to get a representative sample of people who live in these four counties. To get a sense of what they know about the plant. We're gonna ask them issues that have been brought up about communication and secrecy and those those types of things that we've been hearing. So, you may, you may get a call but maybe not, because it's a uh, it'll be a random, random call. And, then once we're done with the survey, we're assembling published documents too, that has the history of the plant. And, then in January, we're going to uh, be putting together these community visioning teams. And, you know, stay tuned for an announcement of that if you'd like to be involved. Because, the visioning teams are gonna take some of the things that Matt was saying, looking down ten years - what do we envision, what, what are the possibilities for the sight, considering all the constraints that already exist there. So, that's, and then we'll be preparing a report of all this information for DOE, and then it's up to them how they're gonna use it. That's uh, that's that. So, Vlad has the uh, does anybody have any other questions?

I have a question.

'Cause Vlad has (inaudible).

Well, I, I have one question.

Yes, what's your question?

Now, are you, is this process that you're doing, is this something that is being funded by USEC, or is it?

No. We, we have a grant.

You have a grant, okay. Through Ohio University.

No. Through DOE, has given Ohio University a grant

Okay.

to do this. Uh huh.

Well, I, I think it's a very (inaudible).

We're independent of everybody else.

So, does that mean since you're funded by, indirectly by the government,

Uh huh.

are you gonna try, I, I mean, are you guys gonna try to cover up anything? I mean, this has been the problem out there for years.

Yeah. We've been hearin' that.

The lack of information generated out to the public.

Right.

There's been so many misconceptions about that plant out there that it's....

Well, we're gonna quantify those misconceptions.

okay.

That's, that's what one of the things that we want, is goin' to people that haven't been at the table, haven't been engaged, don't know a lot about the plant. And, we're gonna find out what the problems are. And, communication is, seems to be one that's emerging.

Well, well, you just ask them something about anybody, anything about the site and it's like, "Whoa."

APPENDIX 7
TELEPHONE SURVEY

Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs

PORTSFuture Public Outreach Project

Telephone Survey Instrument

Screening/Introduction

Hello. My name is _____ and I am calling from Wright State University for a survey about the federal facility site in Piketon commonly known as the A-Plant, and the future of **your** community. This survey should take about 5 to 10 minutes. Your telephone number was selected randomly to participate in this survey. Your answers are confidential and you must be 18 years old to answer this survey. May I speak to the youngest person at home who is 18 or older?

1. First, please tell me what county you live in?
 - Jackson County
 - Pike County
 - Ross County
 - Scioto County
 - Don't know (Discontinue survey-does not qualify)
 - Other county (Discontinue survey-does not qualify)
 - Refused (Discontinue survey-does not quality)
2. What is your age? (must be at least 18)
 - Don't know (Discontinue survey-does not qualify)
 - Refused (Discontinue survey-does not quality)
3. Please confirm your gender. Is it:
 - Male
 - Female
 - Don't know (Discontinue survey-does not qualify)
 - Refused (Discontinue survey-does not quality)
4. What do you feel are the two biggest problems facing your community? (Do not read choices.)
 - Education
 - Jobs/economy/business development
 - Crime/violence/guns
 - Taxes
 - Transportation
 - Drugs/alcohol

- Environment
- Welfare
- Government bureaucracy
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Recreational opportunities (nothing for young people to do)
- Other _____
- Don't know
- Refused

Familiarity with the PORTS site

- Are you familiar with the federal facility in Piketon, also known as the "A-plant site"?
 - Familiar
 - Not familiar (For those not familiar with A-Plant skip to Sources of Information Section)
 - Refused
- Do you follow news about the site?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Yes, because I work at site (Do not read.)
 - Refused
- Do you feel you know a lot about the site?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Yes- not as local resident but because of work at plant (Do not read.)
 - Refused
- Are you interested in learning more about what is happening at the site?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Maybe
 - Refused

9. Are you concerned about the future of the site?

- Yes
- No
- Refused

Awareness and Information

This section is only for those familiar with A-Plant site

10. Could you please list the names of any public or private organizations that currently operate at the A-plant site? (Do not read choices. Select all that respondent mentions.)

- US Department of Energy or DOE
- United States Enrichment Corporation or USEC
- Lata/Parallax
- Fluor/Babcock & Wilcox
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency or Ohio EPA
- Duke Energy
- Uranium Disposition Services or UDS
- Goodyear Atomic Corp
- Martin Marietta
- Lockheed Martin
- Other _____
- Don't know
- Refused

11. I'm going to list some organizations that are involved with the site. As I read the list, please tell me whether or not you are aware of each organization. Are you aware of . . .

- The Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative or SODI
 - Yes
 - No
 - Refused
- The Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance
 - Yes
 - No
 - Refused
- The Site Specific Advisory Board or SSAB
 - Yes
 - No
 - Refused

12. (Ask only about those entities respondent is aware of based on responses to Question 10 and Question 11.) Are you familiar with any information provided by _____ about the site?

- US Department of Energy or DOE
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused
- United States Enrichment Corporation or USEC
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused
- Lata/Parallax
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused
- Fluor/Babcock & Wilcox
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency or Ohio EPA
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused
- Duke Energy
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused
- UDS or Uranium Disposition Services
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused
- Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative or SODI
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused
- The Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Refused

- The Site Specific Advisory Board or SSAB
 - Yes
 - No
 - Refused
13. (Ask only for those entities with “yes” response to Question 12) Please tell me how confident you are that the following organizations provide accurate information about the site—would you say a lot, a little, or not at all?
- US Department of Energy or DOE
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don’t know
 - Refused
 - United States Enrichment Corporation or USEC
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don’t know
 - Refused
 - Lata/Parallax
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don’t know
 - Refused
 - Fluor/Babcock & Wilcox
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don’t know
 - Refused
 - Ohio Environmental Protection Agency or Ohio EPA
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don’t know
 - Refused

- Duke Energy
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- UDS or Uranium Disposition Services
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative or SODI
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- The Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- The Site Specific Advisory Board or SSAB
 - A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
 - Don't know
 - Refused

Sources of Information

This section is for all survey participants

14. Now I am going to list some sources of information. How often do you use each one as a source of information about your community? Please tell me whether you use them frequently, sometimes, or never.

- Local newspaper such as the Waverly News Watchman or Portsmouth Daily Times
 - Frequently
 - Sometimes
 - Never
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- Statewide newspaper such as the Columbus Dispatch
 - Frequently
 - Sometimes
 - Never
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- Radio
 - Frequently
 - Sometimes
 - Never
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- Television
 - Frequently
 - Sometimes
 - Never
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- Internet
 - Frequently
 - Sometimes
 - Never
 - Don't know
 - Refused
- Family, neighbors, word of mouth
 - Frequently
 - Sometimes
 - Never
 - Don't know
 - Refused

15. In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media—such as newspapers, TV, and radio—when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly—a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

- A great deal
- A fair amount
- Not very much
- None at all
- Don't know
- Refused

Future of the Site

This section is only for those familiar with the A-Plant site

16. How important do you think the Piketon site is to the future of your community? Would you say very important, somewhat important, or not important at all?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important at all
- Don't know
- Refused

17. Now I am going to read you some of the **many possible** uses for the site. Please tell me which of these possible uses you favor **the most**. Please pick just one.

- Manufacturing plant (Prompt light or heavy)
- Energy Production plant such as solar, nuclear, wind, or coal
- Mixed use retail and business park
- Recreation including sport fields, park space and wildlife areas
- Other _____ (Do not read.)
- Don't know
- Refused

18. Now tell me which of the following of the **many possible** uses for the site you prefer **the least**. Please pick one.

- Manufacturing plant (Prompt light or heavy)
- Energy Production plant such as solar, nuclear, wind, or coal
- Mixed use retail and business park
- Recreation including sport fields, park space and wildlife areas
- Other _____ (Do not read.)
- Don't know
- Refused

Demographics

This section is for all survey participants

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about yourself:

19. What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed? (Do not read choices.)

- Less than a high school degree (did not graduate)
- GED or High school graduate
- Associate's or vocational degree
- Some college
- Bachelor's degree
- Advanced degree (Masters, Law, MBA, etc.)
- Refused

20. What is your current employment status? (Do not read choices.)

- Employed part-time
- Employed full-time
- Unemployed
- A Homemaker
- A Student
- Retired
- Unable to work
- Refused

21. Which one of these groups would you say best represents your race? Are you white or Caucasian, black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native or another race?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Multiracial
- Other
- Don't know
- Refused

22. And do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know
- Refused

23. What was your annual household income before taxes from all sources in 2009? Was it:

- Less than \$15,000
- \$15,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 or more
- Don't know
- Refused

APPENDIX 8
SURVEY RESULTS

REPORT ON THE PORTSfuture SURVEY (2010)

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June 1, 2011

The PORTSfuture Project

Ohio University's PORTSfuture outreach project is focused on engaging a broad spectrum of community members from Pike, Jackson, Ross, and Scioto counties in developing possible future use scenarios for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) facility in Piketon, Ohio.¹ Ohio University will summarize these ideas and will vet them with the public-at-large in the four counties. The final product of this outreach project will be a report that includes all possible future use scenarios developed by community members and also includes the preferences of the public-at-large. This report will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management for their consideration as they make cleanup and risk reduction decisions about the site.

The project has several elements, each with community-based public engagement at its core. In particular, the Voinovich School and other faculty from Ohio University will facilitate a public dialogue that includes community stakeholders including, but not limited to, scientists, elected officials, economic development groups, businesses, environmental and community activists.

Acknowledgments

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¹This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management. More information about the PORTSfuture project can be obtained by visiting portsfuture.com, calling 740.593.2222, or emailing info@PORTSfuture.com.

Survey Development and Deployment

As part of the PORTSfuture Public Outreach Project, Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs conducted a telephone survey of adult residents (defined as county residents 18 years of age or older) in the four counties (Jackson, Pike, Ross, and Scioto) that comprise the region of influence for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Piketon, Ohio. The survey was designed to understand (i) major problems facing the local communities, (ii) awareness of and information about the facility, and (iii) preferences for the future use of the site. This report provides a brief overview of the survey methodology employed to collect responses and details the answers to each question.

Survey Methodology

Survey Design

To develop key topics and issues for the survey, in the summer of 2010 faculty from the Department of Social and Public Health conducted 8 key informant interviews and 3 focus groups (N = 25). These qualitative data suggested a few themes that guided development of the three broadly specified questions listed in the preceding paragraph. The survey was pilot tested with individuals who had participated in the focus groups and the team also received feedback from key informants, stakeholders, and the United States Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management.

Survey Sample and Deployment

Gender and age quotas were constructed for each of the four counties based on population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. These population estimates and their sample quota counterparts are shown in Tables 1 and 2. The telephone survey was in the field in the November 14 – December 13, 2010 period, and conducted by Wright State University's Center for Urban and Public Affairs (CUPA). When completed, the survey yielded 1,000 complete responses (the AAPOR RR1 rate is 37.9%).²

²The American Association of Public Opinion Research's (AAPOR) RR1, or response rate 1, is also known as the minimum response rate. This is the number of complete interviews divided by the number of interviews (complete plus partial) plus the number of non-interviews (refusal and break-off plus non-contacts plus others) plus all cases of unknown eligibility (unknown if housing unit, plus unknown, other). See The American Association for Public Opinion Research. 2011. *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys*. 7th edition. AAPOR for detail.

Table 1: County Population Estimates by Age Group and Gender (2006-2008)

	Jackson		Pike		Ross		Scioto		Total	
Males	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
18-34	3,669	2.2	3,057	1.9	10,115	6.2	9,399	5.7	26,240	16.0
35-49	3,427	2.1	2,922	1.8	9,572	5.8	7,581	4.6	23,502	14.3
50-64	3,009	1.8	2,399	1.5	7,284	4.4	6,565	4.0	19,257	11.8
65+	1,890	1.2	1,615	1.0	4,195	2.6	4,520	2.8	12,220	7.5
Subtotal	11,995	7.3	9,993	6.1	31,166	19.0	28,065	17.1	81,219	49.6
	Jackson		Pike		Ross		Scioto		Total	
Females	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
18-34	3,705	2.3	3,268	2.0	7,503	4.6	8,685	5.3	23,161	14.1
35-49	3,637	2.2	2,931	1.8	7,780	4.7	7,899	4.8	22,247	13.6
50-64	3,127	1.9	2,237	1.4	6,710	4.1	7,112	4.3	19,186	11.7
65+	2,838	1.7	2,320	1.4	5,819	3.6	7,048	4.3	18,025	11.0
Subtotal	13,307	8.1	10,756	6.6	27,812	17.0	30,744	18.8	82,619	50.4
Total	25,302	15.4	20,749	12.7	58,978	36.0	58,809	35.9	163,838	100.0

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2008, U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2: Survey Sample by Age Group and Gender

	Jackson		Pike		Ross		Scioto		Total	
Males	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
18-34	22	2.2	19	1.9	62	6.2	57	5.7	160	16.0
35-49	21	2.1	18	1.8	58	5.8	46	4.6	143	14.3
50-64	18	1.8	15	1.5	44	4.4	40	4.0	117	11.7
65+	12	1.2	10	1.0	26	2.6	28	2.8	76	7.6
Subtotal	73	7.3	62	6.2	190	19.0	171	17.1	496	49.6
	Jackson		Pike		Ross		Scioto		Total	
Females	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
18-34	23	2.3	20	2.0	46	4.6	53	5.3	142	14.2
35-49	22	2.2	18	1.8	47	4.7	48	4.8	135	13.5
50-64	19	1.9	14	1.4	41	4.1	43	4.3	117	11.7
65+	17	1.7	14	1.4	36	3.6	43	4.3	110	11.0
Subtotal	81	8.1	66	6.6	170	17.0	187	18.7	504	50.4
Total	154	15.4	128	12.8	360	36.0	358	35.8	1,000	100.0

Frequency Distributions

Sample Disposition by Geography and Demographics

Please tell me what county do you live in?

Table 3: County of Residence

	Frequency	Percentage
Jackson	154	15.40
Pike	128	12.80
Ross	360	36.00
Scioto	358	35.80
Total	1,000	100.00

What is your age?

Table 4: Age Groups

	Frequency	Percentage
18-34	302	30.20
35-49	278	27.80
50-64	234	23.40
65+	186	18.60
Total	1,000	100.00

Please confirm your gender

Table 5: Gender

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	496	49.60
Female	504	50.40
Total	1,000	100.00

What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed?

Table 6: Educational Attainment

	Frequency	Percentage
Less than High School	76	7.61
High School Graduate/General Educational Development (GED)	396	39.64
Associate's Degree/Vocational Degree	116	11.61
Some College	191	19.12
Bachelor's Degree	142	14.21
Advanced Degree	78	7.81
Total	999	100.00

What was your annual household income before taxes (from all sources in 2009)?

Table 7: Household Income

	Frequency	Percentage
Less than \$15,000	150	17.52
\$15,000 to \$24,999	117	13.67
\$25,000 to \$34,999	97	11.33
\$35,000 to \$49,999	137	16.00
\$50,000 to \$74,999	168	19.63
\$75,000 or more	187	21.85
Total	856	100.00

Two Biggest Problems Facing the Community

What do you feel are the two biggest problems facing your community? Note: Respondents were given no prompts. As a result, the frequencies listed under No in Tables 8 through 21 indicate the number of respondents who did not mention this particular issue.

Table 8: Education

	Frequency	Percentage
No	956	95.79
Yes	42	4.21
Total	998	100.00

Table 9: Jobs/Economy/Business Development

	Frequency	Percentage
No	173	17.33
Yes	825	82.67
Total	998	100.00

Table 10: Law Enforcement/Crime

	Frequency	Percentage
No	901	90.28
Yes	97	9.72
Total	998	100.00

Table 11: Taxes

	Frequency	Percentage
No	958	95.99
Yes	40	4.01
Total	998	100.00

Table 12: Transportation

	Frequency	Percentage
No	990	99.20
Yes	8	0.80
Total	998	100.00

Table 13: Drugs/Alcohol

	Frequency	Percentage
No	782	78.36
Yes	216	21.64
Total	998	100.00

Table 14: Environment/Pollution

	Frequency	Percentage
No	968	96.99
Yes	30	3.00
Total	998	100.00

Table 15: Welfare

	Frequency	Percentage
No	973	97.49
Yes	25	2.51
Total	998	100.00

Table 16: Local Leadership/Government/Politics

	Frequency	Percentage
No	939	94.09
Yes	59	5.91
Total	998	100.00

Table 17: Illness/Healthcare

	Frequency	Percentage
No	910	91.18
Yes	88	8.82
Total	998	100.00

Table 18: Housing

	Frequency	Percentage
No	982	98.40
Yes	16	1.60
Total	998	100.00

Table 19: Recreational Opportunities

	Frequency	Percentage
No	986	98.80
Yes	12	1.20
Total	998	100.00

Table 20: Poverty/Homelessness/Hunger

	Frequency	Percentage
No	969	97.09
Yes	29	2.91
Total	998	100.00

Table 21: Other

	Frequency	Percentage
No	972	97.39
Yes	26	2.61
Total	998	100.00

Familiarity with the PORTS Site

Are you familiar with the federal facility in Piketon, also known as the 'A-Plant'?

Table 22: Familiarity

	Frequency	Percentage
Familiar	747	74.85
Not Familiar	251	25.15
Total	998	100.00

Note: The questions in Tables 23 through 59 and Tables 67 through 69 were asked only of all or a subset of the 747 respondents who indicated familiarity with the site.

Do you follow news about the site?

Table 23: Follow News

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	479	64.12
No	248	33.20
Yes, because I work at the site	20	2.68
Total	747	100.00

Do you feel you know a lot about the site?

Table 24: Know a lot about the site

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	258	34.68
No	459	61.69
Yes, but because I work at site	27	3.63
Total	744	100.00

Are you interested in learning more about what is happening at the site?

Table 25: Interested in learning more

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	462	62.01
No	195	26.17
Maybe	88	11.81
Total	745	100.00

Are you concerned about the future of the site?

Table 26: Concerned about the site's future

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	613	82.95
No	126	17.05
Total	739	100.00

Awareness and Information

Could you please list the name of any public or private organizations that currently operate at the A-plant site? Note that respondents were not prompted by mentioning any of the names that follow.

Table 27: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

	Frequency	Percentage
No	727	97.32
Yes	20	2.68
Total	747	100.00

Table 28: United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC)

	Frequency	Percentage
No	638	85.41
Yes	109	14.59
Total	747	100.00

Table 29: Lata/Parallax

	Frequency	Percentage
No	707	94.65
Yes	40	5.35
Total	747	100.00

Table 30: Fluor/Babcock and Wilcox

	Frequency	Percentage
No	718	96.12
Yes	29	3.88
Total	747	100.00

Table 31: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)

	Frequency	Percentage
No	745	99.73
Yes	2	0.27
Total	747	100.00

Table 32: Duke Energy

	Frequency	Percentage
No	746	99.87
Yes	1	0.13
Total	747	100.00

Table 33: Uranium Disposition Services (UDS)

	Frequency	Percentage
No	734	98.26
Yes	13	1.74
Total	747	100.00

Table 34: Goodyear Atomic Corp.

	Frequency	Percentage
No	746	99.87
Yes	1	0.13
Total	747	100.00

Table 35: Martin Marietta

	Frequency	Percentage
No	742	99.33
Yes	5	0.67
Total	747	100.00

Table 36: Lockheed Martin

	Frequency	Percentage
No	747	100.00
Yes	0	0.00
Total	747	100.00

Are you familiar with any information provided by . . . ?

Note that this question was referenced against each entity mentioned by the respondent without prompting. For example, only those who mentioned U.S. Department of Energy in Table 27 were asked if they were aware of information provided by the U.S. Department of Energy (the responses are shown in Table 37). Thus 20 respondents could name U.S. Department of Energy without a prompt, and of these only 13 said they were aware of any information provided by the U.S. Department of Energy, and one respondent was unsure. Readers are thus cautioned to look at the frequency totals for Tables 37 through 43.

Table 37: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	13	68.42
No	6	31.58
Total	19	100.00

Table 38: United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	61	55.96
No	48	44.04
Total	109	100.00

Table 39: Lata/Parallax

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	14	35.00
No	26	65.00
Total	40	100.00

Table 40: Fluor/Babcock and Wilcox

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	12	41.38
No	17	58.62
Total	29	100.00

Table 41: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	1	50.00
No	1	50.00
Total	2	100.00

Table 42: Duke Energy

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	1	100.00
No	0	0.00
Total	1	100.00

Table 43: Uranium Disposition Services (UDS)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	7	58.33
No	5	41.67
Total	12	100.00

Please tell me how confident you are that the following organizations provide accurate information about the site – would you say a lot, a little, or not at all?

Note again that these responses are only from individuals who said they were aware of information provided by an organization they could name without prompting. Hence, for example, in Table 44 we have only the 13 individuals who said they were aware of information put out by the U.S. Department of Energy (see Table 37).

Table 44: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	8	61.54
A Little	5	38.46
Total	13	100.00

Table 45: United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC)

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	36	62.07
A Little	21	36.21
Not at all	1	1.72
Total	58	100.00

Table 46: Lata/Parallax

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	5	41.67
A Little	6	50.00
Not at all	1	8.33
Total	12	100.00

Table 47: Fluor/Babcock and Wilcox

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	5	41.67
A Little	7	58.33
Not at all	0	0.00
Total	12	100.00

Table 48: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	0	0.00
A Little	1	100.00
Not at all	0	0.00
Total	1	100.00

Table 49: Duke Energy

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	0	0.00
A Little	1	100.00
Not at all	0	0.00
Total	1	100.00

Table 50: Uranium Disposition Services (UDS)

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	5	71.43
A Little	2	28.57
Not at all	0	0.00
Total	7	100.00

I am going to list some organizations that are involved with the site. As I read the list, please tell me whether or not you are aware of each organization. Are you aware of . . .

Table 51: Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)

	Frequency	Percentage
No	598	80.27
Yes	147	19.73
Total	745	100.00

Table 52: Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance

	Frequency	Percentage
No	551	74.16
Yes	192	25.84
Total	743	100.00

Table 53: Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB)

	Frequency	Percentage
No	638	85.75
Yes	106	14.25
Total	744	100.00

Are you familiar with any information provided by . . .?

Table 54: Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	54	37.24
No	91	62.76
Total	145	100.00

Table 55: Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	49	25.79
No	141	74.21
Total	190	100.00

Table 56: Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB)

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	28	26.92
No	76	73.08
Total	104	100.00

Please tell me how confident you are that the following organizations provide accurate information about the site – would you say a lot, a little, or not at all?

Please note that the responses for each organization are only from individuals who said they were aware of information provided by the organization.

Table 57: Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	29	56.86
A Little	20	39.22
Not at all	2	3.92
Total	51	100.00

Table 58: Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	20	41.67
A Little	26	54.17
Not at all	2	4.17
Total	48	100.00

Table 59: Site Specific Advisory Board

	Frequency	Percentage
A Lot	16	59.26
A Little	11	40.74
Not at all	0	0.00
Total	27	100.00

Sources of Information

Now I am going to list some sources of information. How often do you use each one as a source of information about your community? Please tell me whether you use them frequently, sometimes, or never.

Table 60: Local Newspapers

	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	447	44.74
Sometimes	316	31.63
Never	236	23.62
Total	999	100.00

Table 61: Statewide Newspapers

	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	138	13.80
Sometimes	304	30.40
Never	558	55.80
Total	1,000	100.00

Table 62: Radio

	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	522	52.20
Sometimes	310	31.00
Never	168	16.80
Total	1,000	100.00

Table 63: Television

	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	691	69.17
Sometimes	236	23.62
Never	72	7.21
Total	999	100.00

Table 64: Internet

	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	443	44.30
Sometimes	214	21.40
Never	343	34.30
Total	1,000	100.00

Table 65: Family, Neighbors, Word of Mouth

	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	454	45.45
Sometimes	409	40.94
Never	136	13.61
Total	999	100.00

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media – such as newspapers, TV, and radio – when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly – a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

Table 66: Trust and Confidence in Mass Media

	Frequency	Percentage
A Great Deal	66	6.63
A Fair Amount	532	53.41
Not Very Much	313	31.43
Not At All	85	8.53
Total	996	100.00

Future of the PORTS Site

How important do you think the Piketon site is to the future of your community? Would you say very important, somewhat important, or not important at all? Note: Questions in Tables 67 through 69 were only asked of the subset of respondents (n=747) who indicated familiarity with the site.

Table 67: Importance of Piketon Site to the Community

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Important	590	80.38
Somewhat Important	126	17.17
Not Important At All	18	2.45
Total	734	100.00

Now I am going to read you some of the many possible uses for the site. Please tell me which of these possible uses you favor **the most**. Please pick just one.

Table 68: Potential Uses of Site You Favor the Most

	Frequency	Percentage
Manufacturing Plant (Light/Heavy)	136	18.28
Energy Production Plant	508	68.28
Mixed Use Retail and Business Park	11	1.48
Recreation	44	5.91
Other	26	3.49
Don't Know	19	2.55
Total	744	100.00

Now I am going to read you some of the many possible uses for the site. Please tell me which of these possible uses you favor **the least**. Please pick just one.

Table 69: Potential Uses of Site You Favor the Least

	Frequency	Percentage
Manufacturing Plant (Light/Heavy)	41	5.55
Energy Production Plant	39	5.28
Mixed Use Retail and Business Park	124	16.78
Recreation	449	60.76
Other	24	3.25
Don't Know	62	8.39
Total	739	100.00

APPENDIX 9
SLIDES FROM KICKOFF EVENT

PORTSFUTURE

YOUR VISIONS FOR
YOUR COMMUNITIES

**PORTS
FUTURE**



THE VOINOVICH SCHOOL

- Since 1981, the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs has applied the knowledge and assets of Ohio University to solving problems and promoting growth in the Ohio Appalachian region, throughout the State of Ohio, and beyond



**PORTS
FUTURE**



Voinovich School

- Each of our three focus areas is associated with a degree program
- Faculty, students, and professional staff join together to work on applied projects for the region
- Many of our professional staff are from the region we serve

Voinovich School: Regional Projects

Highlight a couple of projects the school has completed in the region—if this is a good idea, someone should identify which projects to identify

MEETING AGENDA

1. Project overview
2. Roles and expectations
3. Ground rules
4. Your opinions
5. Your community assets and values
6. Data exploration
7. Your visions
8. Next steps

DOOR PRIZE #1

**PORTS
FUTURE**



Public Outreach Overview

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FUTURE**



PUBLIC OUTREACH METHODS

- County events and fairs
- Key informants interviews
- Focus groups
- Survey
- Community visioning team
- Additional public outreach



COUNTY EVENTS AND FAIRS

- *Who*
 - Community members
- *Why*
 - Gather input from broader audience
- *Status*
 - Attended all 4 county fairs and displayed at Walmart Summer 2010
- *Outcome*
 - Additional input from public



INTERVIEWS

- *Who*
 - Current and past employees of the facility, residents, and opinion leaders
- *Why*
 - Build baseline understanding of important issues
- *Status*
 - Completed 10 interviews, Summer – Fall 2010
- *Outcome*
 - List of key stakeholders, issues to consider, and questions for focus groups

FOCUS GROUPS

- *Who*
 - Community members
- *Why*
 - Test and develop telephone survey
- *Status*
 - Completed 3 focus groups, Fall 2010
- *Outcome*
 - Questions for survey



TELEPHONE SURVEY



- *Who*
 - Representative sample of 1000 residents of the 4-county region
- *Why*
 - Gather perception, knowledge, and opinions
- *Status*
 - Completed, Winter 2010
- *Outcome*
 - Data for vision and educational efforts

COMMUNITY VISIONING TEAMS



- *Who*
 - Community members and residents of the 4-county area
- *Why*
 - Develop possible end-state scenarios
- *Status*
 - Kickoff events March 15th and 17th , community teams April-May 2011
- *Outcome*
 - Scenarios for public discussion

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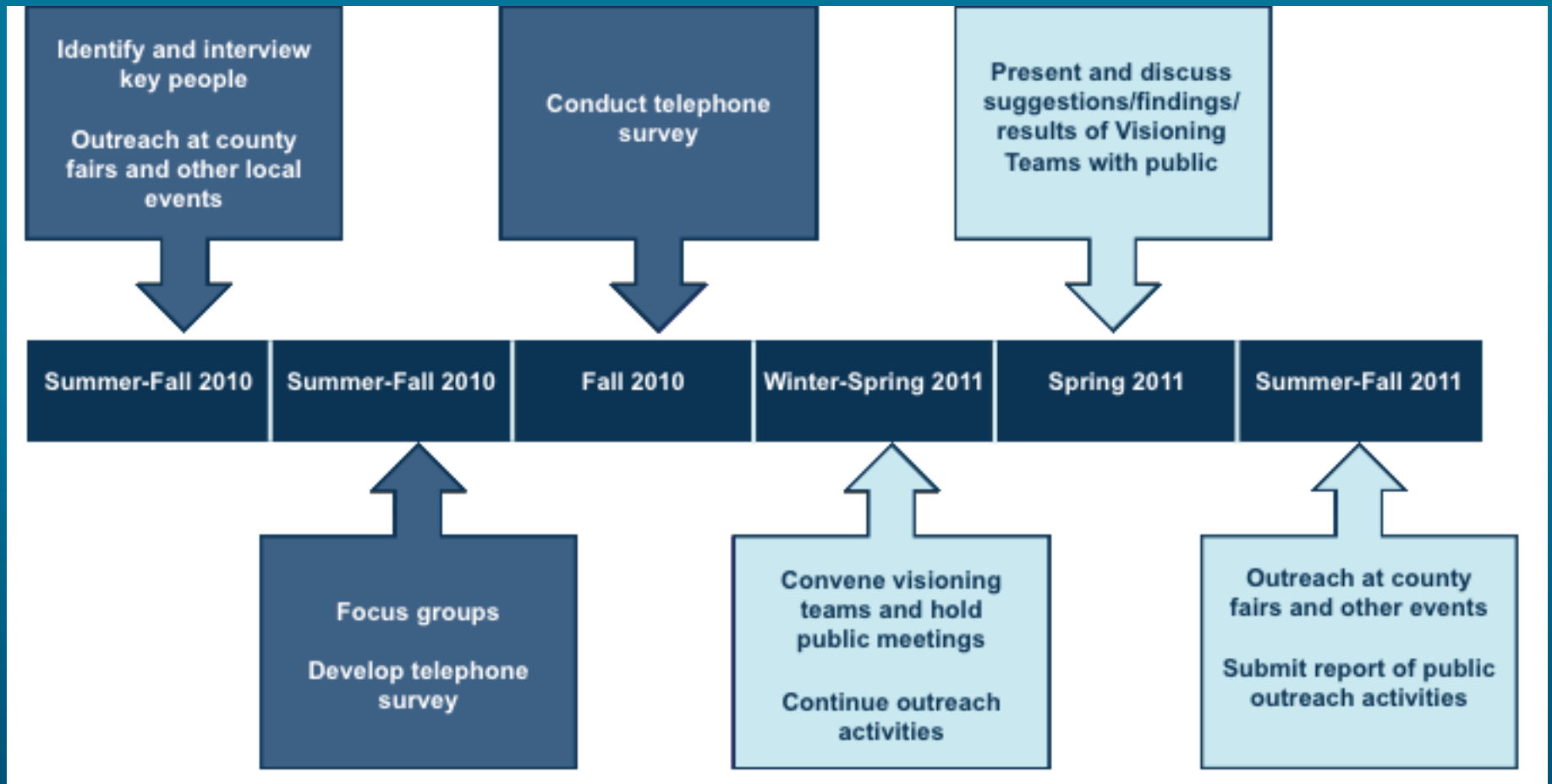


ADDITIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH

- *Who*
 - Interested community members
- *Why*
 - To discuss visioning alternatives
- *Status*
 - Spring through summer 2011
- *Outcome*
 - Public input on alternatives



Ohio University (OU) Public Outreach Project Timeline



Completed Steps



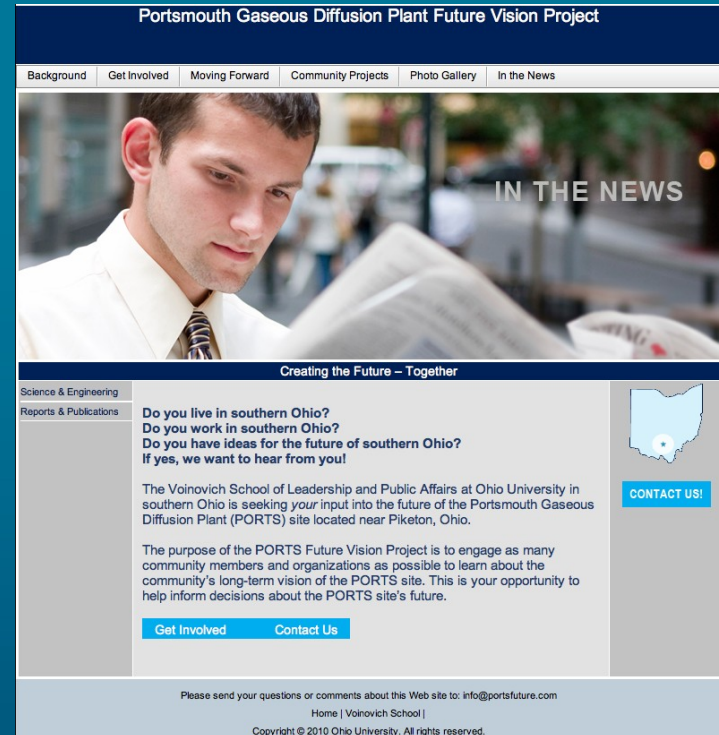
Ongoing/Upcoming Steps

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WEBSITE

- *Who*
 - Open to all
- *Why*
 - Obtain comments from all stakeholders, provide updates on process and progress
- *Status*
 - Currently available
- *Outcome*
 - Database of interested individuals



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TONIGHT'S MEETING

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MEETING PURPOSE

- **Orienting community members to the project**
- **Beginning discussion about the future of your communities**
- **Gathering initial ideas for the facility**
- **Developing a list of questions and concerns**
- **Enlisting community members in the visioning process**

OUR ROLE

- **Role of the Voinovich School and Ohio University.**
 - **Facilitating widespread community-based engagement**
 - **Serving as support for all participants in the process**
 - **Writing end report that encompasses community visioning ideas**

YOUR ROLE

- Engage in conversation
- Ask questions
- Consider participating further

GROUND RULES

PURPOSE OF GROUND RULES

- To ensure effective participation and achieve goals of the meeting

EXAMPLES OF GROUND RULES

- Time limits
 - The session will adhere to strict time limits
 - Be respectful so that everyone can participate

Your Opinions

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WHAT IS YOUR COUNTY OF RESIDENCE?

1. Ross
2. Pike
3. Scioto
4. Jackson



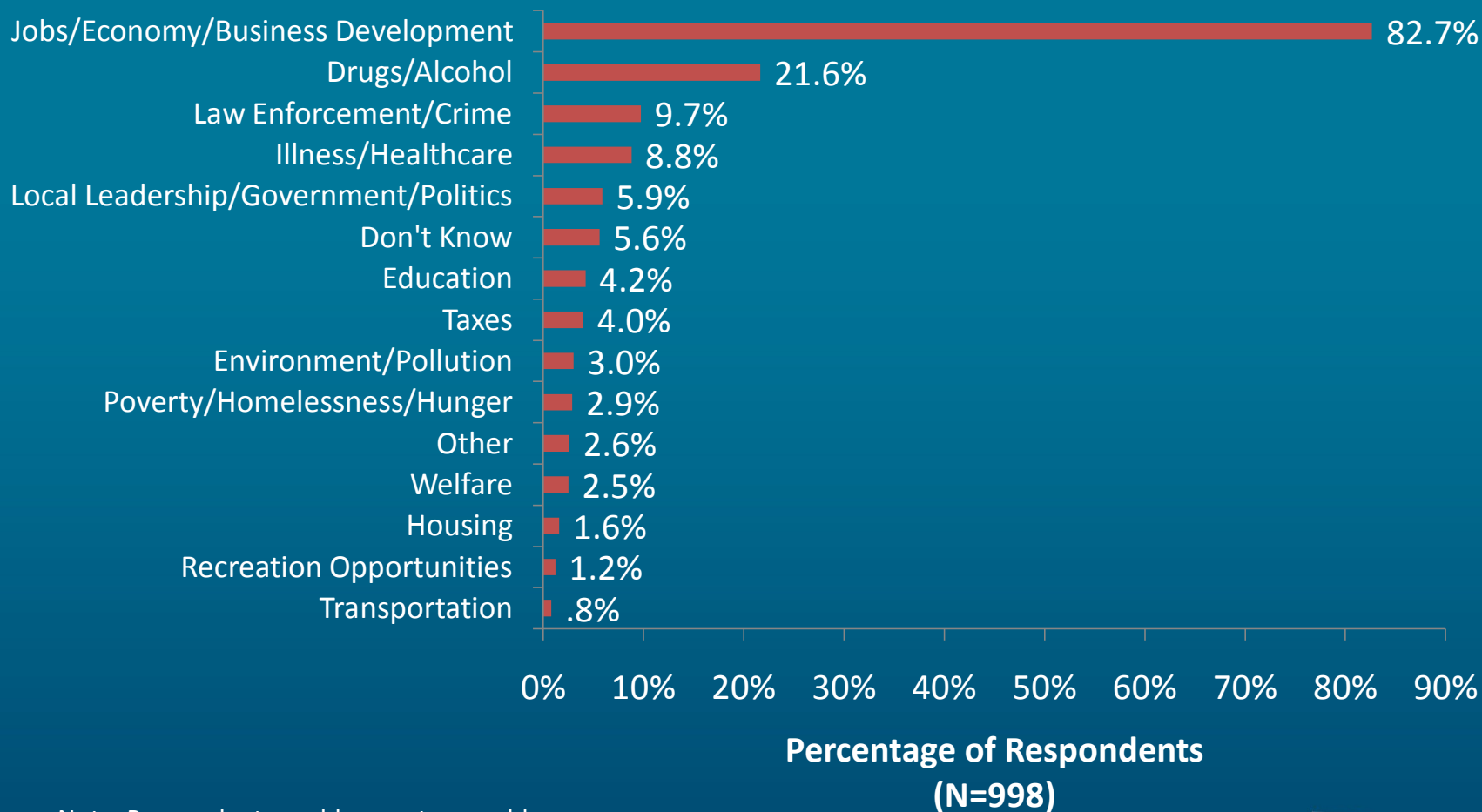
WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?

1. Male
2. Female
3. Don't know/undecided

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING THIS REGION?

1. Crime/violence
2. Drugs/alcohol
3. Jobs/economy
4. Education
5. Environment/pollution
6. Other

From survey: What do you feel are the two biggest problems facing your community?



Note: Respondents could name two problems

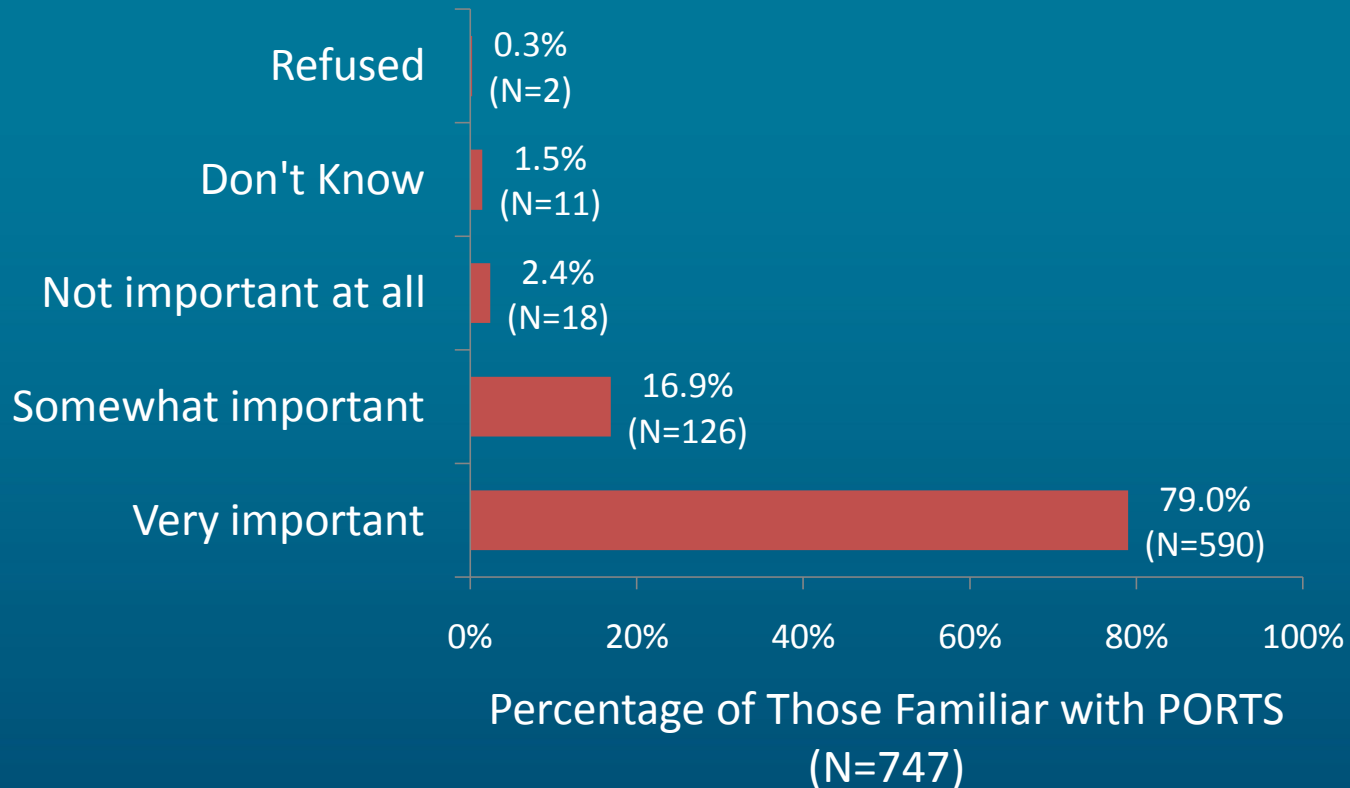
**PORTS
FUTURE**



HOW IMPORTANT IS PORTS TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR COMMUNITY?

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not important at all
4. Don't know

From survey: How important is PORTS to the future of your community?



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FUTURE**



WHICH OF THESE POSSIBLE USES FOR PORTS DO YOU FAVOR THE MOST?

- 1. Manufacturing/light industry**
- 2. Energy production**
- 3. Mixed use retail and business park**
- 4. Recreational**
- 5. Other**

WHICH OF THESE POSSIBLE USES FOR PORTS DO YOU FAVOR THE LEAST?

- 1. Manufacturing/light industry**
- 2. Energy production**
- 3. Mixed use retail and business park**
- 4. Recreational**
- 5. Other**

From survey: Which of these possible uses do you favor the most? Which do you favor the least?

	<u>Most</u>		<u>Least</u>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Manufacturing Plan (Light or Heavy)	136	18.2%	41	5.5%
Energy Production Plant (Solar/Nuclear/Wind/Coal)	508	68.0%	39	5.2%
Mixed Use Retail and Business Park	11	1.5%	124	16.6%
Recreation (Sports Fields, Park Space, & Wildlife Areas)	44	5.9%	449	60.1%
Other	26	3.5%	24	3.2%
Don't Know	19	2.5%	62	8.3%
Refused	3	0.4%	8	1.1%
Total	747	100.0%	747	100.0%

DOOR PRIZE #2

**PORTS
FUTURE**



YOUR COMMUNITY ASSETS AND VALUES

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FUTURE**



DATA EXPLORATION

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FUTURE**



YOUR COMMUNITY VISIONS

**PORTS
FUTURE**



NEXT STEPS

**PORTS
FUTURE**



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. Kickoff summary
2. County-level meetings (new slide with dates)
3. County fairs this summer
4. Report to DOE by end of year