

# The Scioto Post

## Piketon Open House Informs Community about Progress at Former Gaseous Diffusion Plant

By Kevin Coleman - 09/29/2024



The PORTS community open house near Piketon on September 24th, 2024.

## Get Medicare done. Right.

**DELONG** can help!

- ✓ If you're new to Medicare
- ✓ Learn about your A,B,&C options
- ✓ Help with changes each year
- ✓ Retirement help & Life insurance



**DELONG**  
Insurance

Never a fee to talk with  
a friendly professional!

**Your hometown Medicare Pro's**  
Downtown Circleville: **740-474-6055**

*Pike County and the Scioto Valley* — The gradual demolition of the Gaseous Diffusion Plant near Piketon, and its conversion into new industrial sites – as well as employment possibilities – was outlined in an open house last week.

The community open house was offered to inform the public and job seekers about the redevelopments and potential jobs. It showcased displays by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE, which owns the site), the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership, the Oklo “advanced fusion technology” company, and Trillium H2 Power.

I spoke with three of the participants, and you can hear them in their own words (in the noisy room!) in my video interviews.

*An Introduction to the displays in the PORTS community open house.*

The spokesman for DOE outlined the ongoing process of decommission and demolition. Jeffrey Davis said demolition has finished on one of the two largest buildings, number 326, and polluted on-site earth was used to help bury most of it in the landfill created on the facility.



## **Trending** **Regulatory Commission Fails to Allow Mental Health Crisis Center to be Built in Ross County (Part 2)**

He said they continue to deal with steel tanks of depleted uranium hexafluoride, and they are ready to start the demolition of building 333, with about 14 years left in their procedural timeline.

Learn more on their [demolition-specific website](#).

*An outline of decommission and demolition process at the Gaseous Diffusion Plant.*

The Oklo (pronounced “OH-kloh”) spokesman said they plan to build two small powerhouses there to generate 15 megawatts of electricity each.

John said their first powerhouse is on-track to be built in Idaho and go online in 2027, and their Piketon plants will follow.

He said their metal-fueled, metal-cooled, low-pressure, passively safe technology is based on an experimental test reactor that ran for 30 years.

John said the Piketon site has several good features for them:

- A great infrastructure with the power lines coming in that they can use to send out power.
- A great symbiotic partner with the [Centrus](#) centrifuge facility there that will sell them fuel and buy their electricity.
- And a history of nuclear power there, with a potential workforce that already has experience with it.

Oklo has a [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

The Oklo "advanced fusion technology company" plans to build two small powerhouses at the Gaseous Diffusion Plant near Piketon.

Representatives of [Trillium H2 Power](#) spoke with the [Ross County Commissioners](#) recently, and at the open house they said they did not have anything new to report.

The event in Pike County was held at the Twin Lakes Resort just east of Piketon. Another open house was held the next day in the Scioto County Welcome Center in Portsmouth.

A ["virtual museum"](#) website on the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant is also available.

**PORTS REINDUSTRIALIZATION IMPACT**

OHIO UNIVERSITY • Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs

**Appalachia**  
HOPE  
Capitalize on natural resources  
Repurpose coal  
Shale gas  
Focus area for innovation  
Provide bulk feedstock materials  
Supply chain opportunities  
Develop intermodal transportation hub

**National**  
Convert a Federal liability to an asset  
Increase US competitiveness  
Leadership in integrated technologies  
Improve energy price stability & predictability  
Promote energy security & sustainability  
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

**Ohio**  
Increase state tax revenues  
Economic development in depressed area  
State-wide supply chain opportunities  
Create an intermodal transportation hub  
Expand Ohio based companies in Ohio  
Capitalize on available natural resource  
Capitalize on a federal investments  
Attract major industry investments

**Community**  
Economic stability  
Increase local tax revenues  
Retain educated & skilled workers  
Import & home grow talent  
Improve education at all levels  
Enhance quality of life  
Increase civic pride  
New recreational areas & civic/cultural activities

**PORTS**  
Purpose, mission & vision for the future  
Host a megaproject & attract \$B investments  
Utilize and enhance industrial infrastructure  
Accelerate site cleanup  
Integrate utility & support processes  
Innovation hub for integrated systems  
Economic driver/engine  
Co-location of energy producers  
Focal point for recycle & reuse

**Industry**  
Synergistically integrate technologies  
Optimize efficiency & minimize waste  
Share resources & processes  
Leadership in a closed loop manufacturing  
Significantly reduced operating costs  
Promote partnerships & collaborations  
Promote industry symbiosis (closed loop manufacturing)

**Workforce**  
Create permanent non-exportable jobs  
Opportunities for all skills and education levels  
Development of advanced skills  
Vertical & horizontal expansion of skills  
Challenging opportunities with a greater purpose  
Opportunities to work old & new technology

**Technology**  
Development of integrative technologies  
Next generation technologies  
Focused research, development, demonstration, & deployment opportunities  
Design for flexibility, robustness, & resilience  
Enhance separations and recycling technologies  
Develop a model of innovation to be replicated

**Environmental**  
Promote Recycling & reuse  
Optimize efficiency & minimize waste  
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
Provide new wetlands & recreational space  
Enhance natural resource utilization  
Utilize brownfield site





*The Twin Lakes Resort just east of Piketon.*



## Kevin Coleman

<http://IntrepidHeritageServices.com>

Raised in Ross County, Bearcat class of '87 at Paint Valley. Wrote a column on history and historic preservation for the Chillicothe Gazette right out of high school, then a bachelors in Journalism in the OU class of '91. After starting my one-man company "Intrepid Heritage Services" in Columbus in 1997 to offer historical research, tours, and talks, I returned to Ross County in 2003. Have been working as a radio programmer and reporter at Clear Channel / iHeart Media Southern Ohio. Started working with the Scioto Post June 27th, 2023.

