

POWERING IT ALL

April 2025

Updates on PORTS site redevelopment

PORTS Site Redevelopment Overview

The Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) is designated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as the local community reuse organization. SODI receives personal property and clean and remediated land from the DOE former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Pike County, Ohio, to leverage in regional economic diversification efforts. PORTS was constructed in the early 1950s to enrich uranium for the nation's nuclear defense and energy missions, and the site was vital in our country's efforts to fight and win the Cold War. For over 70 years, the site has been a major employer in the region.



Historical aerial view of the PORTS site.
Photo credit: U.S. Department of Energy

SODI's reindustrialization of PORTS is focused on developing an "all-of-the-above" energy generation complex collocated with high-volume industrial electricity users and manufacturing. This strategy will accelerate power generation resources for Ohio industries, reduce the burden on the national grid, attract billions of dollars in private capital, and produce thousands of well-paying jobs in the private sector. Currently, four industry partners intend to develop projects in

the areas of hydrogen, ammonia, and silicon production, advanced nuclear small modular reactors, utility scale battery storage, and high-capacity data processing.



Pike County Meet the Developers Open House hosted by SODI and OU's PORTSfuture Program.
Photo credit: Amplifire Strategies

Co-located industries at the PORTS site that are separate from SODI site reindustrialization activities but vital to reindustrialization include Centrus Energy Corp.'s production of High-Assay, Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) for use in advanced nuclear small modular reactors and the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) Conversion facility.

SODI's development and implementation of the reindustrialization plan is conducted in collaboration with DOE's Office of Environmental Management Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (DOE EM PPPO) and Ohio University's Voinovich School PORTSfuture Program (funded by DOE EM PPPO), and is supported by local and regional economic development organizations, Chambers of Commerce, elected officials, labor groups, community members, and a multitude of regional stakeholders.

In The News

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio leaders push Trump administration to fund nuclear uranium enrichment in Piketon

... Centrus began enriching uranium again at its Piketon plant in October 2023. It marked the first time in decades the site was again being used for nuclear development.

In 2022, 80 acres of the land for the original plant were sold to Trillium, a company that wants to build a hydrogen-fueled power plant on the site. Construction on the \$1.8 billion investment could start in 2026, creating 2,100 construction jobs and 280 permanent jobs...

Full story follows below.

Upcoming Events

Events Hosted by SODI and OU's PORTSfuture Program

Free and open to the public

PORTSfuture ASER Student Expo

MAY
07

10:30AM-11:30AM
1862 Shyville Road, Piketon, Ohio
Come view poster presentations from ASER student summary classes from Valley High School and Waverly High School

Open House: Meet the incoming PORTS developers

JUNE
10

4PM-6PM
Twin Lakes Resort
273 Tackett Road Piketon, Ohio

Open House: Meet the incoming PORTS developers

JUNE
11

4PM-6PM
Scioto County Welcome Center
342 Second Street Portsmouth, Ohio

PORTSfuture Summer STEM Events

In partnership with public libraries.

For all children in grades 4-8.

Free and no registration is necessary – just show up!

ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS

Engineer a LEGO maze, then test your skills by guiding a Hexbug through the maze.

FOLDSCOPES

Discover the hidden world of microbes using foldscope microscopes and bug boxes.

ARDUINO

Create a simple circuit and learn to code as you power a lightbulb.

ENERGY

Explore geothermal and other energy sources with interactive experimenting using color changing playdough.

Pike County Library

Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County
207 N. Market St., Waverly, OH 45690

JUNE
0

ENGINEERING
DESIGN PROCESS
10AM-11AM

JUNE
18

ARDUINO
10AM-11AM

JUNE
11

FOLDSCOPES
10AM-11AM

JUNE
2

ENERGY
10AM-11AM

Scioto County Library

Scioto County Public Library
1220 Gallia St., Portsmouth, OH 45662

5

JUNE
0

ENGINEERING
DESIGN PROCESS
3PM-4PM

JUNE
18

ARDUINO
3PM-4PM

JUNE
11

FOLDSCOPES
3PM-4PM

JUNE
2

ENERGY
3PM-4PM

Jackson County Library

Jackson City Library
21 Broadway St., Jackson, OH 45640

5

JULY
10

ENGINEERING
DESIGN PROCESS
11AM-12PM

JULY
2

ARDUINO
11AM-12PM

JULY
17

FOLDSCOPES
11AM-12PM

JULY
31

ENERGY
11AM-12PM

Ross County Library

Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library Northside Branch
550 Buckeye St., Chillicothe, OH 45601

JULY
10

ENGINEERING
DESIGN PROCESS
3:30PM-4:30PM

JULY
2

ARDUINO
3:30PM-4:30PM

COMING SOON:



THE PODCAST!

Inside The Episodes

A podcast series exploring the reindustrialization of the DOE PORTS site in Pike County, Ohio. The all-of-the-above energy and advanced manufacturing complex will create lasting jobs and spark long-term economic revitalization across the region.

Listen wherever you stream your podcasts. Stay tuned!

In The News

Continued from above

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio leaders push Trump administration to fund nuclear uranium enrichment in Piketon

By Max Filby, Columbus Dispatch
April 15, 2025

State leaders are pushing the U.S. Department of Energy to reach what they called "domestic energy dominance" by investing in an Ohio town.

With the department preparing to allocate money for uranium enrichment, Sen. Jon Husted, Sen. Bernie Moreno, Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel all signed a letter urging energy Secretary Chris Wright to give the majority of the money to a company operating in southern Ohio.

The company — Maryland-based Centrus Energy — runs the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, which is nearly 70 miles south of Columbus. The facility is the only American-owned enrichment plant currently in operation, the officials wrote.

Funding the work in Piketon is "in America's economic and national security interests," the leaders wrote, as most uranium is enriched by other nations. The world's four leading uranium enrichment operations are all foreign owned, including one in Russia, one in China, another in France and one jointly run by Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, according to the letter.

"Centrus Energy's work in Ohio improves U.S. national security and advances American energy dominance," the letter reads. "We urge you to boost the development of nuclear energy in the United States by funding American enrichment technology and deploying it in Ohio at a large scale."

Redevelopment has long been eyed for the 1,200-acre site of the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Pike County, a place once made famous for producing the fuel for the nation's nuclear weapons. The plant operated from 1954 to 2001, initially producing enriched uranium for nuclear weapons and then for commercial nuclear reactors.

Remediation of the site began in 1989 and as it was completed, land was turned over to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative for redevelopment.

Centrus began enriching uranium again at its Piketon plant in October 2023. It marked the first time in decades the site was again being used for nuclear development.

In 2022, 80 acres of the land for the original plant were sold to Trillium, a company that wants to build a hydrogen-fueled power plant on the site. Construction on the \$1.8 billion investment could start in 2026, creating 2,100 construction jobs and 280 permanent jobs.

Oklo, a developer of small nuclear power plants, wants to build two reactors on the site. It envisions a day when it will produce electricity that could be used by Centrus Energy and Oklo, in return, would buy enriched uranium from Centrus to power its plants.

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