Ohio University (OU) Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office Financial Assistance Grant DE-EM0005270

Collaborative Efforts to Inform DOE EM Cleanup, End-State Configuration, and Accelerated Property Transfer at the PORTS facility in Pike County, Ohio

Site Repurposing Continuation and Ongoing Technical Assistance, Public Outreach, Education, and Engagement for Property Transfer and Future Use Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (FFY26)

Budget Period 4 (BP4) October 1, 2025–September 30, 2026

Combined Activities Report September 30, 2026

Stephanie Howe
Ohio University (OU) Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service

The PORTSfuture Program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

PORTSFUTURE
IMAGINING THE OPPORTUNITIES, GATHERING YOUR IDEAS
THE FACILITY AT PIKETON, OHIO

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Ohio University PORTSfuture Program Overview of Project Alignment with Federal Priorities and National Interests

The activities contained herein serve to accelerate the repurposing of land and other assets at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) uranium enrichment facility in Pike County, Ohio. Reindustrialization activities are transforming the site into an innovative energy generation complex, which includes advanced nuclear fuel production and is collocated with a hyperscale Artificial Intelligence (AI) data center. Adjacent to the site, private companies will be generating power through advanced nuclear small modular reactors and natural gas fired power plants. The activities are aligned with our nation's priorities to achieve energy dominance, accelerate nuclear energy technologies, and win the AI arms race to further secure the United States of America's position as the preeminent global superpower.

Ohio University PORTSfuture Program grant activities are fully aligned and consistent with current federal agency priorities and national interests. Our efforts are focused on unleashing America's energy potential by leveraging our region's abundant fossil energy resources, specifically natural gas, along with the deployment of advanced nuclear reactors. This will provide reliable dispatchable power for data centers, ensure power availability for other industrial users, and create thousands of well-paying jobs for Americans. Our work is also responsive to various presidential executive orders related to expediting data center projects, rapid deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies, nuclear fuel recycling, utilization of our nation's vast fossil energy resources, and strengthening the reliability and security of the national electric grid.

Redevelopment is occurring on clean and remediated parcels of land owned by DOE, leased by DOE to the private sector, and/or deeded to the local DOE-designated community reuse organization that sells land to private industry. Additionally, industries are purchasing private property adjacent to and/or near the site. Current industry partners involved in the PORTS site reindustrialization are developing projects in the areas of data processing, natural gas combined cycle gas turbine power generation, and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors for power generation along with nuclear fuel recycling, and hydrogen, ammonia, and nitrogen production in support of various industrial processes. Collocated industries at the

PORTS site that are currently operational and linked to site reindustrialization include Centrus Energy Corp.'s centrifuge uranium enrichment production of High-Assay, Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) for use in advanced nuclear reactors and the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) Conversion facility. DUF6 converts depleted uranium into a more stable form that is safer to store, reuse, or dispose and also produces hydrofluoric acid for use in various industrial applications. DUF6 is part of the DOE Office of Environmental Management (DOE EM) cleanup mission.

This project is creating an industry resurgence in southern Ohio, resulting in thousands of well-paying, private sector jobs, and is attracting billions of dollars in private capital investment.

Ohio University PORTSfuture Program grant activities

The Ohio University grant, branded as the "PORTSfuture Program", provides a range of deliverables, technical assistance, and data-driven approaches to support DOE cleanup and property transfer. Grant activities also identify opportunities to reduce DOE costs, ensure site readiness for private industries, engage with essential stakeholders that are vital to reindustrialization, expand the capacity of the local community reuse organization, expedite private sector reindustrialization, and advance regional workforce readiness. Examples of grant activities include and may not be limited to addressing:

- Communicating site assets to the private sector to attract industries.
- Private sector infrastructure and property needs.
- Workforce needs of private developers and advancing regional workforce readiness with labor market partners to align with those needs.
- Attracting private capital and other financial resources to advance site reindustrialization.
- Data analysis, economic impact analysis, job creation analysis.
- Identifying and expanding the nuclear supply chain.
- Interactive geographic information systems for site infrastructure, regional assets, and other databases.
- Other technical assistance and tools for use with the community reuse organization and private companies to support various aspects of site reindustrialization.
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement activities with national experts, national laboratories, local and regional economic development and workforce organizations, Chambers of Commerce, local, state, and federal elected officials, labor market groups, state and federal agencies, community members, and a multitude of regional stakeholders.
- Financial resource acquisition, grant writing, grant management, and grant deployment assistance as requested by the community reuse organization.
- K–12 STEM activities in the region to help prepare the future workforce for incoming industries.

Background, Purpose, and Approach

PORTSfuture's work with PORTS reindustrialization is conducted in collaboration with DOE's Office of Environmental Management Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (DOE EM PPPO) and the local DOE-designated community reuse organization known as the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI), The PORTSfuture Program is funded by DOE EM PPPO. Reindustrialization is supported by local, regional, and state economic development and workforce development organizations, Chambers of Commerce, elected officials, labor groups, community members, and a multitude of regional stakeholders.

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 southern Ohio region with over 20,000 people employed during the site's construction in the early 1950s. During the years the site operated, enriching uranium for the

nation's nuclear defense system and later for use in commercial nuclear power reactors, typical annual employment was between 1,200 and 2,100. In 2005, DOE transitioned the PORTS plant into cold shutdown, and in 2010, DOE began awarding contracts to private contractors to conduct site cleanup activities. Site cleanup is vital in facilitating the transfer of property to the DOE-designated community reuse organization to be leased or sold to private sector companies for reindustrialization. DOE also directly leases land to private industry for purposes tied to redevelopment. Currently the site employs approximately 2,000 to 2,500 employees with most workers assigned to site cleanup activities, which will expedite property transfer.

The primary labor market for the PORTS site construction, operations, and cleanup missions has historically been residents of surrounding southern Ohio communities that fall within the federal designation of Appalachian Ohio. Many Americans in these communities suffer severe, generational economic distress due to limited employment opportunities for living wage jobs in the region. Additionally, there have been significant closures of large regional manufacturing operations such as Mills Pride, Merillat Industries, and Pixelle Specialty Solutions, as well as other manufacturing downsizing. This has resulted in the loss of thousands of regional jobs, limiting viable employment options and adding further burdens to the economies of the surrounding communities. This project is collaborating with partners to leverage the PORTS site's extensive industrial infrastructure, land, and location to transform the site into an invaluable asset and create thousands of well-paying jobs to reignite the southern Ohio economy.

PORTSfuture Program Supports the DOE Office of Environmental Management (DOE EM) Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (DOE EM PPPO) Mission

The PORTSfuture Program activities serve the DOE EM mission in several ways. These activities expand data utilization with site stakeholders at PORTS and in the region to enhance information-based decision making when determining viable future use options for the site and site assets. Information-based decisions will contribute to cost savings/cost avoidance by DOE EM as cleanup efforts continue. These activities contribute to informing the end-state configuration for the site and may expedite the transfer of real property for reindustrialization. Throughout this report, the terms "reindustrialization" and "redevelopment" will be used interchangeably. Expediting property transfer for private industry use supports DOE's efforts to reduce the EM footprint at PORTS. Throughout this report, the terms "property" and "property transfer" will refer to the transfer of real property (i.e., real estate) to the DOE-designated community reuse organization known as SODI. Grant activities work in tandem with SODI to support the site reindustrialization efforts led by SODI.

The role of the Ohio University (OU) PORTSfuture Program in the site repurposing and ongoing outreach activities is to serve the public interest by acting as an independent, credentialed broker of data and other information, and convening, facilitating, and assisting collaborative partners and interested parties including government, business, and community entities in activities related to site reindustrialization. PORTSfuture engages in technical assistance and partnership building, by brokering relationships with private sector developers who are planned and/or potential future tenants, and, along with collaborators, by employing data-driven decision processes to ensure efficacious planning for site future use endeavors. These efforts are responsive to the stated future use preferences of the public at large in the four-county region near the site identified during various DOE EM PPPO and Ohio University PORTSfuture Program public engagement efforts.

Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (FFY26) site repurposing and ongoing outreach activities were conducted collaboratively among Ohio University (OU), DOE EM PPPO, SODI, site contractors, and state and national experts. As the activities were conducted, site stakeholders were engaged through progress

updates, presentations, roundtables, open house and networking events, meetings, newsletters, and social media. Key stakeholders include the Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB), local, state, and federal elected officials, county, regional, and state-level economic and workforce development professionals, Chambers of Commerce, private sector developers, labor groups, community leaders, and the public.

The Ohio University PORTSfuture Program focuses activities in the areas of site readiness for industry, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) databases, data analysis, economic impact analysis, workforce readiness, industry engagement, and partnership building. PORTSfuture also dedicates resources to public engagement, training, outreach, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) engagement. Refer to Appendix 1 to read about the background, history, and evolution of PORTSfuture grant activities.

PORTSfuture Summary of Leveraged Funds, Site Reindustrialization Highlights, and STEM Highlights for Budget Period 4 (BP4)

Leveraged funds

As stated previously, our work is conducted through partnerships, which enhances our effectiveness, value creation, and longevity. Whenever possible, PORTSfuture seeks to leverage additional dollars to expand the impact of our work to support SODI's site redevelopment efforts.

Total estimated leveraged funding during Budget Period 4 is $661,976. Sources and amounts of leveraged funding include:

- Ohio University funding: Approximately $147,210. This includes:
  - Voinovich School State of Ohio Appalachian New Economy Partnership-$54,210.
  - Voinovich School Research Incentive-$89,000.
  - Ohio University academic departments-~$4,000.
- American Electric Power Foundation-$14,766.
- Assisted SODI in securing and administering nuclear hub planning grant from the Ohio Department of Development.
  - The $500,000 in funding was awarded to SODI in FFY25 and execution of the grant carried through FFY26.

Site reindustrialization and stakeholder engagement highlights

Collaborative site repurposing efforts are conducted by SODI and PORTSfuture in partnership with private industry, Ohio labor groups, and numerous stakeholder groups. Ensuring a trained and ready workforce is vital to successful site redevelopment, and workforce readiness is another focus of site reindustrialization.

Significant strides in site reindustrialization occurred during Budget Period 4. Centrus Energy Corp., already operating at the site and producing High-Assay, Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) for advanced nuclear reactor fuels, announced a $1.5 billion expansion in January 2026. The expansion will increase demand for regional workers. In a response to the PORTSfuture Program workforce survey conducted in 2025, Centrus indicated plans to hire over 250 skilled trades and technical workers during construction phases and plans to hire over 240 additional operational workers in technical, supervisory, and administrative roles to serve its expanded operations. The Centrus expansion is currently underway.

SODI and the PORTSfuture Program continued to strengthen partnerships with Oklo Inc., a developer of advanced nuclear small modular reactors and nuclear fuel recycling. In January 2026, Oklo Inc. announced a partnership with Meta Platforms Inc. to develop a 1.2-GW nuclear power generation project utilizing land Oklo purchased from SODI (formerly Department of Energy property). Private investment figures are unknown at this time. Supported by prepayments from Meta, this agreement enables Oklo to accelerate the deployment of its Aurora Powerhouse advanced nuclear reactors to provide reliable energy for Meta's operations in the state including Meta's AI supercluster in New Albany, Ohio. Oklo's website states approximately 560 operations jobs will be created upon the full build out. Construction job projections for Oklo are unknown at this time. During BP4, Oklo purchased approximately 206 acres of former DOE land from SODI.

In March 2026, SoftBank announced its intent to spend between $30 billion and $40 billion to construct a 10-GW capacity hyperscale Artificial Intelligence (AI) data center, the largest in the world, and a $33.3 billion 9.2-GW natural gas power generation complex on land leased from DOE and on purchased private property near the DOE site. The data center will be run by SoftBank's affiliated company, SB Energy. AEP Ohio serves as a key SB Energy partner and received $4.2 billion from SB Energy to improve the electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure and grid reliability in the region. AEP Ohio's labor needs are unknown at this time. SB Energy stated on its website the need for more than 10,000 construction jobs over the next four years and at a recent community open house indicated in its materials the creation of more than 2,500 ongoing operational jobs upon completion of the build out. The first phase of construction is planned to begin in the fall of 2026.

Hecate Energy, a developer of utility scale energy battery storage, is working with SODI to modify and finalize a land purchase option agreement for 50 acres of land owned by SODI. PORTSfuture provides various assistance to these developers as requested to advance their involvement in site redevelopment and to increase their regional stakeholder engagement.

Trillium H2Power (Trillium) raised the necessary capital from private equity investors to purchase an initial parcel of land from SODI in FFY24. In FFY25, Trillium submitted a request to SODI to purchase more land to secure the necessary footprint for its projects including a 500MWe natural gas power generation project to be followed by a hydrogen production facility to produce ammonia and nitrogen to support other industries.

During BP4, PORTSfuture was instrumental in assisting SODI with administering and closing out $500,000 of federal funding that PORTSfuture helped the organization obtain in FFY24. PORTSfuture also assisted SODI in administering a $500,000 State of Ohio grant to advance nuclear hub planning as part of site reindustrialization and workforce readiness. PORTSfuture will continue to support SODI in the execution of the state funds during BP5. To advance redevelopment, an estimated 88 stakeholder engagement meetings were held to convey information on site reindustrialization efforts and progress, seek information or input, and/or explore synergies and potential collaborations. PORTSfuture launched the pilot cohort with ten students for the Ohio University Data Center Operator certification program in partnership with USW Local 689. PORTSfuture and SODI held four Meet the Developer Open Houses that included industry partners currently operating at the PORTS facility and those engaged in property agreements with SODI. DOE EM provided information on cleanup and property transfer progress at these open house events. These events were attended by over 415 stakeholders, including community members, legislators, labor groups, business and industry leaders, governmental representatives, reindustrialization partners, presenters, and others. In FFY26, PORTSfuture produced seven *Powering It All* electronic newsletters and three informational alerts about regional events to keep site stakeholders informed of major announcements. Newsletters were sent to over 400 organizations and entities. Coordinated nine

news stories that were published by media outlets, and the PORTSfuture website had 59,370 visitors and 225,944 page views during BP4.

Seven presentations to various stakeholder groups occurred during BP4 to share information in the comprehensive workforce analysis that was conducted during BP3. Summary information was provided to and/or discussions held with seven other stakeholder groups, and the final workforce report was posted to the PORTSfuture website. The analysis determined skills that are concentrated in the regional labor market and identified workforce needs during both construction phases and operations and maintenance phases of private industry projects. Other aims of the study were to create an inventory of the scope and capacity of apprenticeship programs to address the workforce needs and identify gaps in workforce readiness.

The Ohio labor steering committee continued its role in supporting site reindustrialization efforts in the areas of advocating for the project at the regional, state, and federal levels. Also, during BP4, PORTSfuture finalized a Statewide Nuclear Supply Chain (NSC) analysis. This analysis produced an NSC directory and mapping of companies in Ohio that are operating in the nuclear industry, analysis of the economic impacts of the nuclear industry in Ohio, and an NSC localization and development strategy to deploy with economic development entities, Chambers of Commerce, and others to build out the regional NSC, create jobs, and accelerate economic prosperity in the region. Presentations were held with the SODI Ohio Department of Development-funded nuclear hub planning steering committee.

PORTSfuture continued to provide a wide range of tools and technical assistance to SODI, developers, and other partners, too numerous to summarize here, in the areas of data analysis, economic impact analysis, workforce analysis, Geographic Information Systems, partnership building, and stakeholder engagement. Details on all site reindustrialization activities are described in this report.

STEM highlights

PORTSfuture STEM engagements described in this report yielded in-person contacts with approximately 3,513 students in grades K–12 in the four-county area of Pike, Scioto, Ross, and Jackson counties with additional counties outside of the four-county area attending the DOE Science Alliance event. STEM events engage youths in a variety of experiential STEM learning activities. Our Summer STEM Days Public Library Partnership with Pike, Scioto, Ross, and Jackson county libraries included a total of eight sessions covering topics such as basic software coding, and design, build, and problem-solve through the engineering design process. We continue to maintain the My Backyard Stream kits that are available at these library locations for families to borrow for use at home. The Appalachian STEM Enrichment Academy (ASEA) was developed in previous years in partnership with the American Electric Power Ohio Foundation and other funders. The ASEA is an online STEM resource that can be accessed by educators, parents, and caregivers for use in the classroom or at home, 24/7/365. The ASEA website had 154,231 visits and 359,252 page views during Budget Period 4, further expanding our STEM engagement with youth, educators, parents, and caregivers. PORTSfuture continued to support the Ohio University Regional Science Day to aid teacher-mentors and students in Ross and Jackson counties with participating in this event. PORTSfuture also continued our collaborations with DOE EM, site contractors, the Jackson County Department of Job and Family Services, and regional schools on a variety of STEM engagement opportunities. Detailed descriptions of STEM events are described in this report.

Ohio University Student Involvement During Budget Period 4

During Budget Period 4, thirty-five Ohio University undergraduate, graduate, and honors tutorial students supported the work of the PORTSfuture Program with funding from the Voinovich School and the

American Electric Power Foundation grant. Twenty-nine of those students supported the Regional Science Day project. Students hailed from a variety of majors including Environmental Studies, Public Administration, Computer Science, Photojournalism, Environmental Sciences, Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences, Patton College of Education, Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Scripps College of Communication Media Arts department. Additionally, the Voinovich School supported two AmeriCorps members to assist with STEAM Ahead activities in the schools and Science Alliance presentations. To date a total of 205 students have contributed to the PORTSfuture work since 2010.

Site Reindustrialization Industry Partners

As previously stated, the reindustrialization of PORTS will create an 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. Primary site reindustrialization goals include:

- Attracting power generation resources for industry.
- Attracting billions of dollars in private capital.
- Strengthening our national security through expanding domestic manufacturing and achieving energy dominance.
- Advancing Artificial Intelligence projects.
- Creating thousands of well-paying jobs in the private sector.

Site reindustrialization current core partners are depicted below in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Current core site reindustrialization partners

Industry partner: Trillium H2Power

Trillium H2Power (Trillium) is planning to develop two projects as part of the PORTS site redevelopment. Trillium purchased 80 acres of DOE-transferred land from SODI in December 2023 and

has additional land requests pending with SODI. Building on the region's extensive power distribution and transport infrastructure, Trillium will construct a natural gas power generation facility followed by a hydrogen production facility to produce ammonia and nitrogen for industrial use.

The Trillium holding company has been established including:

- Management teams have been hired, and meetings with State of Ohio entities are being held
  - Newpoint Trillium Management leads project engineering.
  - Trillium H2Power Management leads operations, investor relations, and funding.
- Trillium H2Power LLC was established to be the portfolio company and long-term licensor of intellectual property to the individual project companies. Trillium Piketon LLC is the project name in Pike County, Ohio.
- Trillium H2Power is the company currently holding long-term agreements and contracts, but those will be transferred to Trillium Piketon LLC as the project moves forward.
- Trillium Piketon LLC will be the permit holder for the site at Piketon.
- Newpoint Trillium Management LLC was established for project development, to hold the construction contracts, and to "deliver" the project to Trillium H2Power/Trillium Piketon.

In August 2025, Trillium provided a project summary letter to the SODI Board that included the following project table shown here:

Project Aspect	Trillium Power Generation	Trillium Hydrogen & Commodities Complex
Investment	$750 million	$1.1 billion
Land Used	70 Acres	90 Acres
Parcels	1-A, 1-B, 3-A, 3-C T1 &T2 (primary), 1-C (enabling)	1-C, 4-C, 4-D, 4-E (primary), Trillium Power Generation (enabling)
Construction Jobs	400–500	2,150
Operations Jobs	25–35	170
Timeline Start	Immediate with Parcel 3 Purchase	Immediate with Parcel 4 Available to Develop
Overall Planned Timeline	- Permitting & Partnering: 2025–26 - Construction: 2027–2028 - Commercial Operation Date: Target Q4 2028	- Site Control & Design: 2026–2027 - Construction: 2028–2030 - Operations Begin: Target early 2030 *Development could begin earlier if land control and permitting accelerate*

Source: Trillium H2 Power Development at PORTS – Project Summary for SODI, August 12, 2025

During BP4, PORTSfuture continued to assist Trillium's project by providing data and GIS products and stakeholder engagement support related to Trillium's planned operations at the PORTS site.

Industry partner: Hecate Energy

In July 2023, Hecate Energy (Hecate), one of the nation's leading developers in energy projects and storage solutions, approached PORTSfuture and SODI to obtain land to site a utility-scale energy battery

storage project on SODI parcels in Pike County, Ohio. The company deploys innovative approaches to craft power purchase agreements and financing for power projects in the United States. During FFY24, Hecate signed a land option with SODI to purchase an initial 50 acres of property owned by SODI. The company has expressed an interest in acquiring two additional 50-acre parcels as more land becomes available. Access to the PJM grid interconnection adjacent to the site to disperse energy on a wide scale is the most enticing reason for its interest in siting a project as part of the PORTS site redevelopment. During FFY26, Hecate was asked by SODI to move the planned project to a different parcel owned by SODI. PORTSfuture supported Hecate by consulting with DOE EM on a viable gen-tie route for access to the American Electric Power Don Marquis substation, which would enable interconnection to the PJM grid. PORTSfuture also provided stakeholder engagement support during BP4.

Industry partner: Oklo Inc.

Oklo Inc. (Oklo) is a company focused on advanced nuclear microreactor design technology to create compact and fast reactors that can recycle, and use spent fuel (i.e., previously used nuclear fuel, also considered nuclear waste) from other nuclear reactors and spent fuel from their own reactors. Oklo reactors are smaller and less obtrusive in appearance; they have exceptional safety profiles due to their design compared to other reactors currently operating. Having successfully won four DOE competitive awards for fuel recycling and fuel diversification is an advantage enjoyed by Oklo. Oklo's advanced reactors can be configured to operate on transuranic-based or high-assay, low-enriched uranium (HALEU)-based fuel. During 2020, Oklo was the first advanced reactor design firm to access recycled HALEU fuel from Idaho National Laboratory for demonstration purposes. Commercializing the technology to recycle fuel has the potential to propel small modular reactor deployment as a vital source of power in the United States by providing a reliable source of cost-competitive fuel to this industry while simultaneously providing a viable use for spent nuclear fuel.

A March 2026 announcement indicated Oklo is also pursuing a partnership with Centrus Energy on advanced nuclear fuel fabrication and advanced fuel recycling technologies centered at the Centrus facility, which is collocated at the DOE EM PORTS site in Pike County, Ohio.

Oklo reached a major milestone in August 2026. As stated in a news release on the company's website, "Oklo Inc. (NYSE: OKLO) ("Oklo" or "the Company"), an advanced nuclear technology company, today announced that its Groves Isotope Test Reactor reached first criticality after achieving a controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction at low power. The milestone comes less than a year after groundbreaking and follows U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) authorization through the DOE Reactor Pilot Program (RPP)." Quote sourced from this press release: https://oklo.com/newsroom/news-details/2026/Oklos-Groves-Reactor-Achieves-First-Criticality-in-Under-a-Year/default.aspx. This milestone, coupled with Oklo's January 2026 announced partnership with Meta Platforms Inc. to develop a 1.2-GW nuclear power generation project in Pike County and its purchase of land that was formerly part of the DOE PORTS site, indicates that domestic advanced nuclear deployment will occur in the near-term. During BP4, PORTSfuture continued to assist Oklo's project by providing stakeholder engagement support related to the company's planned projects at the PORTS site.

Industry partner: SB Energy

As previously stated, in March 2026, SoftBank announced its intent to spend between $30 billion and $40 billion to construct a 10-GW capacity hyperscale Artificial Intelligence (AI) data center and a $33.3 billion 9.2-GW natural gas power generation complex on land leased from DOE and on purchased private property near the DOE site. The data center will be run by SoftBank's affiliated company, SB Energy. The first phase of construction is planned to begin in the fall of 2026. In BP4, PORTSfuture assisted the

SB Energy project by providing stakeholder engagement support related to the company's planned projects at the PORTS site.

Collocated industries vital to redevelopment

There are two collocated industries at the PORTS site with ongoing operations that are vital to reindustrialization. Centrus Energy Corp.'s production of High-Assay, Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) for use in advanced nuclear small modular reactors is integral to expanding the deployment of new advanced nuclear small modular reactor technologies. In January 2026, Centrus was awarded $900 million from DOE to advance domestic uranium enrichment production over the next ten years to assist in the deployment of advanced nuclear energy production to meet our nation's growing energy needs. The Mission Conversion Services Alliance LLC Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) Conversion facility converts depleted uranium hexafluoride into a more stable form that is safer to store, reuse, or dispose. DUF6 also produces hydrofluoric acid for use in various industrial applications. DUF6 is part of the DOE EM cleanup mission. Both companies are planning expansions of their operations and will be creating additional nuclear industry jobs. In addition, the two firms participated in PORTSfuture Program workforce analyses activities, and during BP4, they have remained active in PORTSfuture stakeholder engagement activities.

Site Repurposing, Stakeholder Engagement, Outreach, and STEM Activities-Budget Period 4

PORTSfuture site repurposing activities include collaborating with SODI and other stakeholders in the areas of planning, site readiness, property transfer, data analysis, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), industry attraction support, partnership building, stakeholder engagement, project resource acquisition for SODI, and developing linkages to applicable Ohio University researchers and resources. Ongoing Technical Assistance, Public Outreach, Education, and Engagement for Property Transfer and Future Use activities include assisting in evaluating property requests from private industry (as requested), supporting labor market employment readiness for incoming projects, and multi-faceted stakeholder engagement to provide updates on redevelopment, including meetings, roundtables, newsletters, social media, webinars, presentations, open houses, networking events, websites, press releases, interviews, PSAs, and labor group meetings. Outreach activities include K–12 STEM engagement activities as well.

These activities support the adaptation of the regional economy to align with current economic trends and imagine possibilities beyond the existing economic realities in southern Ohio. This will provide residents in the region with new job prospects, enhanced wages, and an overall improved quality of life. Site reindustrialization will spur regional cluster and supply chain-related growth throughout the impacted counties, further advancing economic prosperity by growing both large and small business opportunities. PORTSfuture Budget Period 4 activities are depicted in Figure 2 below.

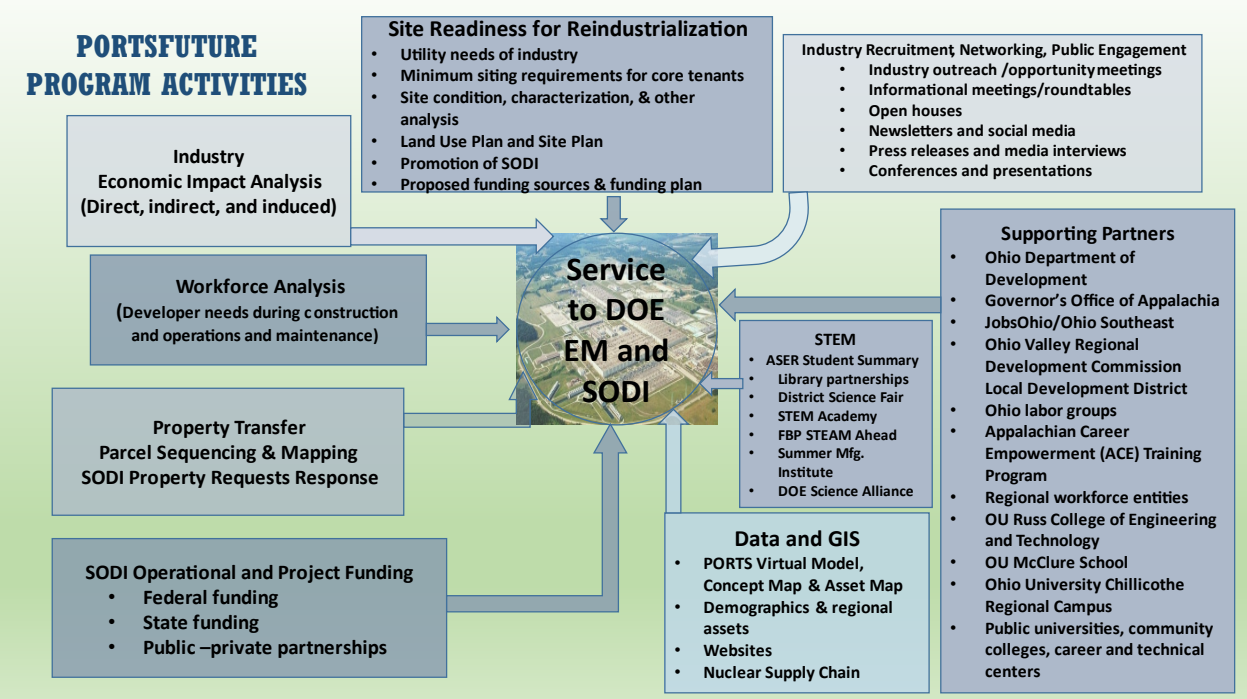


Figure 2. PORTSfuture Budget Period 4 activities

Summary of Budget Period 4 Activities for Site Repurposing Continuation and Ongoing Technical Assistance, Public Outreach, Education, and Engagement for Property Transfer and Future Use

Activities from Budget Period 4 that will carry into the next grant cycle as ongoing grant activities include:

Site readiness for reindustrialization

SODI continues its focus on asset recovery operations by dedicating staff resources to that effort. Asset recovery involves SODI collaborating with DOE EM and site cleanup contractors to identify, retrieve, recycle, and/or sell personal property assets that are located at the PORTS site. By expanding asset recovery efforts, SODI will reduce landfill waste and increase revenue streams for regional economic development. Asset recovery proceeds are used by SODI for economic development initiatives in Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Jackson counties. These four counties served as the primary labor market for the PORTS site when it operated as a U.S. DOE gaseous diffusion facility. The asset recovery proceeds are also used to accelerate the PORTS site reindustrialization efforts. DOE EM funding appropriated to the site by Congress is dedicated to cleanup activities including funding for the DUF6 facility.

Site readiness activities for site reindustrialization focus on supporting SODI's goals to use current and former DOE land for private industry projects and addressing those developers' requests. This includes ensuring industries' minimum siting criteria are met, determining utility needs and other minimum industry standards, proposing funding sources to strengthen utility infrastructure, ensuring basic geological, environmental, and other characterization studies are completed, and identifying studies that need to be completed to prepare the site for redevelopment.

Addressing these areas enables SODI to be responsive to the needs and concerns of prospective companies, which has been critical to attracting industries. SODI formally received the first 80-acre land

parcel transfer in July 2018. An additional parcel of approximately 226 acres was deeded to SODI in January 2023. Approximately 48 acres were deeded to SODI in April 2025. Direct lease arrangements for federal property are processed by DOE EM. Site reindustrialization preparedness has enabled the rapid attraction of the industry partners described previously in this report so that job creation can be realized for the region.

Data, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and SODI operational support

As stated earlier, the purpose of the site reindustrialization and outreach activities summarized in this report is to serve the DOE EM cleanup mission, including informing cleanup activities and property transfer priorities for future site reindustrialization. The potential for cost savings or cost avoidance is enhanced as cleanup efforts continue by expanding data utilization and information-based decision making with site stakeholders. Data and GIS created under previous grant activities are maintained, and new and/or updated data and GIS products are developed as needed. PORTSfuture data activities are summarized in Figure 3 and described below.

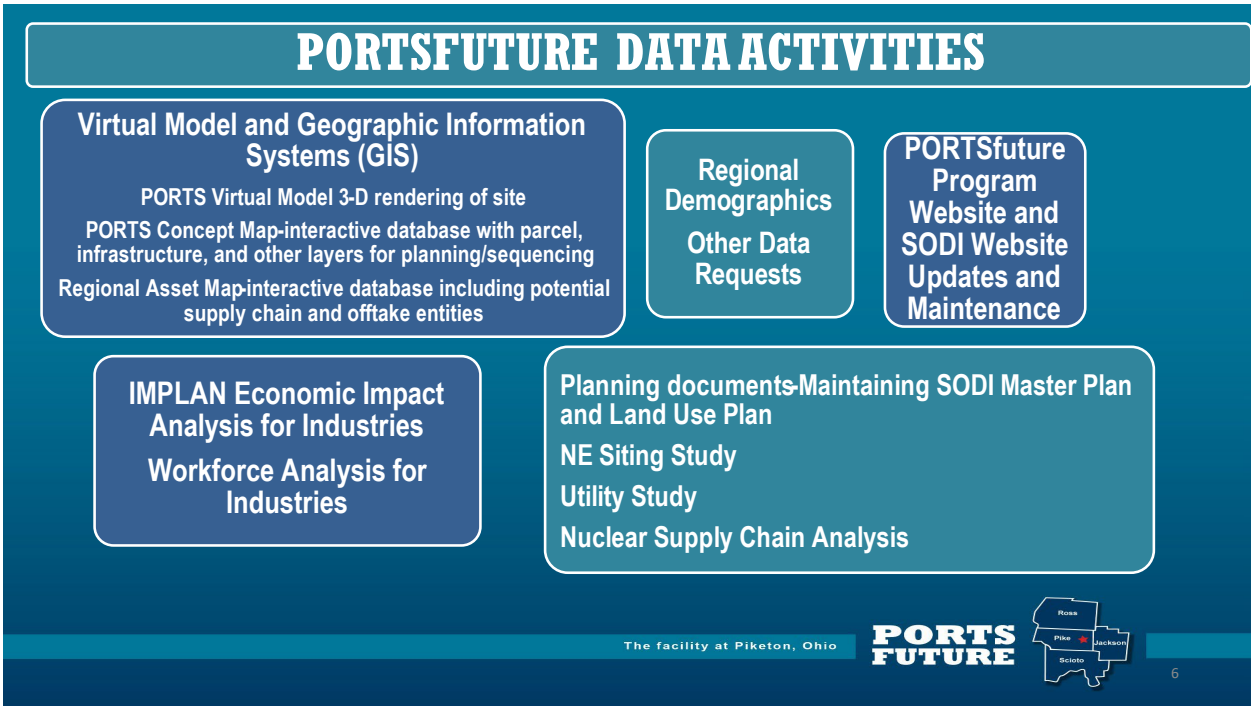


Figure 3. PORTSfuture data activities

PORTS virtual model

Ohio University's Game Research and Immersive Design (GRID) Lab is an award-winning program located in Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication, J. Warren McClure School of Emerging Communication Technologies. GRID Lab utilizes undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff researchers in its project development. The GRID Lab was created to provide the Appalachian Ohio region with education and technical assistance for developing unique products that utilize digital game technology, 3-D modeling, computer animation, simulations, and virtual, augmented, and mixed reality. These platforms can be applied to address specific requests from both the public and private sectors. In the past two decades, the GRID Lab has been awarded grants and contracts from state and federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Central Ohio Urban Area Security

Initiative, Ohio Board of Regents, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Labor, and the National Institutes of Health.

DOE EM funded the GRID Lab to create a 3-D virtual model of the PORTS reservation with the intention of utilizing the virtual model as a public information resource early in the DOE cleanup process. At that point of site cleanup activities, security considerations emerged that prevented the public use of the virtual model. During Budget Period 2 (BP2), DOE EM requested an update of the PORTS Virtual Model to be reflective of current site cleanup status, which has progressed enough to enable broader release of site information. Planned modifications included graphical upgrades, remodeling and texturing of all buildings, upgrading code for modern game engines and operating systems, updating simulation timelines, and creating an updated, narrated fly-through video demonstration. The updated model can also be used with private developers interested in the site to help identify optimal locations for projects based on developers' specific land needs and preferences.

The draft and final models were completed during BP4 with the final model currently under DOE review.

PORTS reindustrialization concept map

PORTSfuture is maintaining, expanding, and modifying as requested the interactive site map that displays various layers including site infrastructure, easements, broadband points of presence, utility locations, topography, limitations, parcel transfers, and a variety of other information to be used in site reindustrialization planning efforts. This is an interactive GIS database creating a land use and site master planning tool that enables the user to display various layers such as site infrastructure assets, structures, wetlands, landfills, and other features in relation to developable parcels. This GIS assists in assessing suitability to industry siting criteria and enhances other reindustrialization planning activities. During BP4, PORTSfuture added or updated 13 GIS layers and linked the Pike County parcels layer directly to the Pike County Auditor's office to ensure the data is current for SODI and private developer requests. PORTSfuture also conducted an extensive quality assurance review of the ETAS site map to cross check against multiple GIS datasets. PORTSfuture also began to prepare the concept map for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance rules that will go into effect in April 2027 and provided extensive technical assistance to the GRID Lab as requested regarding GIS data that was needed for the PORTS Virtual Model.

This interactive GIS database can be viewed at:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8e03e06911824cea84d6590300f44f6b

Regional asset map

PORTSfuture is maintaining, expanding, and modifying as requested the existing regional asset map. This map visually displays relevant regional assets useful for future site use decision-making such as highways, hazmat routes, railways, airports, navigable waterways, accredited educational institutions, metro centers, population that can be reached within various drive times from the site, potential industry offtake customers, supply chain vendors, and many other data points. During BP4, PORTSfuture continued to employ operating improvements as needed and began to prepare the regional concept map for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance rules that will go into effect in April 2027. A separate asset map was created for the nuclear supply chain study to provide an interactive database to search Ohio companies operating in the nuclear industry. The companies are notated to identify the segment of the nuclear supply chain in which they are operating.

The regional asset map can be viewed at:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/94303ab3c47f44708154fa59efad92b6/page/Page

The nuclear supply chain asset map can be viewed at:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/586925a681a54bbbb37b1a1112a225c4

PORTSfuture workforce analyses dissemination

During BP4, PORTSfuture conducted seven presentations on the multi-faceted workforce analyses that were produced in the past budget period and held discussions and disseminated findings to an additional nine entities that had interest in the data. During BP4, presentations were held with:

- USW Local 689
- Trillium H2Power
- Sunday Creek Horizons
- DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) workforce unit-at their request
- Pike County Chamber of Commerce and Village of Waverly Economic Development Office
- Workforce Board Area 1
- GRIT and Future Plans

- Summary information was provided to and/or discussions were held with:
  - Mission Conversion Services Alliance (DUF6)
  - Centrus Energy Corp.
  - Scioto County Career Technical Center
  - Ohio University Provost and Ohio University Vice President of Research
  - Ohio University Russ College of Engineering and Technology
  - Ohio University Chillicothe Interim Dean
  - Assistant Chief, Community Services Division at Ohio Department of Development
  - The Scioto Valley-Piketon Area Council of Governments (SVPA-COG)
  - Ohio SE

In the previous grant year, BP3, a labor roundtable was held with participating programs, the Tri-State Building Trades, and the Ohio AFL-CIO. In the BP3 labor training survey, each program had been asked to provide information on training programs and workforce development efforts, and the roundtable served as an opportunity to review and validate those contributions, while placing them in the broader context of regional workforce planning. This structured discussion confirmed the accuracy of the survey responses and enabled labor leaders to see how their programs connect to the broader regional needs and trends. Also, during BP3, PORTSfuture conducted stakeholder meetings to review findings with the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC), and JobsOhio.

The analyses were specific to private sector worker needs during both construction and operations and maintenance phases of project deployment. These analyses were funded by the PORTSfuture Program with additional funding support from SODI. The analyses highlighted the region's existing workforce and training strengths and emphasized the importance of early, coordinated efforts between labor organizations and private developers to anticipate and prepare for specific training needs**.** With new development projects on the horizon at PORTS, the majority of future positions will be skilled labor jobs, and labor apprenticeship programs remain the primary providers of training pipelines to prepare workers for these opportunities. The workforce analyses created a timely vehicle to examine how existing training programs align with the requirements of incoming industries and how they can be adapted to meet emerging workforce demands. Workforce analyses components produced included:

- PORTSfuture conducted a regional workforce skills assessment utilizing the twelve counties in the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) region, which is a reasonable labor market for the PORTS site redevelopment. The assessment provides data on occupations

that are concentrated in the OVRDC region and the related workforce strengths, knowledge, skills, and competencies associated with those occupations.

- Inventory of labor apprenticeship training programs' areas of focus, expected wages and benefits, recruitment strategies, average number of annual graduates, and ability to expand training capacity. Participating entities included United Steelworkers Local 689, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 575, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 577, Laborers International Union of North America Local 83, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 18, Ironworkers International Association Local 172, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 105, and Indiana-Kentucky-Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters.
    - The process to collect data on the apprenticeship programs was conducted by PORTSfuture Program partner Remington Road Group. The process required extensive coordination among multiple labor groups, with leaders committing significant time to provide detailed information about training programs, equipment, and workforce needs. This coordinated collaboration ensured the survey results reflect a comprehensive and accurate picture of the region's construction and industrial training capacity.
- PORTSfuture and Remington Road Group collected data on workforce needs of private developers siting projects at the PORTS facility and on transferred parcels owned by SODI during both construction and operations and maintenance phases. Workforce needs are summarized by standard occupational codes, for time frames they will be needed, expected wages, and required levels of security clearance.
- Gaps between available training and private sector developers' needs were analyzed.

Workforce analyses reports are available at:
https://www.portsfuture.com/workforce-analysis/

PORTSfuture Nuclear Supply Chain (NSC) analysis

During BP4, two of the three components of the Nuclear Supply Chain analysis were completed. Two presentations were held with the steering committee for the SODI Ohio Department of Development-funded nuclear hub planning grant. This work began during the previous budget period.

As the nuclear renaissance gains momentum across the country, a nuclear hub is emerging in southern Ohio at the PORTS site in Pike County, Ohio. As previously stated, key industries driving the reindustrialization of the PORTS site include Centrus Energy Corp., which is producing High-Assay, Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) for advanced nuclear reactors and the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) Conversion Facility operated by Mission Conversion Services Alliance. Additionally, Oklo Inc. announced a partnership with Meta Platforms Inc. in January 2026 to develop a 1.2-GW nuclear power project utilizing land Oklo purchased from SODI (formerly Department of Energy property). Along with these major nuclear-related projects, Ohio is home to hundreds of companies that serve aspects of the nuclear supply chain.

To illustrate the impact of the nuclear industry to Ohio in general and to the southern Ohio specifically, PORTSfuture conducted a three-part study:

- NSC directory of companies in Ohio that are operating in the nuclear industry and asset mapping of NSC companies operating in the nuclear industry in Ohio.
- Report entitled *Ohio's Nuclear Opportunity: A Value Chain Assessment and Recommendations for Development* that provides an overview of the state's current position in the nuclear value chain. The report identifies the most promising opportunities to strengthen Ohio's role in small modular reactors,

next-generation nuclear energy, defense and aerospace, and nuclear medicine end-markets. The study maps the firms, institutions, and market segments active in Ohio and assesses how the State of Ohio can build upon existing strengths in these areas.

- Economic impact analysis of the nuclear industry in Ohio began during BP4. This included a focus on projects located in Pike County, Ohio.
    - Impact of Ohio nuclear activities modeled for direct impacts only included the following eight buckets:
        (1) Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.
        (2) NASA Glenn Research Center.
        (3) Vistra's Ohio nuclear power plants (Davis Besse and Perry Nuclear).
        (4) Centrus Energy Corp.
        (5) $580 million of FFY25 DOE funding for PORTS site remediation.
        (6) PLANNED PROJECT: Oklo Inc. plans to build 16 reactors in Pike County.
        (7) Nuclear medicine.
        (8) The eighth bucket comprised the remaining businesses in the nuclear supply chain that were not captured in the seven buckets above. Businesses in the eighth bucket were modeled for direct, indirect, and induced impacts and were also modeled to show impacts for the State of Ohio, OVRDC region, and Pike County.
    - Results will be aggregated for known direct impacts to Pike County for buckets 4, 5, and 8.
    - Additionally, results were aggregated for the Pike County known direct impacts for buckets 4, 5, 6, and 8 along with bucket 6, the projected Oklo impacts, to provide an overall nuclear industry impact to Pike County combining known and projected impacts.

There are 343 unique companies operating in the nuclear industry, across various segments of the value chain, at 456 locations in Ohio. The directory deliverable was created by using resources from the SODI nuclear hub planning grant funded by the Ohio Department of Development and PORTSfuture Program funding. The remainder of the NSC analysis was funded by the PORTSfuture Program. This PORTSfuture Program nuclear supply chain analysis will provide data for use by the State of Ohio, SODI, and regional entities for building out the nuclear supply chain to further expand economic opportunity.

Nuclear Supply Chain asset map is available at:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/586925a681a54bbbb37b1a1112a225c4

Nuclear Supply Chain analysis reports are available at:
https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Draft-OU-Nuclear-Value-Chain-in-Ohio.pdf

Industry IMPLAN economic impact analysis and workforce analysis

IMPLAN work during BP4 is cited above in the NSC analysis description. In previous grant years, PORTSfuture conducted analyses on the direct, indirect, and induced economic impact and related workforce analysis of various energy and manufacturing industries on the labor market closest to the facility. Studies were also completed for Trillium H2Power in FFY24, and a study was completed for Hecate Energy in FFY25. Additional analyses of other potential site reindustrialization options will be added to the findings of previous grant years as appropriate.

Final reports of former IMPLAN analyses are available under the Economic Impact and Workforce Studies section of this page:
https://www.portsfuture.com/archive/project/site-reindustrialization/site-reuse/

DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) siting study for advanced reactor stakeholders

In a previous grant year, PORTSfuture provided data and GIS products and services to the NE Siting Study conducted by SODI, Orano Federal Services, and their advanced reactor partners. This group developed generic design support for advanced reactor companies in the form of a Site Reuse Deployment Guidance document. The PORTS site is being used as the case study to develop guidance for an early site permit. The project focused on identifying, characterizing, and licensing sites for near-term deployment of advanced reactor demonstrations and first-commercial units. The Site Reuse Deployment Guidance document evaluates the benefits and potential obstacles of repurposing an existing nuclear facility undergoing decommissioning for siting and construction of an advanced reactor project. This study built upon earlier projects and products from the initial U.S. public-private efforts on new plant licensing. The study documents insights in relation to cleanup for intended future use of DOE facilities. The group has stressed that this effort is not intended to supersede or evade other formal decision processes related to identifying future uses of the PORTS site. The project serves to use the PORTS site as an example for explicating the revised requisite advanced reactor permitting and licensing documentation. The study developed a Plant Parameter Envelope (PPE) for use at the DOE EM PORTS site for advanced reactors and will also quantify potential savings to DOE EM if the PORTS site is repurposed for an advanced reactor project.

Since BP2, at the request of Orano Federal Services, PORTSfuture has been hosting the final NE Siting Study and related study data for public availability on the PORTSfuture Program website. PORTSfuture continued to maintain this data and webpage during BP5.

The NE Siting Study can be viewed here:
https://www.portsfuture.com/archive/project/nesitingstudy/

Data on Ohio geology

PORTSfuture is maintaining comprehensive data from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and other sources such as DOE EM and the Ohio Department of Development on geology and related information that will be needed by private developers. A password-protected web page was created on the PORTSfuture website where data can be reviewed as needed by external parties upon request.

Webpage maintenance-Ongoing and access is available upon request.

Data for industry project planning

PORTSfuture secured data requested by industry partners from sources such as DOE EM, state agencies, and various public entities to inform their project planning. Data was obtained to fulfill requests throughout Budget Period 4 and provided to developers.

PORTSfuture Program website

The PORTSfuture Program website is used to widely disseminate information, resources, reports, videos, and other materials. During BP4, website enhancements included:

- Completed routine updates and maintenance for all website plugins and the Avada theme to ensure ongoing platform stability, compatibility with evolving web technologies, and protection against security vulnerabilities.

- Managed, maintained, and updated Ohio University's MariaDB database environment supporting the PORTSfuture web platform and related applications.
- Upgraded the website's PHP environment to version 8.3.21, providing improved application performance, enhanced security, and greater compatibility with modern development standards.
- Conducted ongoing website performance optimization efforts throughout the year, including system tuning, resource management, and front-end improvements that enhanced page-load speeds, responsiveness, accessibility, and overall user experience across desktop and mobile devices.
- Provided comprehensive website administration and maintenance services throughout the reporting period, including content management, troubleshooting, technical support, issue resolution, system monitoring, and implementation of requested updates. These efforts ensured that website content remained current, accurate, and accessible to stakeholders.
- Published and maintained a wide range of website content to support outreach, education, and stakeholder engagement activities. This included newsletters, ASER student project deliverables and supporting documentation, Summer STEM program information, Regional Science Day updates, Ohio University STEM resources, and other program-related communications designed to keep audiences informed of ongoing initiatives and opportunities.
- Expanded website resources by adding a private page for the SODI Utility Study for disseminating this information upon request from SODI. This enhancement improved stakeholder access to important project-related information and provided a centralized location for reviewing supporting materials and documentation.
- Developed and published the Asset Map for the Nuclear Industry on the PORTSfuture website, creating an interactive resource that improves visibility into regional nuclear industry assets, supports workforce and economic development initiatives, and enhances public access to industry-related information.
- Created a private viewing page and platform for the final PORTS Virtual Model Build, an interactive digital experience designed to support outreach, education, workforce development, and public engagement efforts. The virtual model provides users with an accessible and informative way to explore the PORTS site and better understand its history, operations, and future opportunities.
- Led a significant redesign and restructuring of website content, navigation, and functionality to improve usability and support compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements and WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards. These improvements enhanced the accessibility of information for all users while creating a more organized and user-friendly website experience.
- Maintained a proactive website security program through continuous monitoring with Wordfence and implementation of additional security enhancements. These efforts strengthened protection against malicious activity, improved threat detection capabilities, and reduced potential exposure to cybersecurity risks.

The PORTSfuture website had 59,370 visitors and 225,944 page views during BP4.

The website can be viewed at:
https://www.portsfuture.com/

SODI website

PORTSfuture worked with SODI to redesign the SODI website in a previous year to improve user navigation. PORTSfuture continued to provide maintenance support to the SODI website as requested. During BP4, technical assistance and support for the SODI website included upgrades to the Wordfence

security monitoring platform, server configuration updates, and resolution of a mail-system email delivery issue.

The SODI website can be viewed at:
https://www.sodidevelopment.org/

SODI operational and project funding assistance

During Budget Period 4, in partnership with SODI, PORTSfuture continued to pursue sources of funding for SODI operations through collaborative grant writing. PORTSfuture also assisted SODI with implementing external funds that were secured through grant proposals. Acquiring additional funding serves to ensure SODI has adequate operational resources to continue site redevelopment activities and to pursue complementary missions. Additionally, funding is needed for site preparedness, workforce readiness, and other activities to ensure the realization of redevelopment goals.

During Budget Period 4, PORTSfuture provided support to SODI's project and operational funding in the following ways:

- In this current BP4 grant year, PORTSfuture continued to assist SODI with administering the $500K Congressionally Directed Spending award obtained by SODI with the assistance of PORTSfuture. This award provided funding for the following activities:
  - Operational costs for SODI's site reindustrialization activities.
  - Utility analysis to determine the most efficient and cost-effective provision of utilities on a long-term basis. This includes analyzing the utility infrastructure in relation to industry attraction to create a utility strategy that supports the reindustrialization initiative including determining minimum standards needed by developers; identifying weaknesses; proposing funding sources to strengthen utility infrastructure; ensuring all basic geological, environmental, and other related site characterization studies are completed; and identifying gaps and studies that need to be completed to prepare the site for redevelopment.
  - Workforce analysis to identify the needs of developers who will be employing skilled labor, identify workforce development that is currently available through labor groups in Ohio, identify gaps in needs and training resources, and develop a plan for addressing any gaps. This study also utilized funding from the PORTSfuture Program.
  - Various SODI stakeholder engagement activities.
- Assistance provided by PORTSfuture included:
  - Assisted with budget revisions as requested by the funder.
  - Implemented scopes of work and work plans for each funded activity.
  - Managed data requests and data collection for the utility study.
  - Created a private webpage on the PORTSfuture website to house data and final utility study deliverables.
  - Participated in the completion of deliverables for the workforce and outreach aspects of the funding award.
  - Produced extensive quarterly reports to fulfill funder reporting requirements.
  - Prepared for and attended quarterly meetings with SODI and their funding officers.
  - Attended grant close-out meeting with funding officers.
  - Disseminated deliverables to stakeholders at the request of SODI.
- During Budget Period 4, PORTSfuture continued to assist SODI with the administration of a $500,000 Ohio Department of Development nuclear hub planning award. This assistance will continue into BP5. Assistance includes:

        - Assembling a steering committee that includes site employers, labor groups, economic development entities, community organizations, and workforce entities. This group met approximately 20 times during BP4.
        - Preparing for steering committee meetings.
        - Co-facilitating steering committee meetings.
        - Assisting with the launch of the PORTS Recruitment and Career Center (PORTS RCC) which was developed and is being operated by Workforce Board Area 1 (WBA1) through a ~$500,000 grant WBA1 obtained from State of Ohio funders. The facility is located at the Endeavor Center Room 215, and SODI is paying for the rent of the office space. A ribbon-cutting event hosted by the Pike County Chamber of Commerce for the PORTS RCC was held May 20, 2026, and was attended by approximately 150 regional stakeholders.
        - Providing support and input when requested by SODI for work and deliverables being executed by an external vendor, which includes:
            - Assembling site infrastructure inventory for regional sites beyond the DOE PORTS site to support supply chain growth/expansion in the region.
            - Determining advanced and specialized degrees and existing workforce resources for high-skill occupations needed by nuclear companies.
            - Assessing the higher education system's capabilities and needs to grow Ohio's nuclear enterprise.
            - Evaluating opportunities and strategies to address gaps in nuclear workforce readiness and higher education.
            - State and federal policy scan, assessment of policy and financing gaps, identifying investment pathways, and conducting policy and permitting analysis.
- BP4 ongoing support to SODI's project and operational funding includes:
    - PORTSfuture tracks available sources of state and federal funding related to infrastructure improvements, industrial park improvements, and other related programs for which SODI may qualify. PORTSfuture also assists SODI as requested in pursuing these opportunities.
    - PORTSfuture continues to advise SODI on public-private partnerships aligned with SODI's work and supports SODI in pursuing such partnerships.
    - PORTSfuture tracks congressional legislative updates on proposed congressional bills that can impact redevelopment efforts and the surrounding Appalachian region and periodically reviews these with SODI.
    - PORTSfuture brokers meetings with relevant state and federal officials and agencies to assist SODI with seeking funding from those entities.
- During BP4, PORTSfuture and our consultants continued the collaboration among SODI, private industry, and a labor partner to develop a multi-use facility concept to support site redevelopment. Currently the concept is focused on constructing a facility that may include:
    - Laboratory space for applied research, testing, and workforce certification (e.g., respiratory fit testing, materials testing, advanced energy applications).
    - Operations and site mission support center, office space for private developers, flexible workspace for workforce organizations, state and local partners, and logistical operations staff.
    - Training space with simulation, virtual/augmented reality, and hands-on equipment for workforce development tied to energy and advanced data center industries.
    - Archival and records management facilities to support regulatory, operational, and compliance needs tied to redevelopment at the PORTS site.

SODI planning documents

PORTS site master plan–PORTSfuture collaborated with SODI in previous budget periods to produce a site master plan that fully explicates SODI's mission, vision, assumptions, guiding principles, goals, values, objectives, challenges, benefits, and strategy for redevelopment at PORTS. PORTSfuture is maintaining this master plan, pending formal approval by the SODI Board.

Draft electronic version of report in PDF format–August 2022
Final electronic version of report in PDF format–to be determined by SODI after SODI Board approval

PORTS land use plan–PORTSfuture collaborated with SODI in previous budget periods to produce a site land use plan that describes SODI's site reindustrialization purpose, assumptions, current land use, leases, transfers and other land use actions, future land use plans, land use issues, planning and control for existing missions, and process for future land use changes. PORTSfuture is maintaining this land use plan, pending formal approval by the SODI Board.

SODI resource manual–In a previous grant year, Ohio University provided approximately $50,000 in non-DOE EM funds toward a collaboration among PORTSfuture, private sector consultants, and SODI to create a comprehensive site reindustrialization resource manual. The manual is for use by SODI and other regional and state economic development entities working on the reindustrialization of the PORTS site.

SODI planning documents are available upon request and at the discretion of SODI.

PORTSfuture data reports from previous grant years that continue to support site redevelopment efforts include:

Habitat Mapping of the Land and Vicinity of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Pike County, Ohio. Under this 2-year activity, PORTSfuture compiled a fully georeferenced database from DOE EM, State of Ohio, and public sources, completed a data gap analysis of the georeferenced data, and created a detailed land cover map of the PORTS site, including a 1-mile buffer around the site.

The report and land cover map are available at:
https://www.portsfuture.com/archive/project/ecology-hydrology-site-environment/habitat-and-land-use-plan/

Wetland and Primary Headwater Streams Mitigation Conceptual Design Plan. This activity resulted in the preparation of a mitigation conceptual design plan, including a wetland mitigation bank proposal, which could be used by DOE EM and/or private developers to compensate for potential unavoidable losses to waters of the United States. Wetland mitigation analysis and planning were limited to federal lands outside the central high-security area and to other proximate lands that may be identified as potential locations for headwater stream mitigation.

The report is available at:
https://www.portsfuture.com/archive/project/ecology-hydrology-site-environment/habitat-and-land-use-plan/

Stakeholder outreach, partnerships, and networking support

Many entities continue to express interest in supporting and/or assisting SODI's reindustrialization efforts. PORTSfuture collaborates with SODI in regional outreach, partnership building, and networking

activities. These activities inform site stakeholders and citizens of site redevelopment activities, engage industry partners, labor organizations, economic and workforce development professionals, public agencies, elected officials, and other organizations on planning and implementation, help to identify private sector interests, and broaden contacts with potential collaborators to expand partnerships. These activities also elicit regional support for SODI's site reindustrialization mission. Engaging and/or informing site stakeholders regarding redevelopment activities is vital to achieving optimal site redevelopment outcomes. A variety of site stakeholder groups exist, and various mediums were used to engage and inform these groups. PORTSfuture stakeholder engagement activities are summarized in Figure 4 and described below.

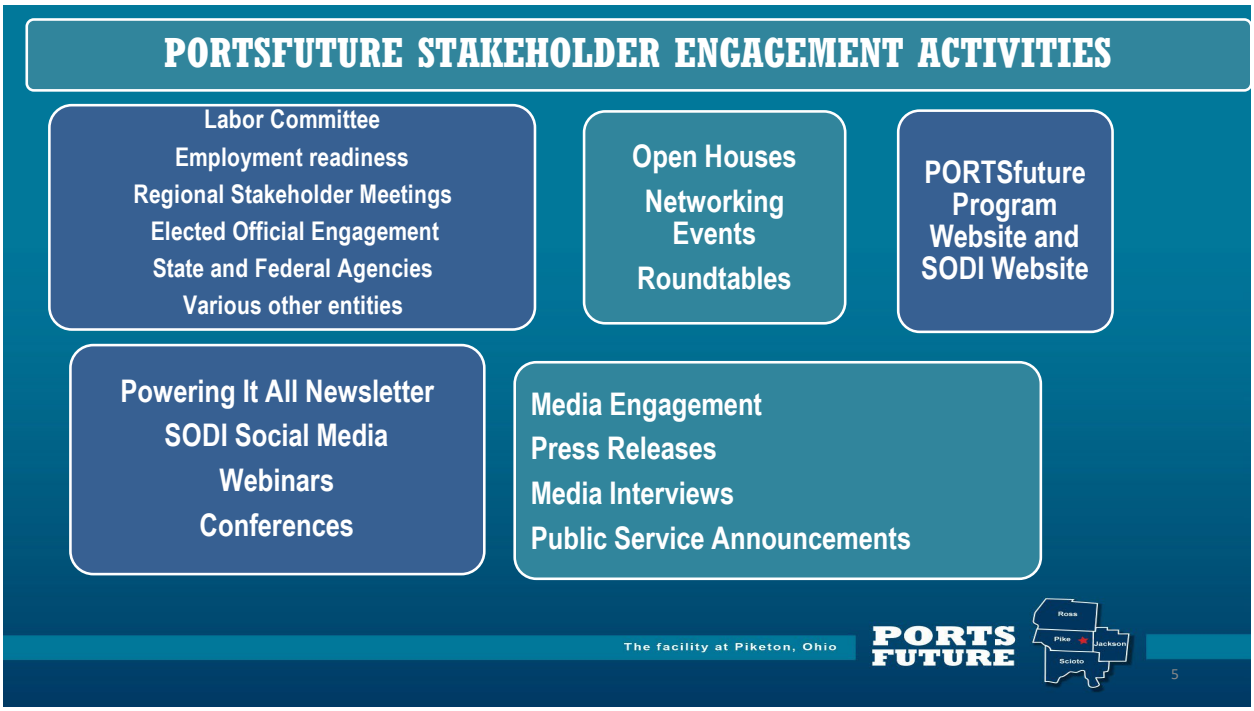


Figure 4. PORTSfuture stakeholder engagement activities

Labor engagement in support of site reindustrialization

Ohio University continues to provide university funding to PORTSfuture to retain the nationally prominent firm, Remington Road Group (RRG), to work with PORTSfuture, SODI, and redevelopment partners on coalition building with labor groups at the regional, state, and national levels. Labor engagement is vital to advancing site reindustrialization activities and to ensuring a trained workforce is available to meet the needs of private developers. RRG's leadership of this work in partnership with the PORTSfuture Program has been foundational to reindustrialization work at PORTS.

In Ohio, labor groups are respected by community members, businesses, industry, and governmental leaders as important messengers and partners for industry attraction and workforce readiness. Ohio's citizens trust labor unions to help create well-paying, endurable jobs and provide a skilled and ready workforce for private industry. To solidify labor groups' role in site redevelopment, in a previous grant year, we formed a Labor Steering Committee that includes the leadership of the Ohio American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council, Tri-State Building Trades, and international and local leaders of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the Plumbers and Pipefitters unions. The

Labor Steering Committee supports the PORTSfuture Program goals by actively engaging with industry partners and other stakeholders to provide advice and guidance, share workforce expertise, and ensure a ready workforce with the specific skills and expertise necessary to advance redevelopment projects.

Periodically industry partners join in Labor Steering Committee meetings to share their plans and to build relationships that will help their projects move forward more effectively. Congressional partners in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate are periodically invited to attend Labor Steering Committee meetings focused on significant topics to provide general updates and to inform these elected officials on issues that are relevant to congressional activities.

During BP4, PORTSfuture engaged in the following meetings and activities through the Labor Steering Committee partnership that was established and continues to be co-facilitated by PORTSfuture and the Remington Road Group:

- January 14, 2026-Andria Tipton, President, Jason Knauff, Vice President, Herman Potter, Appalachian Career Empowerment (ACE) Training Director, Bethany Weeks, ACE Program Manager, and Julie Lindamood, Office Manager, USW Local 689.
- January 15, 2026-Labor Steering Committee meeting for updates on site redevelopment.
- March 26, 2026-Convened a PORTS project update with Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer Mark Douglas, Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council President Bobby Cole, Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council Business Manager John Holbrook, Shawnee Central Labor Council President and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 575 Business Manager, Joe Dillow, Boilermakers Local 105 Business Manager Joe Ledford, Operating Engineers Local 18 Business Representative, Garold Baker, United Association Local 577 Business Representative Scott Bender, and Ohio AFL-CIO Regional Representative, Mike French.
- April 18, 2026-Presented at the United Steelworkers Atomic Energy Council meeting in Washington, DC, with Appalachian Career Empowerment Program Director and Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative Board Chair, Herman Potter, on workforce initiatives at PORTS and programs that could be duplicated at other Department of Energy sites.
- April 19, 20, and 21, 2026-Attended the North America's Building Trades Unions conference in Washington, DC, including the Ohio Legislative Breakfast which included SoftBank, to maintain labor relationships supporting regional workforce development and PORTS reindustrialization.
- April 28, 2026-Met with Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Mark Douglas, to discuss developments at PORTS and the Council's workforce initiatives.
- September 21, 2026-Met with Juli Stephens, Regional Director for Southeast Ohio, U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno, Brynn Stepp, Southeast Regional Director, U.S. Senator Jon Husted, Teresa Lewis, Regional Field Representative, U.S. Congressman Bill Taylor, Kelli Johnson, District Director, U.S. Congressman Bill Taylor, Andria Tipton, President, Jason Knauff, Vice President, Herman Potter, Appalachian Career Empowerment (ACE) Training Director, Bethany Weeks, ACE Program Manager, and Julie Lindamood, Office Manager, USW Local 689 to discuss the Data Center Operating program and other workforce initiatives.

Employment readiness

PORTSfuture continues to expand our focus on employment readiness activities in collaboration with SODI and labor organizations to ensure that the workforce needs of private sector developers can be addressed. During BP4, PORTSfuture supported the expansion of access to certifications currently available and continued to develop new certifications in partnership with Ohio University faculty to strengthen skills and specialties of workers in support of incoming private developments planned at the

site. PORTSfuture continues to provide technical assistance to the United Steel Workers (USW) Local 689 in its efforts to obtain funding to expand training offerings at the USW Local 689 workforce training center. USW members can serve as operators for many incoming projects planned as part of PORTS redevelopment. The ACE vision is to create a hub for operator training certifications in a variety of skill areas, similar to Vanderbilt University's CREST (Coalition Responsible for Equitable Skills Training) program at the Mid-South Hub. CREST works with industry and community partners to customize curricula to company-specific needs and to recruit local workers to meet the increasing workforce demand to fulfill emerging industry roles.

During BP4, assistance to USW Local 689 focused on:

- PORTSfuture assisted USW Local 689 in increasing awareness of the Appalachian Career Empowerment (ACE) Training Center. ACE currently offers a nationally recognized curriculum developed by the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC), providing industry-driven training and certifications to help launch careers in advanced manufacturing.
- Expanding uptake of participants for the ACE MSSC certification program being administered by USW Local 689.
- Assisted USW with developing funding proposals.
- Collaborated with the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council and United Steelworkers Local 689 to secure labor support letters for Pike County and the Village of Waverly housing grant proposal to the Ohio Department of Development Residential Economic Development District program.
- Collaborated with Ohio University's J. Warren McClure School of Emerging Communication Technologies to develop a Data Center Operator (DCO) certification program that includes a data center operator simulation component. The costs to develop the curriculum were covered by Ohio University Voinovich School funds.
- Identified funding sources and grant proposal development for the DCO certification program.
- Increased awareness of available certifications within Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering and Technology related to mechatronics and automation robotics.
- Explored other Ohio University opportunities for certifications across academic disciplines and/or programs.
- Identified other available regional or state certifications such as water/wastewater utility operator training that will be vital to future site operations as redevelopment progresses.
- Explored the development of an advanced nuclear small modular reactor training program including a simulation component. Meetings were held and information was obtained from Pittsburgh Technical, Small Modular and Advanced Reactor Testing (SMART) lab to explore collaboration opportunities.
- Throughout BP4, organized collaboration between the Appalachian Career Empowerment (ACE) training program at USW Local 689 and the Vitruvian 3-D printing company to combine the ACE MSSC curriculum with Vitruvian's robotics manufacturing curriculum to become a state recognized pre-apprenticeship program.
- Throughout BP4, supported Appalachian Career Empowerment Training Director and Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative Board Chair, Herman Potter, in exploring a metal stud training and manufacturing initiative with the Vitruvian 3-D printing company tied to regional workforce and industrial development opportunities.
- Throughout BP4, USW Local 689 participated in an ongoing initiative with PORTSfuture and SODI to create a new multi-use complex on property owned by SODI that will generate jobs and promote reindustrialization by attracting an analytical laboratory, archival storage facility, developer office space, site operations centers, and experiential training capabilities.

Ohio University Data Center Operator (DCO) certification

During BP4, Ohio University invested university funding to develop the curriculum for training in foundations of data center operations. This credentialing program was developed by the Voinovich School and the J. Warren McClure School for Emerging Communication Technologies here at Ohio University. The United Steelworkers (USW) Local 689 will recruit viable enrollees to complete the program.

- This is a non-degreed program with five stackable credentials taught in modules.
- Each module provides a credential, can be completed in six weeks, and includes 18 hours of online learning and 12 hours of hands-on learning in the data center operator simulation lab at the Ohio University main campus in Athens, Ohio.
- Participants who complete all five credentials earn an Ohio University certification.
- The DCO program curriculum can be modified according to employer needs. Ohio University specializes in cybersecurity at our McClure School, and modules can be created on that and other topic areas as requested.
- Advantages of the Ohio University DCO certification:
    - Ohio University's longstanding involvement in the PORTS site redevelopment ensures our commitment to providing exemplary programming.
    - Qualifications of the McClure School faculty at Ohio University are exceptional, as shown by their proven record of accomplishment in the communications and information technology fields.
    - The data center operator program is ready to commence.
    - Online, asynchronous instruction provides greater accessibility for new trainees and incumbent workers.
    - Ohio University's DCO simulation lab provides hands-on learning and experience with equipment, controls, software, hardware, and related components.
    - SODI has submitted a funding request for space and resources to enable the data center operator simulation lab at Ohio University's main campus to be replicated in Pike County. Ohio University faculty can then teach the applied lab sections of each module in the county where the PORTS-Pike Technology Campus resides.
    - Module curriculum can be easily modified and/or new modules can be added (e.g., cybersecurity) based on employer needs.
- The training program is focused on providing skills to individuals not initially familiar with the technology involved. Enrollment into the training program assumes that participants have at least a high school diploma/GED and are comfortable with basic high school mathematics and English communication skills. Additionally, participants should have reliable access to the Internet and access to a PC, laptop, or tablet. Although each credential in the program is a stand-alone credential, job opportunities and earning potential for trainees will increase upon their completing each subsequent credential. Upon completion of all five credentials, a certification is granted by Ohio University. The five credentials include:
    - Introduction to Technology Fundamentals and Market Overview (30 hrs.)–This credential will describe hardware, software, and architectural principles, identify components such as compute, memory, and communications, and discuss professional aspects of the field and market trends.
    - Network Foundations: Protocols and Media (30 hrs.)–This credential will discuss the foundation of communication protocols, recall the elements of communications networks, describe the functions of network elements and types of media; and explain and demonstrate configuration of simple networks.

    - Intermediate networking and applications concepts (30 hrs.)–This credential trains on advanced configurations, foundational routing, and applications.
    - Foundations of data center architectures and operations (30 hrs.)–This credential trains on networking in modern data centers, data and power distribution strategies.
    - Introduction to operating systems and Linux (30 hrs.)–This credential trains on OS operations and introduction to Linux commands.
- Ohio University and USW launched a pilot program for DCO operator training in late September 2026 with 10 participants. SODI provided funding to USW for participant scholarships.

PORTSfuture collaborated with USW on the following proposals to secure DCO certification scholarship funding for USW:

- U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Round 7 grant proposal submitted by USW is still pending. This grant included $240,000 for USW scholarships for DCO.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership Center Grant proposal submitted by USW is still pending. This grant included $240,000 for USW scholarships for DCO.
- Proposal to SODI for $250,000 for USW scholarship. This proposal is still pending.

At the request of SODI, PORTSfuture provided cost estimates to replicate in Pike County a similar DCO simulation lab that Ohio University houses on the Athens campus. SODI submitted a proposal to SB Energy to fund the creation of the PORTS Innovation and Simulation Training Center that would include a variety of worker training simulators. The SODI Board approved the proposal, which has advanced to SB Energy for funding consideration and is still pending.

Ohio University mechatronics and automation robotics certificates

During BP4, the Ohio University mechatronics and automation and robotics certifications developed by the Ohio University Engineering Technology and Management Program launched at the Ohio University Chillicothe campus in Ross County. PORTSfuture briefed USW on these opportunities. The mechatronics technician certificate combines mechanical and electrical skillsets to provide workers the proficiencies needed to address preventative and corrective maintenance on electro-mechanical systems. The automation robotics technician certificate focuses on skills needed to address preventive and corrective maintenance on automated and robotic industrial systems.

These technical certificates are:

- State-approved 1-year technical certificates.
- Short-term and can completed within a year.
- Financial-aid eligible.
- Industry focused with recognized credentials.
- Directly transferrable to build upon to obtain an Ohio University Engineering Technology associate's degree.
- Standalone and stackable certificates.
- Certificate for Mechatronics Technician involves five courses.
- Certificate for Automation Robotics Technician involves five courses.

PORTSfuture's focus on employment readiness and workforce development activities will continue in BP5.

Engagements with local governmental leaders, agencies, and organizations

PORTSfuture and Remington Road Group continued communications with state government leaders, agencies, and organizations during Budget Period 4 to provide updates on site reindustrialization progress at PORTS. Engagements during BP4 include:

Regional entities

- Pike County GRIT-Participated in a quarterly meeting on November 18, 2025, to share information on PORTSfuture's nuclear workforce efforts and discuss how similar strategies could support local workforce needs.
- Pike County Career Technology Center-Met with Superintendent Eric Meredith and Adult Education Director Lathe Moore, along with Appalachian Career Empowerment Training Director, Herman Potter, and Vitruvian Chief Operating Officer, Stefano Alva, on January 23, 2026, to discuss manufacturing robotics curriculum.
- Ohio Chamber of Commerce-Attended the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Energy Symposium on February 11, 2026, where representatives of Oklo and Centrus Energy discussed their PORTS projects. Also met with Ohio Chamber of Commerce representative, Ethan Schaffer, on July 23, 2026, to discuss a Portsmouth community event focused on major developments at PORTS.
- BESTOhio-Participated in regular meetings of the regional manufacturing coalition to exchange information and coordinate priorities affecting manufacturers and the regional economy on May 13, July 30, and August 12, 2026. Participants include manufacturers, economic development and workforce development organizations, and higher education representatives.
- Western Local School District-Visited the district on April 15, 2026, with the PORTSfuture Program to learn about and discuss its education and workforce initiatives.
- Ohio Nuclear Alliance-Participated regularly in planning meetings to discuss the Alliance's work to support Ohio's nuclear sector. Participants included representatives of Centrus Energy Corp., the Ohio State University nuclear engineering program, PORTSfuture Program, and other industry and organizational partners.
- During BP4, several meetings with Pittsburg Technical to explore advanced nuclear small modular reactor simulation training for industries at PORTS and review a proposal for nuclear simulation training.
- During BP4, met with Buckeye Hills Career Center Superintendent, Jamie Nash, and Board Member, Mike French, regarding partnering with the Appalachian Career Empowerment (ACE) training program and Vitruvian on robotics manufacturing and 3-D printing construction.
- During BP4, meetings and communications with Jackson County Economic Development Partnership to plan for Meet the Developers open house in Jackson County.
- During BP4, meetings and communications with Greater Chillicothe Ross County Development organization to plan for Meet the Developers open house in Jackson County.
- During BP4, engaged with Pike County Chamber of Commerce regarding collaboration on Meet the Developers open house.
- During BP4, engaged with Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce regarding collaboration on Meet the Developers open house.
- Regular contact occurred as warranted throughout BP4 with OVRDC, Chambers of Commerce, county commissioners, and other economic and workforce development entities in Pike, Scioto, Ross, and Jackson counties to inform them of upcoming events and to provide updates on SODI's site redevelopment progress.
- Contact with regional entities will continue in BP5.

Federal, state, and local government engagement to provide information and/or updates on site redevelopment activities:

- October 9, 2025-Met with Riley Eberhart, Legislative Affairs Manager, Ohio Department of Development, to discuss HB15.
- December 22, 2025-Coordinated a meeting on potential collaboration under the Ohio Department of Development Residential Economic Development District (REDD) program. Participants included Pike County Commissioner, Tony Montgomery, Waverly Economic Development Director, Chandler Grooms, Todd Book, representative of the Pike County Land Bank, and other workforce, industry and development partners.
- January 5, 2026-Met with State Senator Brian Chavez, Ohio General Assembly, to discuss the PORTS site reindustrialization.
- March 4, 2026-Arranged a meeting with the Jackson County Commissioners at which Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative Legal Counsel, Kevin Shoemaker, provided an update on reindustrialization at PORTS.
- March 5, 2026-Arranged a meeting with Scioto County Commissioners at which Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative Legal Counsel, Kevin Shoemaker, provided an update on reindustrialization at PORTS.
- March 18, 2026-Met with Mike McKay, Executive Director, Ohio Third Frontier Office of Technology Investments, and Erica Noble, Manager, Entrepreneurial Services, Office of Technology Investments, Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to discuss the SODI Hub Planning grant that was funded by ODOD.
- April 20, 2026-Met with Jennifer Chandler, Council Member, Village of Piketon, to discuss the PORTSfuture workforce analysis.
- April 23, 2026-Met with Juli Stephens, Southeast Ohio Regional Representative, Office of U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno, to provide updates on site redevelopment.
- April 27, 2026-Met with Kelli Johnson, District Director, Office of Congressman David Taylor, to provide updates on site redevelopment.
- April 27, 2026-Met with Bryn Stepp, Regional Representative, Office of U.S. Senator Jon Husted, to provide updates on site redevelopment.
- May 4, 2026-Met with Kelli Johnson, District Director, Congressman David J. Taylor, to discuss the data center operator certification program.
- June 17, 2026-Met with Joshua Legg, Manager of Drinking and Groundwaters for the Southeast Division, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Tiffani Kavalec, Policy Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and Kathleen Smith, Hazen and Sawyer, to discuss the OEPA southeast water study.
- July 14, 2026-DOE site tour and meeting with Joshua Legg, Manager of Drinking and Groundwaters for the Southeast Division, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Tiffani Kavalec, Policy Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Kathleen Smith, Hazen and Sawyer, Chad Roby, Portfolio Manager, Jacobs, and DOE officials to discuss the OEPA southeast water study.
- Local, state, and federal elected officials were invited to all public reindustrialization activities including the Meet the Developers Open Houses.
- Throughout BP4, ongoing contact with Congressional offices to update elected officials on site redevelopment issues. Collaborated with United States Senator Bernie Moreno's Southeast Ohio Regional Representative, Juli Stephens, United States Senator Jon Husted's Regional Representative, Bryn Stepp, and United States Representative David Taylor's District Director, Kelli Johnson, to secure letters of support for the Ohio University and United Steelworkers initiative on Data Center Operator training.
- Throughout BP4, ongoing contact with State of Ohio legislators such as State Representative Bob Peterson and State Senator Shane Wilkin. Also secured letters from these offices in support of the Pike County and the Village of Waverly joint proposal under the Residential Economic Development District (REDD) program.

- During BP4, pursued a United States Department of Labor grant for USW Local 689. Participated with Vitruvian Chief Operating Officer, Stefano Alva, and Appalachian Career Empowerment (ACE) Program Director, Herman Potter, in planning a grant proposal that would include scholarship funding for Ohio University's Data Center Operator training certificates.
- During BP4, pursued an Appalachian Regional Commission POWER initiative grant for USW Local 689. Participated in weekly planning and implementation meetings supporting the grant submission for the USW ACE Program.
- Contact with federal, state, and local governmental entities will continue in BP5.

Ohio SE Energy Sector Workforce Group

In January 2026, PORTSfuture was invited to join the newly launched Ohio SE Energy Sector Workforce Group. Ohio SE serves as the regional entity for the State of Ohio's economic development organization known as JobsOhio. The Ohio Energy Sector Workforce group was created by Ohio SE to inform and align regional economic and workforce development, labor, training, and educational institutions from a six-county region on expanding energy workforce needs. The goal of this group is to enhance collaborative dialogue regarding talent acquisition, workforce competencies, and strategic financial planning. The bi-monthly information sharing meetings provide a foundation for ongoing collaboration to strategically address southern Ohio's growing energy sector workforce needs. This group met four times during BP4. PORTSfuture staff attended the March 3 Ohio SE Economic Development Annual Meeting, where PORTS projects were discussed and representatives of Centrus Energy and Oklo participated in a panel discussion.

Oklo networking event

During BP4, PORTSfuture and SODI sponsored a networking event for Oklo in December 2025. This event brought together more than 50 local elected officials, economic development entities, and labor organizations, providing an opportunity to meet Oklo leadership in an informal setting to learn about Oklo's planned project in Pike County.

Meet the Developer Open Houses

During BP4, PORTSfuture collaborated with SODI to hold four Meet the Developers Open House events with approximately 415 total attendees across the events. These events were supported by PORTSfuture's consultants, Remington Road Group and Amplifire Strategies. Industry partners currently operating at the U.S. Department of Energy PORTS facility in Pike County, Ohio, and those engaged in property agreements with SODI were featured. Centrus Energy Corp., SB Energy, Trillium H2Power, and Oklo Inc. displayed materials to visualize key points of their projects, and DOE EM shared information on cleanup and property transfer activities at the PORTS site. Hecate Energy was present but did not have a display table. The PORTSfuture Program and SODI shared information on their collaborative work on site reindustrialization and workforce readiness. The PORTS Recruitment and Career Center had an information table to increase awareness of the newly created Center's availability as an employer and job seeker portal related to cleanup and redevelopment employment opportunities at the site. The events offered community members and other site stakeholders an opportunity to engage directly with the developers to learn about the projects, explore job projections, ask questions, and share comments.

Site stakeholders who attended included community members, site workers, elected officials, economic development and workforce development professionals, area businesses, regional media outlets, and others. The events were held on June 9 at Twin Lakes Resort in Pike County with over 170 attendees,

June 10 at the Portsmouth Welcome Center in Scioto County with approximately 120 attendees, September 29 at the ParksEdge event center in Jackson County with approximately 65 attendees, and September 30 at the Adena PACCAR Medical Education facility in Ross County with approximately 60 attendees. These events were sponsored in partnership among SODI, Ohio University's PORTSfuture Program, Pike County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Chillicothe Ross County Development office, Ross County Chamber of Commerce, Jackson County Economic Development Partnership, Remington Road Group, and Amplifire Strategies.

Powering It All newsletter

Seven issues of the *Powering It All* newsletter were produced during BP4. PORTSfuture launched the *Powering It All* newsletter in the previous grant year to expand our stakeholder engagement reach and frequency. The newsletter provides updates on SODI and PORTSfuture's joint work as well as overall progress on site redevelopment. The newsletter includes feature stories, major announcements, links to related site news, and information on upcoming events.

BP4 newsletters can be viewed at:
https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Powering-It-All-Centrus-News-Alert-1-6-26-ADA.pdf

https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Powering-It-All-Oklo-Meta-News-Alert-1-9-26-ADA.pdf

https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Powering-It-All-Centrus-Oklo-Alert-3.11.26-ADA.pdf

https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Powering-It-All-DOE-SB-Energy-Alert-3-23-26-ADA.pdf

https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/NewsAlert-PORTSCareerCenterRibbonCutting.pdf

https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/NewsAlert-OKLO-Criticality-ADA.pdf

https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/News-Alert-Nvidia-and-Open-AI-v2.pdf

SODI social media

In a previous grant year, PORTSfuture, along with our Ohio University-funded consultant Amplifire Strategies, expanded disbursement of public information for SODI through establishing a social media presence. A SODI LinkedIn page was created, and PORTSfuture and Amplifire Strategies began posting announcements to the page. The goal of these activities is to develop a positive and informative narrative about site reindustrialization activities. During BP4 we continued to showcase SODI's role in driving Southern Ohio's economic transformation. By sharing stories of innovation, partnerships, and community impact, LinkedIn helps to amplify SODI's mission, elevate credibility, and connect with industry leaders, policymakers, and potential investors.

SODI social media metrics for October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026:

- Followers and growth — The page had 137 followers, up from 60 last year—a gain of 77 followers (128%).
- Post impressions — Posts received 5,440 impressions, up from 1,669 last year—an increase of 3,771 impressions (226%).
- Post clicks and click-through rate (CTR) — LinkedIn reported 1,216 clicks and an overall CTR of 22.4%. While post posts did not include a direct prompt to click, the March post announcing the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Commerce partnership with SoftBank and AEP Ohio included a direct invitation to click and recorded a 66.67% CTR (288 clicks from 432 impressions).

Social media activity continues to expand SODI's visibility and engagement by implementing a consistent posting cadence to highlight partner and project milestones and increase stakeholder reach.

The SODI LinkedIn page can be viewed at:
https://www.linkedin.com/company/southern-ohio-diversification

Coalition building for advancing site repurposing efforts

PORTSfuture continues extensive activities in stakeholder engagement on behalf of, and at times with, our core site reindustrialization partners. These activities are crucial for coalition building at the regional, state, and national levels to advance site repurposing activities. Coalition building efforts have focused on:

- Meetings with key stakeholders, funders, and influencers.
- Meetings with federal elected officials.
- Meeting with federal entities.
- Meeting with State of Ohio government executive branch entities and other state agencies.
- Ongoing contact with the Pike County officials.
- Facilitating a labor steering committee to assist with coalition building.
- Developing press releases, public information, and messaging materials.
- Other efforts to be determined moving forward.

Stakeholder engagement meetings for site reindustrialization

These meetings occur with a wide range of stakeholders to share information on site redevelopment efforts, public outreach, and STEM engagement, to seek information or input, and/or explore synergies and potential collaborations and partnerships. Meetings that occurred during BP4 are listed below.

2025

- October 6-Doug Heal, Chairman of the Board, Heal Group and President, Technical Field and Engineering Inc. (TFE Inc.), Noah Beasley, Senior Business Manager, TFE Inc., Chris Watson, Manager, TFE Inc., Jason Brown, President, Brown Federal Services, Herman Potter, ACE Program Director, USW Local 689, and Ashley Badesch, Partner, Western Practice, Strategies DC
- October 8-Zack Space, President, Andy Kostival, Director, Private Sector Client Division, and Kerry Battershell, Project Manager, Sunday Creek Horizons
- October 9-Riley Eberhart, Legislative Affairs Manager, Ohio Department of Development
- October 20-Doug Heal, Chairman of the Board, Heal Group and President, Technical Field and Engineering Inc. (TFE Inc.), Noah Beasley, Senior Business Manager, TFE Inc., Herman Potter, ACE Program Director, USW Local 689, and Ashley Badesch, Partner, Western Practice, Strategies DC
- October 22-Brian Capobianco, PhD Research Student, Ohio State University

- October 24-Noah Beasley, Senior Business Manager, TFE Inc. and Herman Potter, ACE Program Director, USW Local 689
- October 29-Noah Beasley, Senior Business Manager, TFE Inc., Chris Watson, Manager, TFE Inc., and Herman Potter, ACE Program Director, USW Local 689
- October 30-Scott Milburn, Principal, Scott Milburn LLC
- October 31-Sal Ramundo, Vice President, Colliers
- October 31-Alex Sherwood, Project Director, Murray State University
- November 4-Nick Warner, Founding Principal, Energy Safety Response Group
- November 4-Doug Heal, Chairman of the Board, Heal Group and President, Technical Field and Engineering Inc. (TFE Inc.), Noah Beasley, Senior Business Manager, TFE Inc., Chris Watson, Manager, TFE Inc., Herman Potter, ACE Program Director, USW Local 689, and Ashley Badesch, Partner, Western Practice, Strategies DC
- November 12-Zack Space, President, Andy Kostival, Director, Private Sector Client Division, and Kerry Battershell, Project Manager, Sunday Creek Horizons
- November 12-Emily Smith, Senior Director of Community Relations, Oklo Inc.
- November 17-Jared Wren, Regulatory and Political Affairs, NextEra
- November 18-Emily Smith, Senior Director of Community Relations, Oklo Inc.
- November 19-Emily Smith, Senior Director of Community Relations, Evan Taranta, Director of State and Local Government Relations, Oklo Inc., Kevin Shoemaker, Legal Counsel, Steve Shepherd, Executive Director, Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI), Herman Potter, SODI Board Chair, Director of the USW Local 689 Appalachian Career Empowerment Program, and past President USW Local 689, Tony Montgomery, Jerry Miller, Pike County Commissioners, Louie Pritchett, Scioto Township Trustee, and Stephanie Gilbert, Executive Director, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC)
- November 25-Zachary Miller, Director of Economic Development and Laura Arenschield, Director of Communications, AEP Ohio
- December 8-Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- December 22-Chris Sentz, Founder, Stefano Alva, Chief Operating Officer, Vitruvian 3-D Printing, Tony Montgomery, Pike County Commissioner, Todd Book, Director, Pike County Land Bank, Chandler Grooms, Economic Development Administrator, City of Waverly, Herman Potter, Director, Appalachian Career Empowerment USW Local 689, and Caitlin Holley, Vice President, Trillium H2P

2026

- January 5-State Senator Brian Chavez, Ohio General Assembly
- January 6-Zachary Miller, Director of Economic Development and Data Center Integration, AEP Ohio, Paul Turner, Senior Vice President Business Development and Mike Holtzman, Development Associate, Hecate Energy
- January 7-Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- January 14-Ken Klein, Scripps Content Sharing
- January 15-Justin Gentry, Contract Officer and Luke Kandaris, Contract Officer, US Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)
- January 20-Paul Turner, Senior Vice President Business Development and Mike Holtzman, Development Associate, Hecate Energy
- January 28-Shirley Bandy, President, Pike County Chamber and Chandler Grooms, Economic Development Administrator at the Village of Waverly, Ohio
- January 30-Luke Stedke, Assistant Chief, Community Services Division at Ohio Department of Development

- February 10-Matt Snider, Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Raymond Cao, Member, Ohio Nuclear Development Authority, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- March 4-Lee Huffman, Business Development Manager and Sola Talabi, Principal and Chief Technology Officer, Pittsburgh Technical
- March 5-Kara Willis, Director of Regional Talent and Research, Destiny Bryson, Manager of Engagement & Partnerships, Ohio Southeast and Crystal Keaton, Business Manager, Workforce Development Board Area 1
- March 5-Matt Snider, Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Raymond Cao, Member, Ohio Nuclear Development Authority, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- March 12-Lee Huffman, Business Development Manager and Sola Talabi, Principal and Chief Technology Officer, Pittsburgh Technical
- March 17-Kara Willis, Director of Regional Talent and Research, Ohio Southeast
- March 18-Andy Kostival, Director, Private Sector Client Division, Sunday Creek Horizons
- March 18-Mike McKay, Executive Director, Ohio Third Frontier Office of Technology Investments, and Erica Noble, Manager, Entrepreneurial Services, Office of Technology Investments, Ohio Department of Development
- March 19-Matt Snider, Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Will Himan, Consultant, Andy Bowers, Consultant, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- March 26-Justin Gentry, Contract Officer, Max Brooks, Technical Closeout Coordinator, and Luke Kandaris, Project Manager, US Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)
- March 30-Paul Turner, Senior Vice President, Business Development, Hecate Energy
- April 2-Matt Snider, Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Raymond Cao, Member, Ohio Nuclear Development Authority, Will Himan, Consultant, Andy Bowers, Consultant, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- April 9-Crystal Keaton, Business Manager, Workforce Development Board Area 1
- April 16-Matt Snider, Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Will Himan, Consultant, Andy Bowers, Consultant, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- April 20-Jennifer Chandler, Council Member, Village of Piketon
- April 23-Juli Stephens, Southeast Ohio Regional Representative, Office of U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno
- April 27-Kelli Johnson, District Director, Office of Congressman David Taylor
- April 27-Bryn Stepp, Regional Representative, Office of U.S. Senator Jon Husted
- April 28-Paul Turner, Senior Vice President, Business Development, and Adam Arcichowski, Senior GIS Manager, Hecate Energy
- April 30-Charissa Huntzinger, Community Development Senior Manager, SB Energy
- May 4-Kara Willis, Director of Regional Talent and Research, Ohio SE
- May 4-Kelli Johnson, District Director, Congressman David J. Taylor
- May 6-Lee Huffman, Business Development Manager and Sola Talabi, Principal and Chief Technology Officer, Pittsburgh Technical
- May 7-Matt Snider, Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Will Himan, Consultant, Andy Bowers, Consultant, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- May 14-Matt Abbott, Executive Director, Gloria Blauvelt, Business Development Manager, Kara Willis, Director of Regional Talent and Research, and Destiny Bryson, Manager of Engagement & Partnerships, Ohio Southeast

- May 14-Charissa Huntzinger, Community Development Senior Manager, SB Energy
- May 18-Ben Williams, Director, Jobs for the Future
- May 19-Shawn Cutter, CEO, Energiacres
- May 21-Matt Snider, Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Raymond Cao, Member, Ohio Nuclear Development Authority, Will Himan, Consultant, Andy Bowers, Consultant, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- May 22-Sam Brady, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jackson County Economic Development Partnership
- June 4-Justin Clark, Deputy Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Raymond Cao, Member, Ohio Nuclear Development Authority, Will Himan, Consultant, Andy Bowers, Consultant, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- June 11-Ben Williams, Director, Jobs for the Future
- June 17-Joshua Legg, Manager of Drinking and Groundwaters for the Southeast Division, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Tiffani Kavalec, Policy Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and Kathleen Smith, Hazen and Sawyer
- June 23-Kara Willis, Director of Regional Talent and Research, Ohio Southeast
- June 24-Matthew Weber, Professor, School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University
- June 24-William Murdock, Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
- June 29-Kara Colton, Principal Consultant, Laura Hermann, Deputy Executive Director, Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies and Ohio Nuclear Alliance, and Cassidy Book, Ohio Nuclear Alliance
- July 6-Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies and Ohio Nuclear Alliance
- July 7-Jamie Greene, Principal/Owner, Planning Next
- July 8-Shawn Cutter, CEO, Energiacres
- July 9-Jamie Greene, Principal/Owner and Emily Hays, Senior Planner, Planning Next
- July 13-Andy Kostival, Director, Private Sector Client Division, and Michelle Bolin, Director of Events and Engagement, Sunday Creek Horizons
- July 13-Jennifer Roberts, Executive Director and Sarah Wallace, Foundation Chairwoman, Thomas J. Evans Foundation
- July 14-Joshua Legg, Manager of Drinking and Groundwaters for the Southeast Division, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Tiffani Kavalec, Policy Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Kathleen Smith, Hazen and Sawyer, and Chad Roby, Portfolio Manager, Jacobs
- July 16-Kristopher Wahlers, Partner, Ice Miller
- July 16-Justin Clark, Deputy Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., Will Himan, Consultant, Andy Bowers, Consultant, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies
- July 22-Laura Arenschield, Vice President for Customer Experience and Communications, American Electric Power Ohio
- July 23-Ethan Schaffer, Director of External Relations, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- August 6-Will Himan, Consultant and Tyler Monk, Consultant, Hinman-Bowers
- August 6-Jamie Greene, Principal/Owner and Emily Hays, Senior Planner, Planning Next
- August 11-Chandler Grooms, Community Development Manager, SB Energy
- August 12-Jeremy Ward, Network Director, Building Bridges to Careers
- August 20-Will Himan, Consultant and Tyler Monk, Consultant, Hinman-Bowers, Marat Khafizov, Professor, Ohio State University, and Rashay Khripunova, Founder and Principal, Sown Strategies and Ohio Nuclear Alliance
- August 26-Justin Clarke, Deputy Program Manager, Centrus Energy Corp.
- August 21-Shawn Cutter, CEO, Energiacres

- September 3-Tyler Monk, Consultant, Hinman-Bowers, Marat Khafizov, Professor, Ohio State University, Justin Clark, Deputy Enrichment Operations Plant Manager at Centrus Energy Corp., and Christina Walrond, Director, State Government Relations, X-energy
- September 11-Caitlin Holley, Managing Director, Alliance for Strategic Capital, Economic Networks, and Development (ASCEND)
- September 17-Will Himan, Consultant, Andy Bower, Consultant, Tyler Monk, Consultant, and Brianna Sinclair, Administrative Assistant, Hinman-Bowers, Jim Howe, Terrestrial Energy, Christine Walrond, x-Energy, and Bill Dingus, Executive Director, Lawrence County Economic Development
- September 22-Paul Worley, Director, Jenni Hupp, Assistant Director, and Diana Purtee, Administrative Assistant, Adams County Economic and Community Development

Ohio Nuclear Alliance

The Ohio Nuclear Alliance was established by volunteer entities and officially launched on June 2, 2026, at the Athletic Club of Columbus with the goal of establishing Ohio as a national leader in nuclear energy and other nuclear fields. Over 150 people attended including approximately 33 State of Ohio legislators, the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, members of the Ohio Nuclear Development Authority, and various representatives from state departments, labor groups, economic development organizations, industry, and others. The Ohio General Assembly Speaker of the House made opening remarks followed by the Chairs of both the House and Senate Energy Committees, all in strong support of the Alliance. A panel discussion was held that included Vistra, Centrus, and IBEW. The PORTSfuture Program was recognized for our contributions with informing the formation of the group via the data we shared regarding Ohio companies involved in the nuclear industry derived as part of our PORTSfuture Ohio Nuclear Value Chain study. The event highlighted the tremendous opportunities in the nuclear industry for Ohio including workforce development and economic growth as well as energy reliability and advanced nuclear deployment. The event was a great success as evidenced by the attendance of industry leaders, policymakers, business representatives, and stakeholders committed to strengthening Ohio's position as a national leader in the nuclear industry. As the Alliance continues, the organization intends to grow the membership, build new industry partnerships, and advocate for policies that secure Ohio's nuclear future.

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA)

Ohio University remains involved as a non-voting member with the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) to stay informed of policies and priorities relevant to this group. ECA is a national group that serves to inform and advance the needs and requests of host communities and local governments that are adjacent to or affected by U.S. DOE EM facilities. PORTSfuture involvement in ECA activities will continue in BP5.

Relevant strategy meetings, listening sessions, training sessions, and webinars attended by the PORTSfuture Program team to inform site reindustrialization efforts during Budget Period 4 include:

- January 27, 2026-Nuclear Power: What About the Waste? Sponsored by Midwest Governor's Association. Via webinar.
- January 27, 2026-New Energy Opportunities from HB 15 sponsored by Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA). Focus on how communities and businesses can leverage HB 15 to support energy-intensive projects, business retention, and long-term infrastructure investment in Ohio. Via webinar.
- February 12, 2026-Energy Communities Alliance-Options for High Level Waste and Used Nuclear Fuel. ECA Winter Webinar Series.
- March 5, 2026-Ohio Chamber of Commerce Energy and Environment Committee. Via Zoom.

- March 26, 2026-Focus on Energy; Affordability & Meeting Demand. Pluribus News/State Affairs sponsored live town hall bringing together policymakers, industry leaders and energy experts to examine the choices shaping the nation's energy future. Via webinar.
- June 15, 2026-Ohio Chamber of Commerce Energy and Environment Committee. Via Zoom.
- September 23, 2026-Ohio Nuclear Alliance State Policy Landscape Via Webinar.

Property requests response guidelines

Initial planning for this activity began in previous grant years when PORTSfuture and SODI gathered information from other DOE EM sites on how property transfer and reuse had been deployed. PORTSfuture continues to assist SODI with identifying areas on the PORTS site that are not available for redevelopment to remove them from consideration for private industry. PORTSfuture and SODI also continue to collaborate with DOE EM on identifying areas available for development and easements, defining steps for access to property for private industry, identifying documentation needed for each involved party, and establishing and reviewing proposals that are submitted by developers. SODI continues to align requests to DOE with the DOE EM PPPO exemplary property transfer process.

STEM activities

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) engagement activities are designed to encourage regional students to learn about and engage in activities in STEM disciplines. The longer-term goal is to encourage students to pursue careers in these in-demand STEM fields that provide well-paying employment opportunities. These activities may help prepare the future workforce in the region to be job-ready when site reindustrialization efforts are realized. PORTSfuture STEM partners are depicted in Figure 5 below.

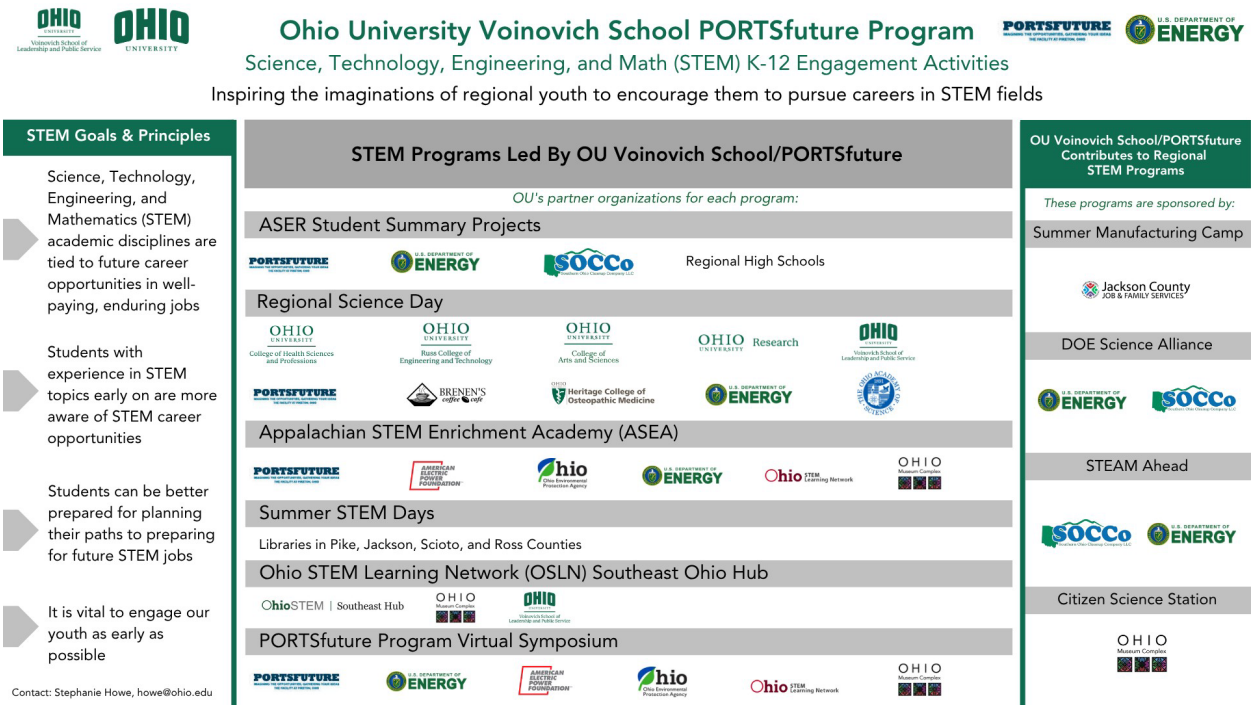


Figure 5. PORTSfuture STEM partners

PORTSfuture STEM activities are summarized in Figure 6 and described below.

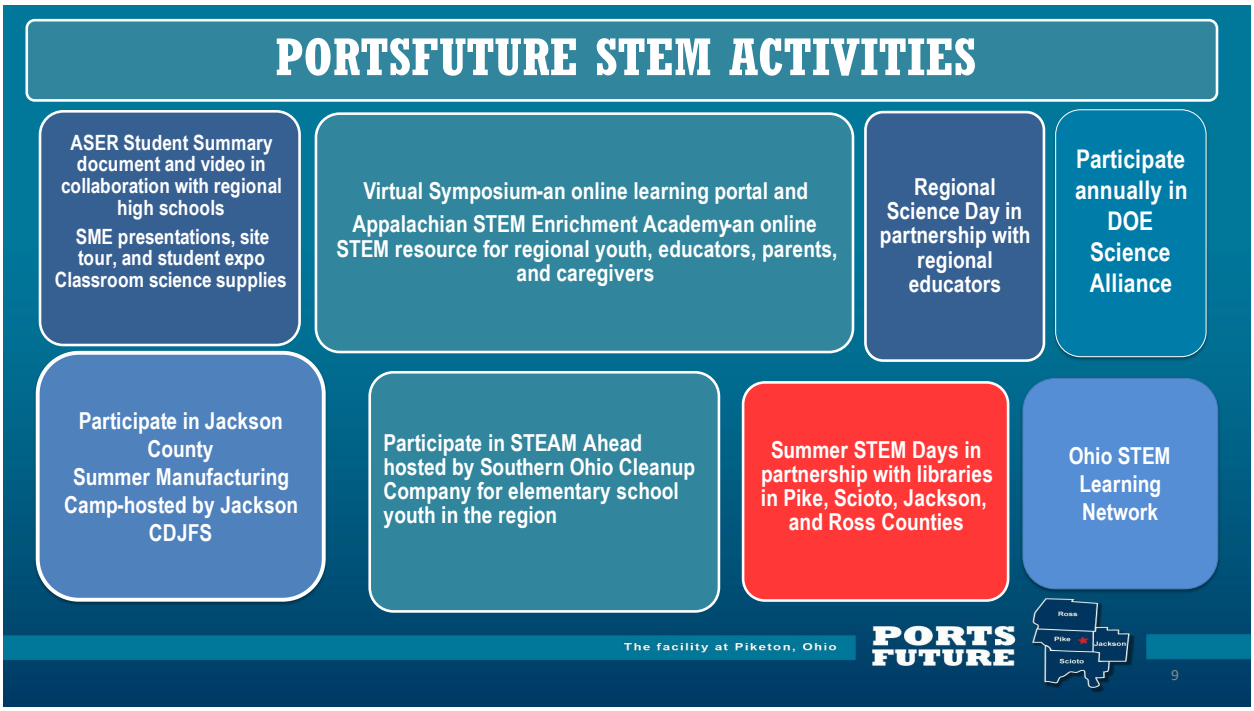


Figure 6. PORTSfuture STEM activities

ASER 15 and Regional ASER 3 Student Summary

ASER 15 and Regional ASER 3 are primarily funded under separate activities within the grant. The ASER Student Summary program has been executed since 2011 in Pike County. In FFY24, DOE EM established the Regional ASER program to enable other regional high schools to participate as well. Each year, PORTSfuture collaborates with local high school classes to distill into a summary the U.S. Department of Energy Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) for the PORTS site. The project runs throughout the academic year. Students hear presentations from PORTS site cleanup experts, participate in a site tour, and receive other educational information related to site history, site cleanup activities, and STEM careers. The students create poster presentations about what they learned and exhibit the posters at the ASER Student Summary Expo at the end of the school year. ASER Student Expo guests typically include school personnel, DOE EM leadership, site contractors, and other stakeholders. The Expo includes a ceremony where PORTSfuture and DOE EM recognize teachers and students and certificates of completion are provided to each student. A final student summary report and a brief video of the project are created and posted to the PORTSfuture Program site. Hard copies of the student summary are mailed to a variety of stakeholders at the end of the project.

During Budget Period 4, PORTSfuture collaborated with the Pike County Career Technical Center in Pike County with 22 students and West High School in Scioto County with 9 students to produce the 15th Annual Site Environmental Report Student Summary. One summary document was created with both schools contributing to the content. A brief video was also produced to highlight participant feedback from both schools on the project.

The video and final document can be accessed at this link:
https://www.portsfuture.com/aser-15/

ASER 16 and Regional ASER 4

ASER 16 and Regional ASER 4 are primarily funded under separate activities within the grant. PORTSfuture began preparations for the ASER 16 and Regional ASER 4 projects to be conducted in partnership with Waverly High School in Pike County and Jackson High School in Jackson County for the 2026–2027 academic year during Budget Period 5.

Appalachian STEM Enrichment Academy (ASEA)

The Appalachian STEM Enrichment Academy is a virtual academy that enables STEM offerings to be available 24/7/365. The online platform is an accessible vehicle for providing educational resources for teachers, students, parents, and caregivers. This effort was outlined in a concept paper provided to the DOE grant Contract Officer Representative (COR) and approved by the DOE COR and DOE Contract Officer during calendar year 2020 under a previous grant award. PORTSfuture funded a portion of the work to develop the ASEA, and other funds were obtained from the American Electric Power (AEP) Ohio Foundation, Ohio University, and various external grants. At this time, the PORTSfuture grant is not funding any further work on the Academy; however, the website remained active through early September 2026. The website has been temporarily disabled due to the need to assess changes required to address platform security and modifications to the website to meet the recently passed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for website content, which goes into effect in April 2027. Changes will be contingent on funding availability from non-DOE funding sources. The ASEA website had 154,231 visits and 359,252 page views during Budget Period 4.

Regional Science Day

Regional Science Day at Ohio University was led by the Voinovich School's Dr. Natalie Kruse Daniels, professor, and Director of the Environmental Studies Program. Regional Science Day at Ohio University serves students in District 12 with support from the PORTSfuture Program provided for schools in Ross and Jackson counties. Pike and Scioto counties belong to a different region served by the University of Rio Grande. Students in grades 5–12 can compete by presenting their original projects following either the standard scientific method or engineering design principles. Through inquiry-based project learning, students gain skills in posing a research question, creating a hypothesis, method development, data collection, data analysis, and written and oral communication. The Ohio Academy of Sciences has developed standards for science fairs across grades 5–12. Students earning a superior rating at their school fair qualify to compete at Regional Fairs, and those earning superiors at Regional Fairs qualify to compete at State Science Day held in Columbus, Ohio, each May. High school students in both districts have the additional opportunity to qualify for the Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair, which allows them to compete for a spot at the International Science and Engineering Fair. High school students in the region can compete for a spot at the International Fair straight from their district. The potential for learning, exposure to a community of engaged young scientists, and competition for scholarships and awards for students from southern Ohio is unparalleled.

During BP4, the Regional Science Day was held on March 21, 2026, at Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine Heritage Hall. Ohio University hosted 14 schools from six regional counties including Jackson, Ross, Athens, Hocking, and Perry. There were 123 students from grades 5–12 in attendance and 100 student projects represented.

PORTSfuture funding has increased participation from students and schools in Ross and Jackson counties. This year, PORTSfuture helped six teachers mentor students, supported regional fair operations, cataloged student abstracts, assigned award eligibility for judging based on age and other categories, and connected students from District 12 with Ohio University resources.

Teachers in Ross and Jackson counties who participated during BP4 received a $500 stipend from the PORTSfuture Program. During BP4, PORTSfuture supported six schools in Ross County including Jackson Middle, Chillicothe Middle, Chillicothe Intermediate, Unioto Elementary School, Zane Trace Middle, and Zane Trace High with 55 students participating from those schools. Schools participating from other counties were supported by other Ohio University resources.

The AEP Ohio Foundation supports STEM in Appalachia through a grant to Ohio University's Voinovich School, which helps inspire the next generation of scientists and environmental leaders. Grant funding supports the Southeast Ohio Regional Science Day Environmental Science Awards, recognizing three outstanding students for their achievements in scientific research and inquiry. From the PORTSfuture Program region, Allison Payton, grade 12, Zane Trace High School, won an AEP Ohio Foundation award for her project entitled, *Water Bottles and Microplastics*. Award recipients are selected for their strong application of the scientific method, commitment to inquiry and design, and development of innovative projects that explore environmental topics. Through this recognition, students are encouraged to deepen their understanding of the natural world while building critical thinking, research, and communication skills that are essential for future STEM success.

Overall, Regional Science Day funders provided over 104 awards, which included certificates, cash prizes, and scholarships, and 56 student projects advanced to the State Science Fair. Chillicothe Intermediate School and Solid Ground School tied for the Elementary School Division School Award, Zane Trace Middle School earned the Middle School Division School Award, and Zane Trace High School and Athens High School tied for the High School Division School Award. Funders for the Regional Science Day at Ohio University included OU Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, PORTSfuture Program, OU College of Arts and Sciences, OU Russ College of Engineering and Technology, OU College of Health Sciences and Professions, OU Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ohio Research Division, Crane Hollow Nature Preserve, and Brennen's Coffee Café. The Voinovich School provided $2,310 of Ohio University funding to 77 students from Scioto, Ross, and Jackson counties to cover their $30 Regional Science Day registration fees. Figure 7 below shows the event participants.



Figure 7. Regional Science Day participants

Summer STEM Days public library partnership

During BP4, PORTSfuture again partnered with main branch libraries in Pike, Scioto, Ross, and Jackson

counties to provide Summer STEM activities for youth in grades 3–8. During BP4, PORTSfuture held two sessions at the libraries in each county. Sessions were held in Jackson County on June 3 and June 17, in Scioto County on June 3 and June 17, in Pike County on June 10 and June 24, and in Ross County on June 10 and July 8. Seventy-two students participated across all the events. STEM engagement included the Hexbugs activity focused on guiding students on how to design, build, and problem-solve through the engineering design process. Students created LEGO mazes and put their engineering skills to the test as they guided a fast-moving Hexbug through twists, turns, and obstacles. This hands-on activity encourages teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking while introducing kids to the engineering design process in a fun and interactive way. The Ozobot activity enabled students to discover the fun of coding with tiny robots that come to life through color. Students used screen-free color codes to program Ozobots to speed up, spin, turn, and follow paths. Students explored the basics of coding and robotics through creative challenges that build problem-solving, sequencing, and STEM skills while enjoying watching their robots respond to their commands. This activity was supported by the PORTSfuture Program along with funding from the AEP Ohio Foundation.

Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Southeast Ohio Hub

During Budget Period 4, PORTSfuture continued engagement with the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Southeast Ohio Hub that is housed at the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service. The Hub has an established record in the region in working with teachers, K–12 students, higher education students, communities, and industry across several established programs and partnerships. Programs that provide the OSLN Southeast Ohio Hub broad support and a robust network to strengthen and grow regional STEM education include but are not limited to the OHIO Museum Complex, STEMstart, My Backyard Stream, STEAM Ahead, and the Appalachian STEM Collaborative. In addition to these established projects, the OSLN Southeast Ohio Hub communicates with STEM schools, aspiring STEM schools, community leaders, and industry through electronic communication, in-person professional development, and stakeholder convenings. The Hub conducts surveys to obtain valuable input from partners and stakeholders about resources and support needed to grow quality STEM education in the region.

During BP4, PORTSfuture partnered with the Ohio University OSLN Southeast Ohio Hub to promote our STEM outreach events. Additionally, OSLN held a Regional Teachers Conference in Hocking County on November 7 for educators throughout southern and eastern Ohio to gain experience in the theory and practice of environmental education with both experiential and traditional presentations. There were thirty-nine attendees, and the event was funded by OSLN and the AEP Ohio Foundation. The foci of the two sessions Ohio University presented included (1) STEM pedagogy in design thinking with hands-on activities and (2) a session that provided demonstrations of STEM resources available through Ohio University's Voinovich School. The Voinovich School now is a distribution hub for the Past Foundation that is funded by Battelle. Five STEM kits made available by the Past Foundation were shared with educators to explore for classroom use. On November 9, OSLN held a fall STEM Spotlight event in Lawrence County at Tri-State STEM+M School to provide an opportunity for educators in the region to learn about STEM-designated schools. This event enabled educators to meet with practicing STEM teachers, visit classrooms to see STEM practices in action, and engage with students on their experiences in a STEM school.

Information on the OSLN Hubs can be found at this link:
https://osln.org/hubs/

Virtual Symposium

During Budget Period 4, PORTSfuture maintained the Virtual Symposium webpage developed under a previous grant as a collaboration between the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service at Ohio University and the Kentucky Research Consortium for Energy and the Environment (KRCEE) at the University of Kentucky. This webpage was created to highlight past activities funded by grants administered by the DOE Office of Environmental Management Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office. Primarily funded under a separate task, the Virtual Symposium provided ongoing access to scientific and technical presentations for STEM education interests. The video presentations, PowerPoint presentations, and project reports serve as useful STEM education tools for area schools, colleges, and universities.

The Virtual Symposium can be viewed at:
https://www.portsfuture.com/archive/project/virtual-symposium-2/

Science Alliance

PORTSfuture was delighted to participate in the DOE EM PORTS annual Science Alliance event for academic year 2025-2026 held in October 2025. The three-day event provided approximately 1,450 students from 31 schools in Pike, Scioto, Ross, Jackson, Adams, and Greenup counties access to a variety of interactive kiosks to learn about careers in the environmental and engineering fields. For the academic year 2026-2027, DOE held Science Alliance during September 2026. The three-day September event included 32 schools from the abovementioned counties with approximately 1,600 students attending. At both Science Alliance events, the Voinovich School's Raccoon Creek Watershed team and AmeriCorps volunteers provided a display that included a living stream table with live fish and macroinvertebrates for the students to learn about stream health and stream cleanup methods. Also at both events, the Voinovich School's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data team provided a display illustrating data and GIS applications and uses and discussed potential careers that require GIS skills. PORTSfuture looks forward to participating in DOE's Science Alliance in future grant years.

Southern Ohio Cleanup Company (SOCCo) STEAM Ahead collaboration

The PORTSfuture Program was pleased to continue to participate in a collaborative education program sponsored and hosted by the Southern Ohio Cleanup Company, a DOE EM contractor engaged in cleanup activities at the PORTS site. During BP4, SOCCo's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) Ahead program engaged elementary students in grades 3 and 4 at Western, Eastern, Waverly, and Jasper elementary schools in Pike County, and Valley Elementary School in Scioto County. The PORTSfuture Program provided an engaging activity on scientific experiments including measurements and thermodynamic properties. Students created color-changing play dough using thermochromic pigments and conducted a hands-on experiment to observe how temperature affects the properties of materials. Through measuring ingredients, making observations, and testing how heat from their hands or cooling temperatures from ice packs changed the dough's color, students explored thermodynamic principles. Additionally, the activity enabled students to practice inquiry-based learning to investigate how temperature influences material properties. During Budget Period 4, PORTSfuture presented eight sessions and 162 students were engaged.

Summer Manufacturing Camp in Jackson, Ohio

The Jackson County Summer Manufacturing Camp is an annual event organized by Jackson County OhioMeansJobs and the Jackson County Department of Job and Family Services (JCDJFS). The Camp provides an opportunity for Jackson County middle school students to learn about careers in their community, tour local manufacturing facilities, and engage with industry experts. During BP4, this multi-

day camp took place June 15–18 with eight Jackson County middle school students in grades 6–8 attending the event. On June 15 PORTSfuture Program staff engaged students in a Sphero Robot coding activity. Objectives of the activity included: (1) learning introductory block coding and accurately programming Sphero Robots to correctly navigate an established path, (2) building team working skills and collaboration through discussing methods and approaches to achieve desired outcomes, and (3) learning how to build an established path called a "city road" for the Sphero Robot to follow by programming the robot via block coding. Materials included Sphero Coding Robots and the Sphero Education application. The activity first described what block coding is and how it applies to navigating a Sphero Robot. Students were queried on their familiarity with block coding and then students were placed into groups to conduct the activity based on their level of knowledge of block coding. Staff then demonstrated to students how the Sphero Robot connects to the software program on the students' computers, and students were shown examples of how coding inputs work. Students worked within their small groups to brainstorm their ideas to chart a course and build a "city road" with tape to navigate the robot utilizing code that the students entered into the software program. Through trial and error, students tweaked their code to help the Sphero robot navigate the road they designed. Students then shared their results with the other groups, and groups discussed varying approaches used to achieve their results.

Western Local School District STEAM Career Day

PORTSfuture participated in the Western Local Elementary School STEAM Career Day on May 8, 2026. The event was focused on the importance of community-connected learning and early career development and included participation of students, university partners, and industry professionals. Approximately 125 participants engaged with the PORTSfuture activities at the event. PORTSfuture learning stations included live and preserved macroinvertebrates, live amphibians, and reptiles that the students could observe through digital microscopes. This innovative tool enhances scientific inquiry and encourages hands-on learning. PORTSfuture also had the Macro Invertebrate Matchup activity for younger students. This engaging habitat activity utilizes puzzles of aquatic macroinvertebrates and a 2-D model of a stream. Students assembled the head, thorax, and abdomen of each species and learned about stream habitat and water quality conditions in which species can thrive. Figure 8 below shows the Macro Invertebrate Matchup activity display.



Figure 8. Ohio University macroinvertebrates match-up activity

Additional classroom STEM offerings

STEM activities previously developed by PORTSfuture can be offered on-site in classrooms across the four-county area in southern Ohio dependent upon available funding. We have created a body of work around engineering design principles for youth, aquatic biology, physical features of lakes and streams, utilizing microscopes to analyze data, computer coding, and many other areas that translate across ages and grades. By collaborating with local educators, we can customize single class period sessions to their curriculum needs and interests. Hands-on activities augment these programs when possible. Career pathway discussions are integrated into programs for middle and high school students.

Dissemination of program activities and technical assistance

The PORTSfuture Program website, www.portsfuture.com

The website is used widely to disseminate information, resources, reports, videos, and other materials. the PORTSfuture website had 59,370 visitors and 225,944 page views during BP4.

Press releases

Press releases are developed for specific events and activities when applicable, related to site reindustrialization, STEM events, and other outreach events.

Presentations

Presentations are provided as requested to stakeholders such as economic development entities, elected officials, federal offices, labor leaders, workforce development organizations, private companies, investors, community groups, and the Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) in addition to other regional site stakeholders and other related regional initiatives. For example, on October 15, 2025, the PORTSfuture Program provided a presentation that included updates on PORTS redevelopment activities to the Ohio University Voinovich School Advisory Group. On October 29, 2025, at the request of SODI's Congressionally Directed Spending grant contracting officers at DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), PORTSfuture provided a presentation on the PORTSfuture workforce study to the DOE EERE workforce development group. On January 5, 2026, the Voinovich School hosted Ohio General Assembly Senator Brian Chavez, Chair of the Senate Energy Committee, to discuss the School's overall work in the southern Ohio region in general, and specifically to update the Senator on PORTS site redevelopment activities.

Site reindustrialization Meet the Developers Open Houses

PORTSfuture collaborated with SODI, local Chambers of Commerce, and other project partners to hold four Meet the Developers Open House events during BP4 as described previously in this report.

DOE EM Community Open Houses

In past years, DOE EM PPPO led the coordination and rollout of a series of annual Community Open Houses to enable residents in the four-county area near the PORTS site to learn about site cleanup, property transfer, and site reindustrialization progress. In the past, kiosks included the Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB), SODI, PORTSfuture, DOE EM, and site cleanup contractors who present information on asset recovery, cleanup progress, on-site waste disposal facility construction, and workforce opportunities. PORTSfuture attended the events and displayed work products. DOE EM Community Open Houses were not held during Budget Period 4 because DOE EM attended the Meet the

Developers Open Houses. PORTSfuture will be eager to attend future DOE EM-sponsored events when they are scheduled.

Technical assistance provided during Budget Period 4

At times, PORTSfuture is invited to provide technical assistance to key site stakeholder groups, partners, and others who could benefit from our program. Technical assistance provided during BP4 is described below.

Technical assistance to Murray State University

PORTSfuture was honored to continue to provide technical assistance to Murray State University (MSU) in Paducah, Kentucky, with its grant execution in the areas of site reindustrialization and STEM engagement. MSU is a DOE EM PPPO grantee in the Paducah, Kentucky, area serving the DOE EM PPPO Paducah site. The collaboration between PORTSfuture and MSU is directly aligned with the established "One PPPO" vision set forth for the DOE EM PPPO facilities located in Paducah, Kentucky, and in Pike County, Ohio. This vision is focused on leveraging strategies, resources, tools, templates, and lessons learned across both PPPO sites to advance cleanup and redevelopment at both venues for public economic benefit. During BP4, PORTSfuture continued to share ASER Student Summary Project materials including planned content, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) roster, execution schedules, templates for school contracts, mailing lists, final report, final video, and other similar items. PORTSfuture and MSU continued to share ideas to enhance each team's respective ASER Student Summary Project. We look forward to continuing this relationship with MSU during BP5.

Technical assistance to the United Steel Workers (USW) Local 689

As previously mentioned, PORTSfuture continues to provide technical assistance to the United Steel Workers (USW) Local 689 in its efforts to obtain funding to expand training offerings at the USW Local 689 workforce training center. These efforts are focused on preparing the regional workforce, and especially USW members who can serve as operators, for incoming projects planned as part of PORTS redevelopment. During BP4, assistance to USW Local 689 focused on expanding uptake of participants for the (ACE) Manufacturing Skills Standard Certification (MSSC) program; collaborating with Ohio University's J. Warren McClure School of Emerging Communication Technologies to finalize the data center operator certification program; assisting with grant proposals for USW; exploring opportunities with planned certifications within Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering and Technology; and identifying other existing certifications that may be available such as water/wastewater utility operator training. A workforce trained in these areas will be vital to future site operations as redevelopment progresses. This support to USW Local 689 will continue during BP5.

Communications and media support

PORTSfuture has retained a well-respected Ohio firm, Amplifire Strategies, to provide support to PORTSfuture, SODI, and site reindustrialization partners on communications and media activities to advance site redevelopment. Ohio University has approved the use of non-DOE, Voinovich School funds to cover this vendor's costs. In coordination with SODI and PORTSfuture, Amplifire engaged with the media through press releases and individual reporter outreach, developed public information materials, assisted with public engagement activities, and participated in public presentations to enhance the visibility of the PORTS reindustrialization work. Amplifire Strategies' support during Budget Period 4 includes:

Amplifire's support to media engagement and media tracking

In coordination and collaboration with the PORTSfuture Program, Amplifire Strategies engaged with the media and supported efforts relevant to the press to publicize PORTSfuture's work to support the advancement of site reindustrialization. Activities include:

- July 2026-September 2026-Pitched and coordinated with Standard & Works reporter on coverage of the PORTS site redevelopment activities.
    - Standard & Works: The Ohio Workforce Powering America's Next Energy Era, 9/10/26 (posted across various channels, including YouTube and Spotify).
- June 2026-Managed media engagement for Meet the Developer Community Open Houses hosted by SODI and PORTSfuture in Pike and Scioto counties. Media coverage secured includes:
    - Pike County News Watchman: Reindustrialization plans for the former A-Plant site discussed at open house, 6/12/26.
    - Portsmouth Daily Times: DOE hosts open houses in Pike, Scioto counties highlighting PORTS redevelopment and job opportunities, 6/12/26.
    - WSAZ: Former uranium plant site pitched as hub for energy, tech development, 6/10/26.
- May 2026-Managed media pitching and engagement for the PORTS Recruitment Career Center grand opening event. Media coverage of the event and relevant follow up included:
    - Scioto Valley Guardian: New workforce center opens in Piketon as PORTS Technology Campus development continues, 5/18/26.
    - Portsmouth Daily Times: ODJFS funds new recruitment and career center in Piketon, 6/12/26.
- January 2026-Secured SODI's perspective in coverage of the Oklo/Meta agreement in support of nuclear energy development in southern Ohio. Media coverage included:
    - Columbus Business First: Meta's nuclear strategy puts Ohio at forefront of data center power push, experts say, 1/16/26.

Amplifire's support with developing information and promotional materials

Amplifire designed and created the following content and materials:

- October 2025-Assisted with the creation of presentation slides to be used with industry partners, labor union partners, regional and state economic development organizations, and directly involved federal offices.
- October 2025-Finalized PORTS site reindustrialization timeline that tracks site activity and milestones from 2010 through present.
- November 2025-Created *Powering It All* newsletter breaking news template.
- February 2026-Finalized a detailed document on USW Local 689's collaborations at the PORTS site.
- March 2026-Designed logo for PORTS Recruitment and Career Center.
- March 2026-Formatted Workforce Analyses reports into a single, ADA compliant report.
- April 2026-Created flyer for Data Center Operator Certification Program in partnership with ACE Training Program, the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, the United Steelworkers, and the Ohio University J. Warren McClure School of Emerging Communication Technologies (ECT).
- May 2026-Designed various posters and flyers, including PORTS Recruitment and Career Center flyer, ASER poster, topographical PORTS site posters, Ohio nuclear industry value chain segments poster, and Ohio nuclear descriptions of segments of value chain poster.
- March-June 2026-Redesigned *Powering It All* newsletters and other content into ADA-compliant formatting.
- July 2026-Designed data center operator poster.

- September 2026-Updated and designed posters, including on PORTS reindustrialization technical assistance and PORTS reindustrialization community engagement and outreach.

Amplifire's support with the *Powering It All* newsletter

Amplifire, in coordination with PORTSfuture, continued producing and distributing the *Powering It All* newsletter, which provides updates on PORTS site redevelopment. Support on the newsletter included:

- Maintaining and expanding the stakeholder distribution list with ~400 stakeholders from industry, government, labor, education, and the community.
- Managing the Constant Contact CRM database and email distribution process.
- Coordinating with PORTSfuture to identify newsletter and rapid-response update topics.
- Drafting and editing copy.
- Designing and laying out the newsletters and rapid-response updates.
- Promotion through LinkedIn.
- Monitoring performance.

From October 2025 to September 2026, the following *Powering It All* communications were disseminated:

- January 2026-Alert on U.S. DOE award of $900 million to Centrus to expand uranium-enrichment capacity at its Piketon facility and support commercial-scale production of advanced nuclear fuel.
- January 2026-Alert on Oklo's and Meta's agreement in support of nuclear energy development in southern Ohio and its connection to the growing energy needs of data-center operations.
- March 2026-Alert on the Centrus, Oklo joint venture to expand advanced nuclear-fuel services and strengthen the nuclear supply chain in southern Ohio.
- March 2026-Alert on DOE's public-private partnership with SoftBank and AEP Ohio to redevelop federal land, modernize energy infrastructure, and support advanced computing and artificial intelligence development in southern Ohio.
- May 2026-Newsletter providing families with information about PORTSfuture Program regional summer STEM opportunities designed to introduce students to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- May 2026-Breaking news update on the ribbon-cutting event for the PORTS Recruitment and Career Center and the Center's role in connecting area residents with employment and workforce development opportunities associated with PORTS site redevelopment.
- July 2026-Invitation to the SB Energy Booth at the Pike County Fair, to meet the team, learn about planned development, and ask questions.
- August 2026-Alert on Oklo Inc. achieving criticality at their Texas reactor facility.
- August 2026-Alert on Nvidia backing $105 billion in financing for OpenAI data center in Pike County.
- August-September 2026-Promotions for Meet the Developer Community Open Houses in Ross and Jackson counties held in September 2026.

Amplifire's support to the Meet the Developers Open Houses

Amplifire supported PORTSfuture and SODI joint efforts to host four Meet the Developers Community Open Houses during BP4. The first two were held in Pike and Scioto counties in June 2026, and the second two were held in Ross and Jackson counties in September 2026. The open houses provided an opportunity for residents, site stakeholders, and media to learn about the redevelopment of the PORTS site from PORTSfuture, SODI, DOE, and industry partners.

Amplifire's role in the community open houses included:

- Assisted with event planning.
- Created flyers, social media graphics, and marketing language for the events and disseminated promotional materials.
- Provided pre-event logistical support, including securing the locations and catering.
- Drafted and sent press advisories to regional media and managed press at the events.
- Drafted and sent public service announcements to regional media outlets.
- Created sign-in sheets, tracked sign-ins, and added attendees to the *Powering It All* newsletter dissemination list.
- Provided on-site support, attended the events, and engaged with stakeholders, elected officials, community members, and the media.
- Photographed the event and archived photos.

Additional Amplifire support

Additional support includes the following:

- Ongoing-Maintained and expanded LinkedIn-focused social media plan and content for SODI. Frequently posted announcements and grew the number of followers and engagement with content focused on PORTS reindustrialization updates.
- October 2025-Attended and photographed a Centrus announcement event, and documented photos for use in future materials.
- December 2025-Assisted with organizing the Oklo Networking Event in Waverly, Ohio, including creating invitation list, drafting and sending invitation text and graphics, drafting and sending day-of reminder, identifying and coordinating with vendors, securing a venue, and staffing the event.
- December 2025-Created infrastructure for upcoming *Powering It All* podcast and recorded and co-hosted the first episode with USW's ACE Training Program.
- March 2026-Supported the distribution of four workforce readiness reports prepared by the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, the PORTSfuture Program, and Remington Road Group. The reports analyzed the region's workforce strengths, documented PORTS redevelopment partners' anticipated employment needs, assessed the capacity and programs of regional labor union training centers, and presented final workforce-readiness findings and recommendations.
- April 2026-Supported the launch of the PORTS Recruitment and Career Center, including securing a domain name and creating a logo and flyer.
- August 2026-Recorded two presentation sessions on the PORTSfuture Program's nuclear supply chain analysis featuring Dr. Lukas Brun.

PORTSfuture Program identification and engagement of experts and other support for site redevelopment

During Budget Period 4, PORTSfuture continued to track and/or utilize informational resources from various entities that can assist with informing and achieving site reindustrialization goals.

DOE-related entities such as U.S. DOE National Laboratories and Community Reuse Organizations

As warranted, the PORTSfuture Program connects with various experts at DOE National Laboratories and community reuse organizations around the country to seek information to inform our program activities and to discuss PORTSfuture Program activities in support of DOE EM cleanup and community preferred future uses for the site.

PJM Interconnection LLC

PJM is a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) that addresses supply and demand for electricity in the PJM geographical service area. PORTSfuture continues to track PJM activities and announcements related to grid capacity and potential load needs. This information is helpful in positioning reindustrialization partners' energy-related projects to be part of a viable electricity transmission and distribution hub via the PORTS site's PJM grid interconnection capabilities for the PJM region.

Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment

PORTSfuture remains connected to the OU Russ College of Engineering and Technology (RCET), which houses a coal research center that is touted as one of the nation's leading academic energy research organizations. The Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (ISEE) is developing innovative and responsible engineering solutions on issues related to domestic energy sources and alternative uses of coal in additive manufacturing. These efforts can play a key role in the development and operation of the site reindustrialization IES-CLM complex and contact with RCET ISEE is ongoing.

Institute for Corrosion and Multi-Phase Technology (ICMPT)

PORTSfuture remains connected to ICMPT at the OU Russ College of Engineering and Technology (RCET). ICMPT researches new ways to address corrosion in pipelines in partnership with a global gas and oil industry alliance. Pipelines will be a key infrastructure component for the site reindustrialization and contact with RCET ICMPT is ongoing.

Biomass, biodigesters, bio products, and co-production systems

The PORTSfuture program maintains contacts with faculty researchers at Ohio University who are exploring opportunities for developing biomass, bioenergy, and bio product co-production systems to enhance energy resources. Biomass, bioenergy, and bio products could play a role in the redevelopment of the PORTS site.

Related OU academic disciplines

The PORTSfuture program continues to engage faculty and researchers from engineering, digital technologies, economic and community development, environmental studies, public administration/public policy, and other academic disciplines when applicable to advance grant activities.

OU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

During BP4, DOE PORTS hosted a tour and meeting with the President, Vice President (VP) for Research and Creative Activity, VP for Advancement, faculty director of the Institute for Energy and Environment, Voinovich School Dean, and a Board of Trustees member from Ohio University. These high-level Ohio University officials continued to be engaged in the PORTSfuture Program to identify pathways for Ohio University to best support site reindustrialization efforts. The OU Research Office remains committed to identifying and engaging relevant OU researchers to support PORTSfuture's work with external partners on site redevelopment activities.

OU entrepreneurial ecosystem

Ohio University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC), APEX procurement technical assistance center (APEX), TechGROWTH Ohio entrepreneurship program, Innovation Center, and OU Tech Transfer Office are excellent resources for the PORTSfuture Program. These entities provide expert input

on entrepreneurial education, business assistance, approaches for procuring government contracts, and venture development connections in Appalachian Ohio. These groups provide specific services that can be utilized by reindustrialization partners when applicable.

National experts and thought leaders

Ohio University's PORTSfuture grant leverages and incorporates resources and relationships by engaging well-respected national experts and thought leaders in our grant activities. These august individuals provide valuable guidance to our work and raise the visibility of efforts to reindustrialize the facility. During Budget Period 4, the following served in a consultative capacity to our grant activities:

- Mike Zimmer, Esq., is an attorney and international energy business development expert who previously served as an Ohio University Voinovich School Executive in Residence.
- Dr. Benjamin Cross, P.E., founder and CEO of NuSynergy Energy LLC and formerly with the U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Site, is an energy integration expert who served as an Ohio University Voinovich School Executive in Residence.
- Dr. Greg Browning, President of Capital Partners, former Ohio University Trustee, former Director of the State of Ohio Office of Budget and Management, and former Senior Policy Advisor to Governor George V. Voinovich. Dr. Browning has served as a Senior Fellow and past chair of the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service advisory board.
- Jeff Finkle, past President and CEO of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), past Ohio University Voinovich School Appalachian New Economy Partnership Fellow, and Voinovich School advisory board member.
- Dr. Lukas Brun is the past Managing Director of Research and Economic Development at E4 Carolinas, an energy industry association. Dr. Brun specializes in global value chains and energy-led economic development and participated in the PORTSfuture Program Nuclear Supply Chain analysis.
- Dr. Rob Handfield is the Bank of America University Distinguished Professor of Supply Chain Management at North Carolina State University and Executive Director of the Supply Chain Resource Cooperative. Dr. Handfield is an established expert in the field of supply chain management, which includes sourcing, supply market intelligence, and supply chain resilience. He is frequently quoted in various global media outlets regarding his expertise in the supply chain arena. Dr. Handfield provided support for the PORTSfuture Program Nuclear Supply Chain analysis.

Summary and Next Steps

Ohio University's PORTSfuture Program is honored to remain a part of, and to continue to add value to, the DOE EM cleanup mission and the SODI site redevelopment mission. The work that occurred during Budget Period 4 under the Site Repurposing Continuation and Ongoing Technical Assistance, Public Outreach, Education, and Engagement for Property Transfer and Future Use activities created public value and served the public interest. These activities informed site cleanup and future use planning to leverage the public assets of the PORTS site and the region to create regional economic prosperity.

The activities and information cited in this report serve to advance SODI's goal to develop a large-scale power generation and industrial complex at the site that includes a hyperscale Artificial Intelligence data center. It is important to restate and emphasize that these activities were conducted in a manner that was responsive to the stated future use preferences of the public in the four-county region near the site. These community preferences were identified at the beginning of Ohio University's involvement in this work and through various DOE EM, SODI, and Ohio University public engagement efforts. More information on the background, history, and evolution of the PORTSfuture Program can be found in Appendix 1. Information on the Integrated Energy System Closed Loop Manufacturing (IES-CLM) Complex Concept

that served to inspire redevelopment activities can be found in Appendix 2.

Ohio University's PORTSfuture Program remains committed to continuing and expanding the vital activities that have been reported in this document to advance site cleanup and redevelopment. DOE EM, SODI, and PORTSfuture have identified the following areas in which Ohio University's PORTSfuture Program can continue to add value:

- Continue to conduct work depicted in the OU Current Grant Activities graphic shown earlier in this report in Figure 2.
- Expand existing partnerships and develop new partnerships to advance site reindustrialization and employment readiness/workforce development efforts.
- Continue to collaborate with industry partners to ensure the redevelopment of the PORTS site occurs in a manner to create the highest community economic benefit.
- Identify siting requirements of private developers such as infrastructure and other assets to be left in place when possible, resulting in cost avoidance for DOE EM. Develop a utility strategy for SODI in its efforts to recruit new developers.
- Produce data and GIS needed to support cleanup and site reindustrialization. This may include maintaining and/or expanding existing data and GIS products, creating profiles of regional economies, and/or designing other data products to be determined.
- Continue to conduct economic impact analysis, workforce analysis, and other types of data analysis, and apply results when developing site redevelopment and employment readiness strategies.
- Continue to assist SODI in developing and executing the financial plan to increase SODI's capacity to obtain the resources necessary for the PORTS site redevelopment.
- Continue to assist in resource acquisition for SODI and labor partners through proposal writing and proposal implementation assistance to advance site readiness and workforce readiness goals.
- Continue executing public information initiatives and collaborate with SODI to promote site redevelopment progress through public information activities to audiences that include industry, businesses, nonprofits, economic development professionals, workforce entities, labor organizations, elected officials, regional, state, and federal organizations and agencies, and the public.
- Continue to disseminate program information through websites, presentations, roundtables, meetings, webinars, public open houses, newsletters, social media, news releases, and/or conferences as appropriate.
- Assist SODI in fielding requests for property as appropriate including responding to private sector requests to SODI for property.
- Continue and/or expand Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) engagement activities designed to encourage regional students to explore and engage in STEM discipline activities. The goal of these activities is to encourage students to pursue careers in these in-demand fields that provide well-paying employment opportunities. STEM engagement activities also serve to inform students of future employment opportunities with the incoming developers involved in site reindustrialization.
- Continue to leverage other funding opportunities whenever possible and especially pursue opportunities to bring private sector dollars and/or public private sector partnerships into the site reindustrialization process. This includes building upon current initiatives with entities such as:
    - Commercial partners interested in exploring opportunities at the site.
    - University partners interested in conducting research, development, and deployment activities relevant to site redevelopment.
    - Technology commercialization experts, private sector venture capitalists, and pre-seed fund resources interested in investing in southern Ohio companies.
- Other activities will be defined in collaboration with program partners as needs are identified.

Appendix 1 PORTSfuture's Focus, Background, History, and Evolution

PORTSfuture's focus

The Ohio University PORTSfuture Program provides a wide range of technical assistance services to enhance data-driven approaches to support DOE cleanup, property transfer, and advancement of redevelopment goals to ensure the DOE PORTS site is leveraged to the highest economic benefit for the region.

PORTSfuture expands SODI's redevelopment capacity, supports the attraction of private developers and private capital, expands workforce readiness, broadens stakeholder involvement, increases public awareness, and engages regional youth in STEM activities.

In the broadest of terms, PORTSfuture technical assistance is framed as:

- PORTSfuture and SODI facilitate and continue to expand the multi-stakeholder redevelopment partnership among federal, state, regional, and local entities as well as private industry.
- PORTSfuture and SODI collaborate to attract private sector developers and private capital.
- PORTSfuture provides proposal writing, grant management, and grant deployment assistance to SODI and its partners to expand resources for advancing site redevelopment.
- PORTSfuture and SODI execute ongoing stakeholder engagement activities with national experts, national labs, local and regional economic development and workforce organizations, Chambers of Commerce, local, state, and federal elected officials, labor groups, state and federal agencies, community members, and a multitude of regional stakeholders.
- PORTSfuture implements an extensive array of stakeholder engagement platforms.
- PORTSfuture provides expertise to SODI and other partners with implementation of applied data that PORTSfuture produces with Ohio University experts, resulting in data-driven decision-making to advance redevelopment. Data produced includes:
    - Applied environmental studies.
    - Data analysis, economic impact analysis, workforce analysis, and supply chain analysis for future site uses.
    - Interactive Geographic Information System for site infrastructure and regional assets utilized in cleanup, property transfer, and redevelopment.
    - Virtual Model for 3-D site rendering to inform cleanup, property transfer, and redevelopment.
    - Other technical reports and tools to support various aspects of SODI's site redevelopment.
- PORTSfuture engages external experts on topical areas as needed.
- PORTSfuture also provides a variety of K–12 STEM activities to regional youth who will serve as the future workforce.

PORTSfuture's focus on site cleanup and redevelopment in broad time frames

- 2010–2014-Focused on defining community preferred future uses for the PORTS site; informing DOE EM cleanup and property transfer; defining SODI's redevelopment vision; establishing a redevelopment strategy; producing data, tools, and GIS; providing various forms of technical assistance; engaging in consultations with national experts; and ongoing stakeholder engagement.
- 2015–2019-Focused on refining and deploying the redevelopment strategy to leverage site for large-scale job creation; producing data, tools, GIS, and virtual model; providing various forms of technical assistance; engaging in consultations with national experts; and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Property transfer began with 80 acres transferred in 2018.
- 2020–present-Focuses on attracting and supporting private sector developers; establishing workforce readiness; facilitating property sales and lease agreements are occurring; producing data, tools, GIS, and virtual model enhancements; providing various forms of technical assistance; engaging in

consultations with national experts; and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Property transfer continues with ~226 acres transferred in 2023 and ~48 acres transferred in 2025.

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy's former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) near Piketon, Ohio, has been an important economic player in the Pike, Scioto, Ross, and Jackson County region for decades. This fact has greatly impacted the region's socioeconomic profile. As the deactivation and demolition process continues at the PORTS site, it is expected that this transition period will lead to further changes in the region's socioeconomic profile including the creation of socioeconomic stressors as well as growth opportunities. The extent to which decision makers can minimize transitional stress and maximize the economic prospects for the region hinges upon the cleanup and transfer of the PORTS site and site assets for other beneficial economic use.

Leveraging foundational public engagement activities

Site repurposing continuation and Ongoing Technical Assistance, Public Outreach, Education, and Engagement for Property Transfer and Future Use activities build upon site repurposing and outreach activities conducted with 3161 funding (federal funds focused on benefits to workers) during 2013–2015 as well as the work conducted under previous grants. These activities also build upon findings from the Ohio University PORTSfuture Program's original grant work under the public outreach task completed in 2012. Under the outreach task, PORTSfuture conducted a 15-month, broad-based, grassroots, public participation process in Pike, Scioto, Ross, and Jackson counties to identify residents' future use preferences for the PORTS facility. Community participants in outreach activities included residents, economic development entities, environmental groups, nonprofits, businesses, governmental interests, labor groups, and other stakeholders in the four counties near the PORTS facility.

To inform the design of the outreach project, PORTSfuture conducted qualitative research that included interviewing key site stakeholders, conducting four focus groups with members of the public, administering a regional telephone survey to gain information about residents' opinions on major problems facing local communities and residents' awareness/knowledge of the site and cleanup efforts, and gathering residents' preferences for possible site future uses. Results from this qualitative research were used to design Community Visioning Teams that further broadened opportunities for public involvement at a more in-depth and focused level. Future use scenarios were developed by community participants in County Visioning Teams and voted on by the public at large at numerous public events and online. County Visioning Teams were provided with summary findings from the qualitative research, data on the site and site assets, cleanup plans, and reports that detailed environmental conditions at the site. Throughout the visioning process, community participants reviewed and discussed the data and used this input in creating their future use scenarios. The full outreach report can be found here: https://www.portsfuture.com/public-outreach-and-public-outreach-report/

Public voting on future use preferences occurred online and in-person at public events throughout the region from July 15, 2011, to September 30, 2011. A total of 1,141 people voted on the nine scenarios. Each person could select up to three scenarios as preferred options for future use consideration for PORTS. Results of the multiple-choice voting, with the top four scenarios highlighted in red font, are as follows:

Scenario Name	Total Votes
Nuclear power plant	**495**
Other energy production	**475**
Industrial park	**421**

National research and development	**418**
Warehousing, distribution, and transportation hub	179
Training and education facility	160
Metal recovery facility	152
Multi-use southern Ohio education center	143
Greenbelt	131

Scenario preferences obtained through the public voting activities were reported to site stakeholders, and the final outreach task report was submitted during 2012 to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office, DOE EM PORTS site officials, and the PORTS Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) for their consideration related to cleanup and risk reduction decisions. These results served to inform site repurposing activities in subsequent years.

2013–2015

Staff from OU, SODI, DOE EM, and relevant site contractors met regularly and engaged in activities to achieve the collaborative goals of informing DOE EM cleanup, end-state configuration, and accelerated property transfer at PORTS. Efforts focused on identifying viable options for best leveraging the site and site assets and identifying related industrial sectors that could be recruited as future tenants of a reindustrialized PORTS reservation. The energy sector was vetted in depth, and the potential to attract energy-related businesses to locate at the site appeared to be extremely favorable. Due to southern Ohio's long-standing ties to energy industries, the ability to develop and strengthen an energy cluster in the region will be enhanced with the site cleanup, transfer, and reuse.

During 2014, the President and CEO of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) met with the collaborative group to discuss strategies for site reindustrialization in the identified priority future use scenarios that included energy production, industry park/manufacturing, and research and development. The IEDC President, in his role as an OU Voinovich School Senior Fellow, continued to provide expert input and guidance to grant activities as requested and in-person, usually twice per year, until his retirement in 2022.

To gather meaningful input from energy industry leaders and state and regional economic development professionals, a regional energy sector roundtable was held in May 2014 to further inform site reuse planning. The roundtable discussion focused on identifying opportunities to develop energy sector businesses at the PORTS site in the form of Public-Private Partnerships (P3s). Ohio University designed the roundtable concept in conjunction with IEDC and other national experts and in consultation with energy industry leaders. This information resulted in a concept paper that guided the materials developed for the session, the participant recruitment, and the facilitation design for the roundtable.

The roundtable was well attended and included representatives from private industry, economic development, government, national level consultants, PORTS Site Specific Advisory Board (PORTS-SSAB), DOE EM, SODI, and site contractors. The Energy Sector Roundtable revealed key insights regarding the most feasible energy industries to pursue including biochemicals such as polymers and plastics, waste recycling/waste transformation, waste heat recovery, municipal waste processing, anaerobic digestion, methane combustion, metals recycling, energy generation, energy storage and micro-grids, biofuels and bioproducts, and advanced uses of coal such as coal to liquids. The goal is to recruit industries that can work in tandem to develop energy for powering collocated industries and provide economic benefit to the region.

During the winter of 2014–2015, Mike Zimmer Esq., an energy project and finance attorney, international energy business development expert, and Ohio University Voinovich School and Russ College of

Engineering and Technology Executive in Residence, authored an industry profile paper that discussed top energy sector industries viable for siting at PORTS. The paper can be viewed here:

https://www.portsfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/PORTSfuture-Energy-Sector-PORTS-Campus-White-Paper.pdf

In February 2016, Dr. Benjamin Cross P.E., Principal of NuSynergy Energy LLC, Ohio University Voinovich School Executive in Residence, and formerly Senior Advisor for the Energy Directorate at the Savannah River Site, authored a white paper on establishing an Appalachian Regional Energy Cluster. This white paper provides an overview of industry clusters and discusses why the establishment of an Appalachian Regional Energy Cluster is considered a prerequisite for enhancing the viability of locating an Integrated Energy System-Closed Loop Manufacturing (IES-CLM) complex at the DOE PORTS site.

The white paper can be viewed here: https://www.ohio.edu/ce3/resources/upload/CE3-Appalachian-Regional-Energy-Cluster-White-Paper-Feb-2016-FINAL.pdf

This information served to guide subsequent grant activities related to site repurposing.

2016–2021

Site redevelopment activities were informed by and built upon the previous efforts cited above. At the request of SODI, the local community reuse organization, PORTSfuture site redevelopment activities were directed to focus on supporting the development of an Integrated Energy System/Closed Loop Manufacturing (IES-CLM) complex at PORTS to align with insights garnered throughout previous site redevelopment grant work. An IES-CLM complex could attract and expand industries in the region, leverage coal and shale resources in additive manufacturing applications, create jobs, and grow the southern Ohio economy. For more detailed information on the IES-CLM concept, see Appendix 2 below.

This strategy includes employing a multi-disciplinary cluster approach for regional development utilizing the PORTS campus as one element of a regional economic adaptation strategy. This approach is based on the notion that clusters develop across a geographic area, and businesses provide synergy across/among each other, which will enhance cluster growth. This cluster approach was consistent with the previously cited public preferences for site reuse. Additionally, during this time, southern and eastern Ohio had been identified as potential areas for siting billion-dollar petrochemical industries that were related to the shale boom in Ohio and western Pennsylvania. The PORTS site has the infrastructure capacity to serve as a major petrochemical industry hub. Since that time, the plans for development of a petrochemical cracker facility in eastern Ohio that would have launched a regional petrochemical industry hub were tabled by the companies that had been planning to develop that facility. The PORTS reindustrialization efforts have since focused on energy production collocated with high-volume industrial users in other industry sectors.

Another burgeoning industry across the nation and especially in Ohio relates to data centers, which consume vast amounts of electricity. The PORTS electrical infrastructure and interconnection to the PJM national grid position the site to be an ideal location for a central hub for power generation, transmission, and distribution for decades to come. The DOE EM PORTS site is widely viewed as a major regional asset that can greatly enhance efforts to develop regional clusters in the areas of energy, advanced manufacturing, power generation, power transmission, power distribution, and hyper-scale data processing. The site could be reindustrialized in these areas to enhance the economic viability of the region for future generations of Ohioans.

Beginning in 2020, our site reindustrialization efforts expanded to include private sector developers capable of producing energy in the form of hydrogen for use in power generation and additive manufacturing. We retained our partnership with Hecate Energy, an international utility-scale energy developer, as well as with private companies who conducted a siting study to determine assets at the site that are aligned with attracting advanced nuclear small modular reactor projects in the future. Oklo Inc., an advanced nuclear small modular reactor (SMR) developer, emerged as the first SMR company to express interest in developing a project as part of the PORTS site reindustrialization. With these core energy producer partners, we are remaining steadfast to our articulated vision of engaging in a multi-faceted energy strategy with site redevelopment.

2021–present

Collaborative site repurposing efforts between PORTSfuture and SODI to launch an Integrated Energy System-Closed Loop Manufacturing complex have evolved to incorporate attracting high-volume electricity users in the space of hyper-scale data processing, and more recently, in the area of data centers. Core partners currently include PORTSfuture, SODI, Ohio labor steering committee, Trillium H2 Power (formerly referred to as Newpoint Gas LLC), Oklo Inc., and Hecate Energy, with other developers planning announcements in FFY26. We have established solid relationships with federal agencies and officials and with DOE Office of Environmental Management leaders to advance site redevelopment.

Reindustrialization efforts continue to be widely socialized throughout the SODI four-county footprint, throughout the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission region, and at the state and federal levels. Redevelopment continues to enjoy widespread support as we continue to engage with diverse types of stakeholders. One of the most impactful aspects of the work is the ongoing involvement of Ohio labor leaders who serve as our labor steering committee. The steering committee meets regularly with the redevelopment team and has been active in helping private sector developers to identify private financing for their planned projects. The labor group will be integral to ensuring that a trained and ready workforce is available for private industry as projects are constructed and become operational. Additionally, the labor group continues to engage in robust advocacy with elected leaders at the state and federal levels and with U.S. DOE headquarters. Our joint work with this labor committee has helped to establish strong support at the state and federal levels for the site reindustrialization vision.

Appendix 2 Integrated Energy System Closed Loop Manufacturing (IES-CLM) Complex Concept

In the early stages of site reindustrialization planning, PORTSfuture and SODI worked closely with Dr. Ben Cross, retired Professional Engineer from the U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Site, to analyze the site assets, including land, infrastructure, and location, to determine the highest value strategy for site redevelopment. Dr. Cross has spent decades in the energy field and holds vast knowledge of various energy and manufacturing systems, and he specializes in planning approaches to leverage these systems through collocation. Dr. Cross provided an overall recommendation for leveraging the site assets to their highest economic potential by pursuing the development of an Integrated Energy System-Closed Loop Manufacturing (IES-CLM) complex on land transferred from the PORTS site. The IES-CLM concept has served as a guiding strategy for SODI's and PORTSfuture's site redevelopment efforts.

The technical definition of an IES is two or more energy resources utilized as inputs to two or more physically coupled subsystems to produce one or more energy commodities as outputs. A simpler definition is multiple energy resources combined to produce one or more energy-related products. An IES embodies a synergistic integration of a multi-faceted energy strategy.

The key aspects of an IES-CLM are collocating, combining, interconnecting, and/or networking of energy producers and energy users and utilizing waste outputs from one industrial process as an input or feedstock into a different industrial process. In an IES-CLM, the "whole" is worth more than the "sum of the parts," value is the driver, and desired value propositions such as high efficiency, high reliability, acceptable production costs, and creation of more permanent, higher quality jobs are achieved. An IES-CLM results in industrial symbiosis as depicted in Figure 1A below.

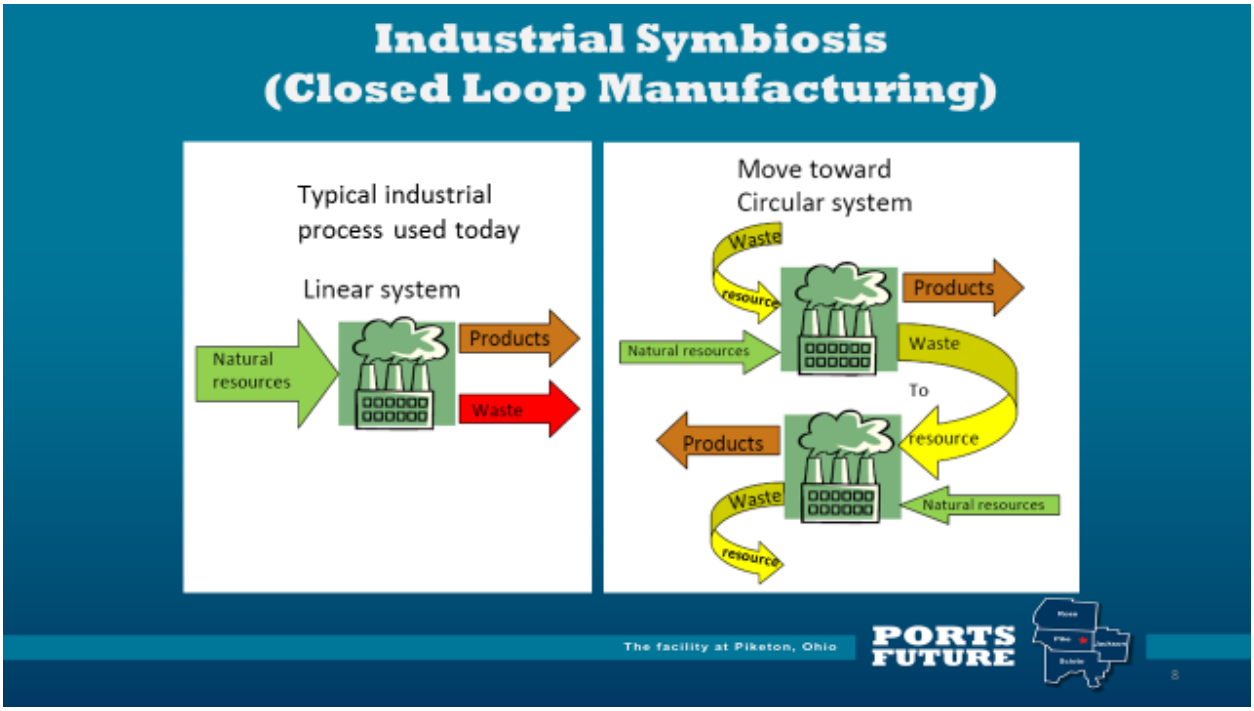


Figure 1A. Industrial symbiosis depiction

IES-CLM complexes integrate high-temperature heat with industrial technologies to produce electricity for use by manufacturers, data centers, and residential consumers; supply predictable, low-cost energy for industry and for the national grid; power industrial processes; and produce hydrogen for transportation fuels, ammonia production, silicon production, and the hydrogen fuel cell market to name a few. Creating

an IES-CLM at the PORTS facility will serve and expand existing markets, create new markets, establish new applications for value-added manufacturing with the region's coal and natural gas assets, utilize hydrogen across components of the IES-CLM, develop flexible processes to accommodate market shifts, and utilize residual heat to drive low-temperature processes such as water purification (e.g., distillation, osmosis) and enzymatic processes (e.g., fermentation, anaerobic digestion).

The SODI IES-CLM Project could be developed along these time frames:

- Near-term (1 to 4 years)-Deployment of current technologies that are scalable and investable now to build a process plant that produces power for industrial use and hydrogen to create ammonia, silicon, and/or other hydrogen-derived products needed by industries to meet their market goals. Collocation of high-volume electricity users such as data centers and other industries.
- Mid-term (4 to 15 years)-Transition and prepare for the potential addition of advanced nuclear small modular reactors and other energy sources, energy battery storage, and process plants to accommodate changing economic environments.
- Long-term (15+ years)-Integration and optimization of energy sources and industrial processes and continued recruitment of industries to accommodate changing economic environments.

A graphical depiction of the Integrated Energy System-Closed Loop Manufacturing concept is depicted in Figure 2A below.

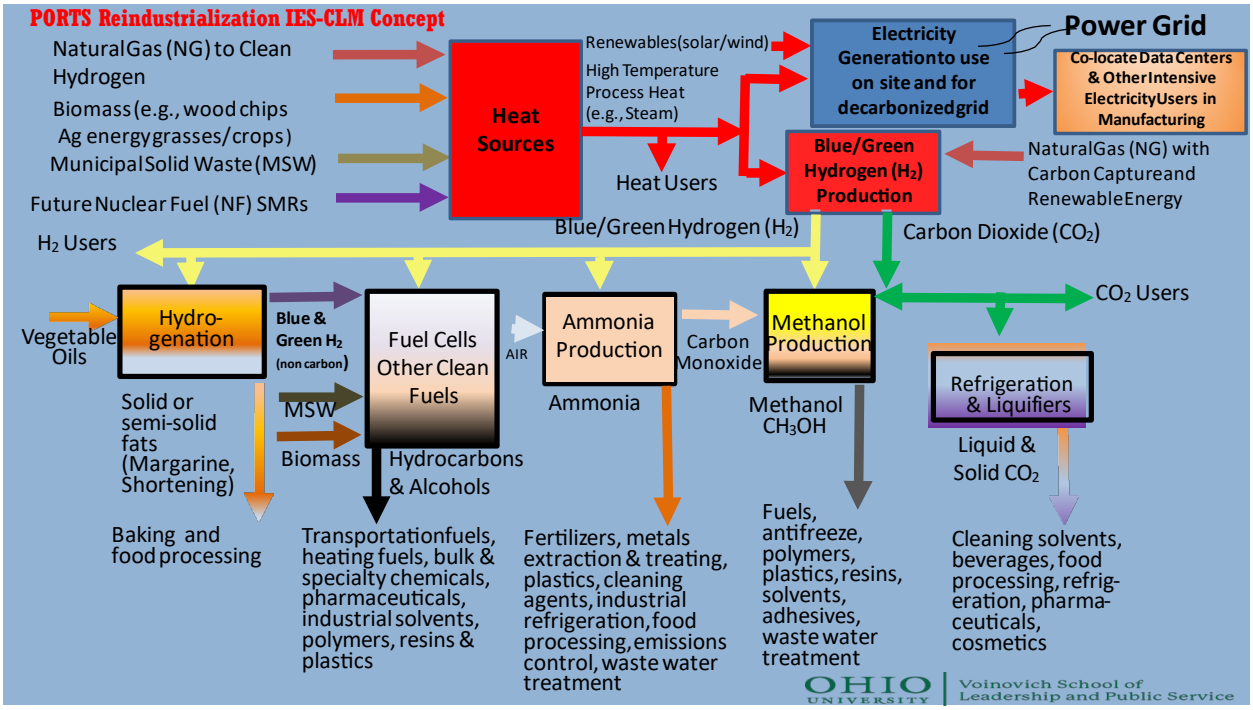


Figure 2A. Integrated Energy System-Closed Loop Manufacturing Concept overview graphic

Regional cluster development will occur with the growth of natural spin-offs from the core IES-CLM complex at the former PORTS facility, as various industries can realize more effective production costs when collocated within an IES-CLM. Industries that are high-hazard, high-security, high-investment, and/or require extremely high-temperature process heat can be located within the secure area of the IES-CLM complex. Other industries can tie into the IES-CLM complex to access heat, electricity, hydrogen, and other production outputs via transportation networks (e.g., roads, rail, and pipelines). A depiction of the potential for regional cluster development with an IES-CLM complex follows in Figure 3A below.

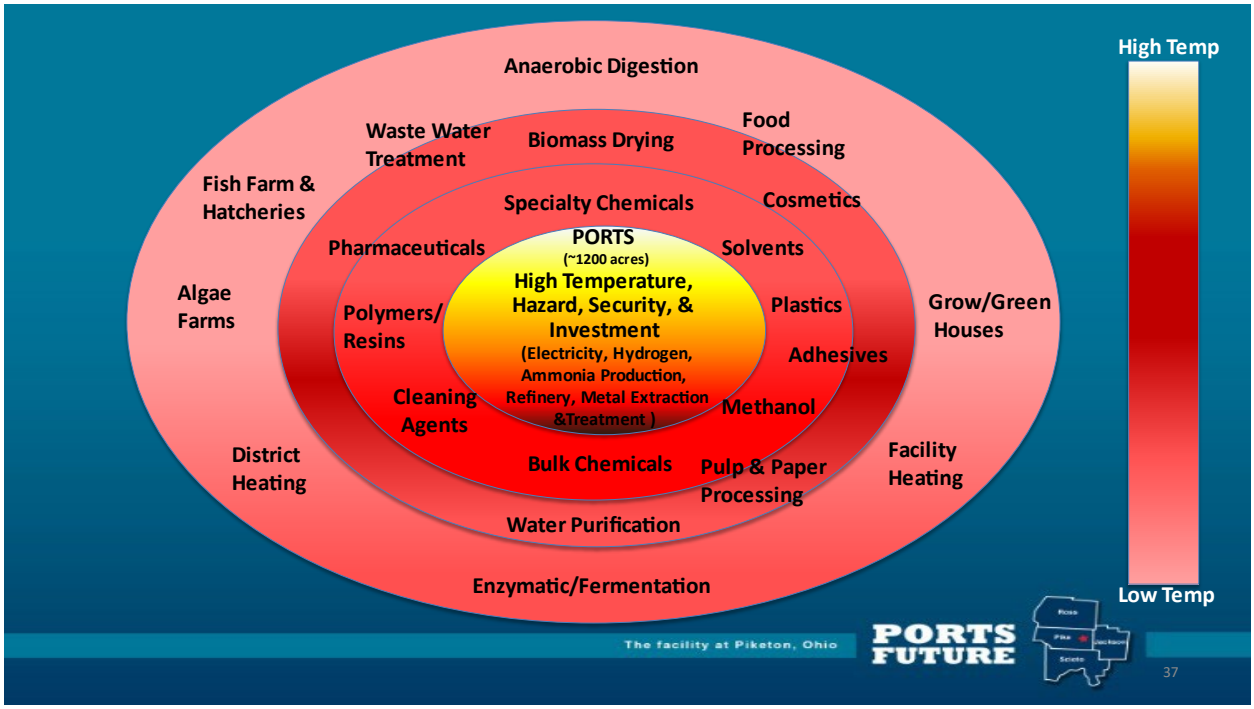


Figure 3A. Potential for regional cluster development with an IES-CLM complex

Reindustrialization of the PORTS site into an IES-CLM complex would serve as an excellent example of converting a national liability to a national asset, resulting in much-needed regional economic development. This effort is an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate what can and should be done with former DOE Defense Nuclear Sites or other brownfield sites. The IES-CLM complex will provide enduring and non-exportable jobs focused on optimizing the efficiency of energy production and utilization. Utilizing coal assets as a chemical feedstock to make new and innovative products is an excellent opportunity for economic development. Using coal and shale assets in additive manufacturing and differentiating the regional economy will revitalize the region.

Citizens will have access to an increased number of high-quality and higher-paying jobs. Economic impact analyses and workforce analyses of prospective future jobs have been and continue to be conducted by Ohio University's PORTSfuture Program. The region's entire economy will benefit from the site reindustrialization in the form of direct economic impacts (i.e., worker wages), indirect economic impacts (i.e., commerce and business revenue), and induced economic impacts (i.e., purchasing of goods and services in local communities that will generate business and job expansion and enhance state and local tax revenue). It is impossible to overstate the impact that site reindustrialization will have on the region's economy, as there have been no large-scale industry start-ups or expansions to replace the former DOE plant operations in this part of southern Ohio.

PORTSfuture Program grant activities supported SODI's collaboration with a nuclear industry collaborative that conducted a siting study funded by the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy. This study is applicable to any site that may be considered by an advanced nuclear small modular reactor vendor. SODI is seeking to identify and pilot versatile, next-generation advanced nuclear small modular reactor technologies at the PORTS site. These nuclear reactors could serve as the long-term source of high-temperature heat to power aspects of an IES-CLM complex at PORTS and could serve as a vital source of power for high-volume users of electricity as well as supplying energy to the national electric grid. Deployment of innovative advanced nuclear technologies would be attractive

to energy-intensive industrial end-users who are seeking high-volume, reliable energy sources for their production processes. Key concerns that must be addressed include mitigating the significant upfront cost to construct advanced nuclear reactors and resolving regulatory issues associated with the design and federal licensing of these technologies. SODI continues to work closely with Oklo Inc., a private advanced nuclear small modular reactor (SMR) company, along with the U.S. Department of Energy and other stakeholders, with the goal of effectively launching an SMR project as part of site redevelopment. A depiction of the overall IES technical concept is depicted in Figure 4A below.

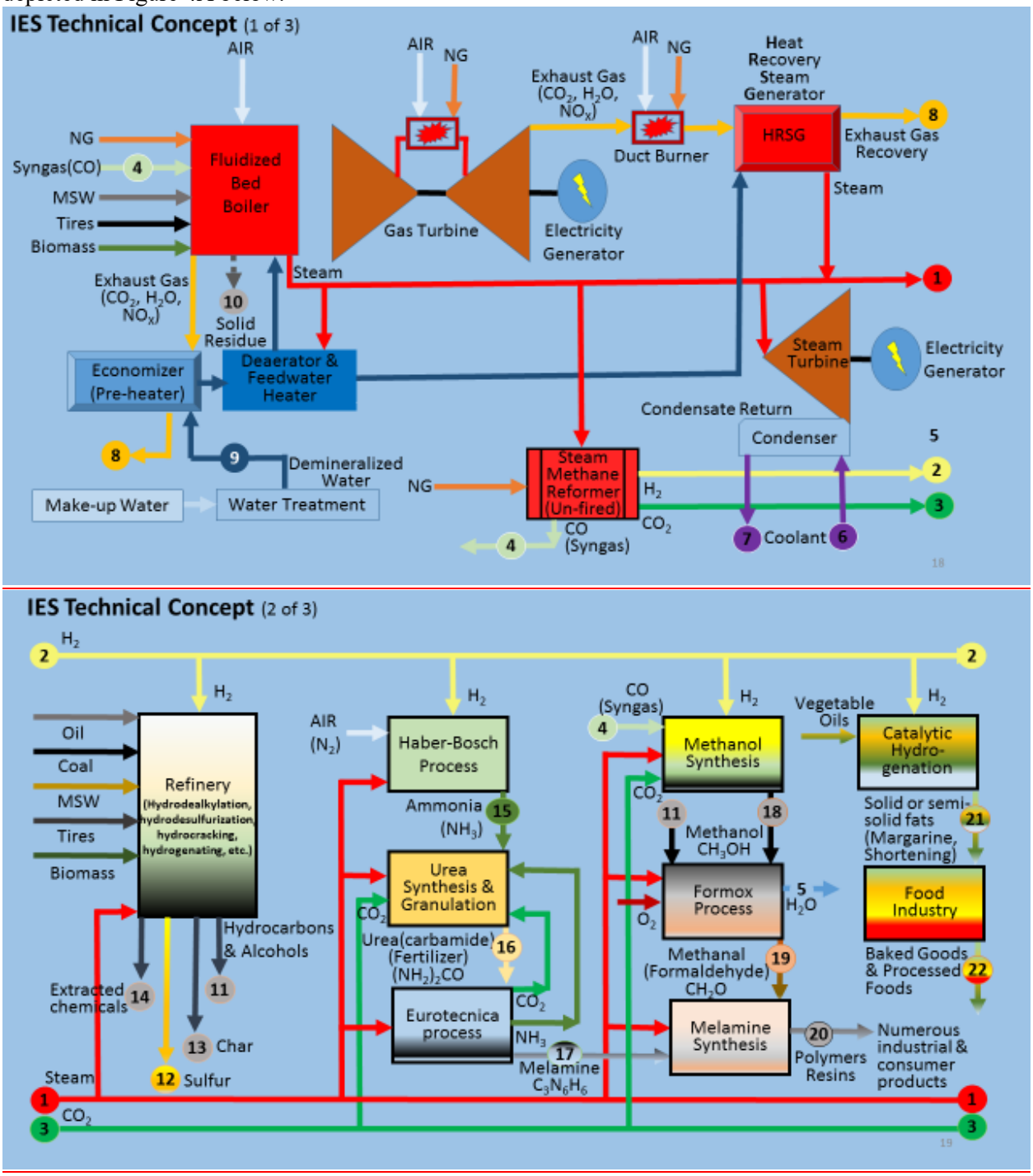


Figure 4A. IES technical concept