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PRESS/NNWJ  
A Call to Actions  
GAO Report 1896

The Board has to look at the fluoride exposure for Gaseous Diffusion Workers. Portsmouth Workers had the highest exposures. Looking forward to your Meeting in Portsmouth, Ohio. This is one of the sites that started the EEOICPA because we blew the whistle about Plutonium in the Gaseous Diffusion Plants. Thank you!

of compliance with Ohio regulations because (1) it does not have documentation to support that it has applied for all air emission permits and (2) in cases where Portsmouth has applied for permits, it does not have documentation from the state granting interim operating authority until the permits are issued. DOE pointed out that most of these sources are not of major significance as air emission points, for example, ventilation fans and diesel generator exhaust stacks, and the permits that have not been received primarily apply to the operation of a facility that has been cancelled.

In addition, Portsmouth releases significant quantities of a toxic substance—fluoride—to the air. Although neither DOE, USEPA, nor Ohio has standards for such releases, Kentucky and Tennessee—where other DOE uranium enrichment plants are located—do have standards. For example, Portsmouth's highest monthly fluoride releases would have been 12 times higher than Tennessee's standards. Portsmouth is studying ways to reduce the fluoride in its air emissions in the event the federal or state government adopt regulations limiting the quantities released.

Further, Portsmouth has not fully complied with state water release permits. For example, Portsmouth's reports showed that in 1984 261 of 4,925 water samples (5.3 percent) exceeded state discharge limits.

Portsmouth generates and stores a variety of radioactive and hazardous wastes. It has been burying low-level radioactive waste and hazardous substances on-site and disposing of liquids in a waste treatment pond since 1955. On March 13, 1984, Ohio EPA found Portsmouth out of compliance with hazardous waste laws. The primary deficiency found was that Portsmouth had inadequate groundwater monitoring around its waste disposal sites. Portsmouth is taking actions to correct the problems found, such as drilling additional monitoring wells. Nevertheless, Ohio EPA officials told us that Portsmouth has been out of compliance with hazardous waste laws since March 1984.

In addition, Portsmouth has found radioactive and hazardous substance contamination in wells near the low-level waste burial site and the holding pond. In 1981 Portsmouth found uranium contamination and in 1984 hazardous substances in wells near the burial site. Portsmouth reports that the uranium concentrations were within DOE's guidelines, but the concentrations of hazardous substances were significantly higher than USEPA's guideline of 15 parts per billion—concentrations ranged from 160 to 2,130 parts per billion. In addition, in 1984 Portsmouth found significant quantities of hazardous substances in a well located near the

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