

Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance Questions & Answers



1. What is the Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance?

The Alliance – which includes Duke Energy, AREVA, USEC Inc., UniStar Nuclear Energy and the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) – will pursue the proposed development of a Clean Energy Park demonstration project at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) site in Piketon, Ohio.

The Alliance is proposing to perform an evaluation of the Portsmouth site as a potential location for a new nuclear power plant. This evaluation will include performance of a plant siting study and preparation of licensing documents for submittal to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

2. What is a Clean Energy Park?

The Clean Energy Park concept builds upon the DOE's energy park initiative, which is focused on transitioning resources (land, infrastructure, workforce, etc.) in and around former weapons sites for future clean energy production. The central theme of this initiative is to support reindustrialization and asset reutilization as the cleanup work of these sites nears completion.

Through this approach, the local communities, states and regions that have supported our nation's defense mission for so long will benefit from the resulting long-term, sustainable economic development opportunities of such a project.

3. What is the role of the Department of Energy in this proposal?

The DOE owns the Piketon site and is being asked to assist in funding the initial phase of the proposal, which would include development of a generic Early Site Permit application and review of the site decommissioning plans.

4. Why is the Alliance seeking federal funding to pursue this project?

Due to the associated financial risk of building a multi-billion dollar commercial project on a former DOE weapons site, this shared funding approach is proposed. DOE funding would cover the initial phases of the project, such as pursuit of the Early Site Permit. As the project progresses, funding will shift to the commercial enterprise.

5. What are the benefits of this initiative?

The development of this park represents a unique opportunity for all parties – the U.S. government, Alliance members and the community – to transition a portion of a former DOE weapons complex into a commercial asset.

Each member of the Alliance brings unique skills and experience to the project – including project management, licensing and nuclear operations.

The Alliance will work in a methodical fashion on this project to ensure its successful completion can be a model for future commercial investment and cooperation with the federal government at other DOE sites.

Additionally, the project has the potential to provide a clean power supply to meet the future needs of the Midwest.

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6. How will the local community benefit?

During the initial licensing efforts, several hundred well-paying jobs may be created. Based on industry estimates, an average of 1,400 to 1,800 jobs could be created during nuclear plant construction with a peak of approximately 3,000 workers. The facility could employ 400-700 permanent workers once operational.

Jobs at a nuclear energy facility can create a similar number of additional jobs to provide goods and services necessary to support the nuclear plant workforce. Each year, the average nuclear plant generates approximately \$430 million in sales of goods and services in the local community and nearly \$40 million in total labor income. These figures include both direct and secondary effects and are based on energy averages. The direct effects reflect the plant's expenditures for goods, services and labor. The secondary effects include subsequent spending attributable to the presence of the plant and its employees, as plant expenditures filter through the local economy.

The average nuclear plant generates total state and local tax revenue of almost \$20 million each year. These tax dollars benefit schools, roads, and other state and local infrastructure. The average nuclear plant generates federal tax payments of roughly \$75 million each year.

7. What is the role of each member of the Alliance?

Duke Energy will be the applicant (licensee) for an Early Site Permit, and should the project develop favorably, a Combined Construction and Operating License for a proposed nuclear power plant. Duke will be responsible for overall project oversight and management of the project.

USEC Inc. will be responsible for providing all expertise/analysis with respect to the Portsmouth site operations; environmental and site data; and site cleanup information, schedules and coordination; and site infrastructure and utilities.

AREVA will be responsible for coordination of all technical analysis with respect to licensing document preparation.

SODI will be responsible for assisting in coordination of local and regional community outreach and communication efforts.

UniStar Nuclear Energy, LLC may provide support services for the project, including licensing support.

8. What are the next steps for the project?

The Alliance will continue to focus on preliminary development activities while the Department of Energy evaluates the Alliance Clean Energy Park proposal.