

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 19, 2014

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

We write today regarding the Paducah Department of Energy (DOE) facility and the ongoing and future cleanup activities at the site. We appreciate your continued responsiveness to the congressional delegation as we work to mitigate the impact of the closure of the gaseous diffusion plant to the community.

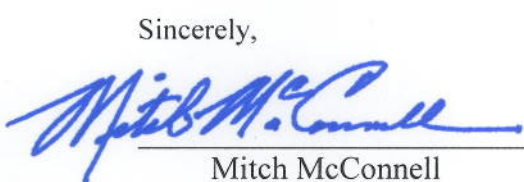
As you know, Congress appropriated roughly \$265 million in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (omnibus) for ongoing and future cleanup activities at the Paducah DOE facility. The omnibus provides \$120 million specifically for ongoing cleanup currently being performed there. We urge you to move as quickly as possible to release funds appropriated for this purpose in an effort to re-hire Kentuckians who have recently been laid-off and to hire employees to begin new cleanup work.

In addition to the ongoing cleanup efforts, we urge you to move as quickly as possible to execute the indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract so that necessary work can begin on reclaiming the gaseous diffusion plant. In the interim, we ask the department to utilize all means available to begin necessary work that may be performed prior to the IDIQ contract's execution. It is vitally important to the Paducah community that DOE continue ongoing cleanup and begin new work in a timely manner to ensure that experienced, highly-skilled workers do not leave the region. Should these workers leave the area, we feel the quality of the vital cleanup work at the site could suffer and potentially cost taxpayers more in the long-run. In order to facilitate a smooth transition of the facility, one specific action the department could take in the near-term is to hire a permanent, dedicated DOE manager for the Paducah site. It is our understanding that this position has gone unfilled for some time.


Last, but certainly not least, we urge you to personally make full decommissioning and decontamination (D&D) of the gaseous diffusion plant a priority in the upcoming Fiscal Year. We hope it is not DOE's intention to delay the execution of the IDIQ contract to fiscal year 2015 in an attempt to minimize and reduce cleanup activities in subsequent years. We will not stand idly by should the department decide to place the gaseous diffusion plant in a "surveillance and maintenance" state. Not only would this result in lost jobs and increase the cost for long-term D&D, but it could also threaten the safety and well-being of the community.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator



Rand Paul, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Ed Whitfield
U.S. Member of Congress