

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2008

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I have read recent press reports suggesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) is planning on announcing an acquisition strategy for the Portsmouth Decommissioning and Decontamination (D&D) project. If true, I am very disappointed that I had to learn of this through the press reports rather than from your Department.

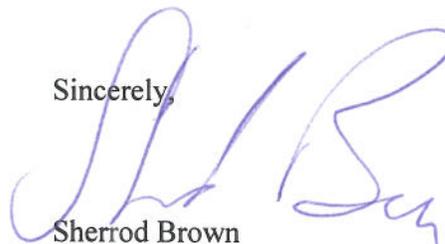
It is my understanding that you have not given the citizens of Portsmouth an opportunity to weigh in on the clean-up strategy. Frankly, I am confused as to how the Department could even develop such a cleanup strategy without engaging the community; the very people we both serve.

Any decision making by DOE is necessarily tainted by the fact that you have failed to create a Community Advisory Board (CAB). Every major cleanup, including Portsmouth's sister plant in Paducah, Kentucky, has a CAB. No cleanup strategy should be contemplated until such a CAB has been created and is allowed meaningful input into the process. I am concerned that the Department is returning to the old "announce and defend" policies of the past. These policies have long been rejected by the public and by Congress.

Please contact my office immediately as to the validity of the press reports regarding a possible procurement strategy, as well as the Department's efforts in creating a CAB for the Portsmouth D&D project.

I appreciate your personal attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator