



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PORTSMOUTH PADUCAH PROJECT OFFICE

Good Morning All,

I want to thank you for your hard work during these challenging times, and share my appreciation for your commitment to protecting our workforce, community and the environment as we have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic is changing the way we live, work and socialize, and will do so into the foreseeable future as we adapt to a new normal. This new “normal” will be prevalent as we resume cleanup operations at PPPO sites using a safe and deliberated phased approach.

On June 8, 2020, the Portsmouth, Paducah and Lexington sites will transition to Phase I of on-site operations. In this phase we will begin adding high-priority and/or low-risk work scope. Work scope in this phase will consider potential implications from an environmental, safety and health (ES&H) and COVID-19 perspective; and should generally require low amounts of PPE. Limited high priority work that requires administrative controls to mitigate risk when social distancing cannot be maintained may be authorized in this phase if it is essential to EM’s primary mission.

During the week of June 8, DOE and site contractors will make notifications to individual personnel necessary to perform onsite work in Phase I, as well as providing guidance for new policies established to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A gradual ramp up of those identified employees will begin on June 15th and will continue throughout Phase I, based on DOE and contractor specific restart plans. The pace of employees returning and the start of specific operations will be based on a several factors, including available health data, remaining state and local restrictions and facility preparedness.

As operations resume, PPPO sites will continue monitoring and assessing local conditions and local restrictions to adjust the pace and scope of resumption activities, as necessary. We will keep you updated on our progress and in advance of moving to Phase II and Phase III. As we return to this new “normal,” we each have a responsibility to do our part to protect ourselves and our coworkers, such as frequently washing hands, refraining from touching our face, avoiding shaking hands, staying at home if ill and utilizing face protection as necessary.

The past three months have been challenging, but they also represent a time of great unity across our sites. I am impressed at how well you’ve adjusted and continued to carry out our important work. Thank you for everything you have done, and will continue to do, to support cleanup efforts at the Portsmouth, Paducah, and Lexington sites.

Robert Edwards