

Grants

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Tuesday, July 17, 2003

Energy Department Awards \$300,000 Grant to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC — The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will award \$300,000 to the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI), the community reuse organization (CRO) for the department's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. This grant will be used to help fund SODI's general administrative costs which will enable the CRO to manage ongoing community transition projects.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "We will continue to work with the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative and congressional leaders, like Rob Portman, to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

The Energy Department and SODI have created or retained 887 new economy jobs, and estimate that 3,079 jobs will be created or retained by 2005.

SODI has established a strong economic development presence in the four county region of Pike, Scioto, Ross and Jackson. It has supported five new industrial parks for the region, a revolving loan fund, and infrastructure and transportation upgrades. SODI also has direct management responsibility for the leased property and asset reuse at the department's Portsmouth site; the Zahns Corner Industrial Park development; the regional marketing strategy; the regional workforce training and development program; intermodal facility development; and business incubator/learning center operations.

A CRO is an organization recognized by the Energy Department that can apply for funding for programs that can modify the impacts of workforce restructuring at its facilities and reduce community dependence on the department's activities.
