

PRESS RELEASE

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RUSSIAN SCIENTIST TO CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WITH LOCAL CITIZENS GROUPS IN PADUCAH, KY AND PORTSMOUTH, OH.

Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security (PRESS) in conjunction with the Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia (ISAR), will host a Russian Scientist, Sergei Paschenko from November 13th through November 20th. During this time, Dr. Paschenko, the president of the Siberian Scientists for Global Responsibility, will conduct environmental monitoring with PRESS, ISAR, and any concerned citizens. Monitoring will focus on the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Dr. Paschenko has conducted environmental monitoring at nuclear sites in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Hanford, Washington, and across Russia.

ISAR, PRESS, and Dr. Paschenko welcome the community to an information session on Thursday **November 13th at 6:00 p.m. at Shawnee State University 940 Second St., Portsmouth, Ohio in the Clark Memorial Library in Room #205** in Portsmouth. During this session citizens will be able to learn more about SSGR's efforts to involve local communities in environmental monitoring. Dr. Paschenko will also explain the type of monitoring work that he will undertake in Portsmouth and the expected outcomes of this monitoring. Everyone is welcome to attend the event and citizens are also encouraged to join in some of the week's monitoring activities. A schedule will be presented at the November 13th session.

On **November 19th at 6:00 p.m. Shawnee State University 940 Second St., Portsmouth , Ohio in the Advance Technology Center, Room #134** ISAR, PRESS, and SSGR will host a press conference and debriefing session with the community to announce any preliminary results and outcomes of the monitoring. Everyone is welcome to attend.

"In Russia we've seen the importance of independent scientists in holding the government accountable" Paschenko said. "our friends in the US have told us that independent citizen monitoring is just as important here in the States."

Before going to Portsmouth, ISAR and Dr. Paschenko will have traveled to Paducah, KY to conduct similar work. They will be hosted by the Coalition for Health Concern.

This program is being organized by ISAR, a nonprofit organization with 20 years of experience in uniting grassroots groups from the US and the former Soviet Union. This initiative is part of ISAR's new Environmental Advocacy Project, which works to strengthen the work of citizen groups through resource and information enhancement. PRESS director and environmental activist Vina Colley has been involved with ISAR's Women in Nuclear Safety program since 1999.

This project is funded by RESOLVE, a Washington, DC-based organization focused on helping citizens resolve conflicts through consensus building. The Citizen Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund is a special program of RESOLVE that represents an opportunity for citizen groups, tribes, and others to conduct their own research and monitoring of DOE environmental management activities at sites throughout the country. The Fund also represents an opportunity to develop new approaches for community-based research that may be applicable to other environmental issues and problems.

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