Federal AI project expected to bring economic growth

Local leaders believe DOE site initiative will lead to job creation and investment

Craig Clymer

BY BEN OVERBY

Paducah

McCracken County officials are anticipating future economic growth after the U.S. Department of Energy Paducah Site was chosen for a federal artificial intelligence data center project.

The site, home t o the decommissioned Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, was one of four locations selected by the DOE to advance the

plan. The sites were chosen based on their capability for new power generation and available infrastructure to support large-scale data centers, according to a news release from the DOE.

McCracken County Judge Executive Craig Clymer said he has been working alongside organizations like the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Paducah Economic Development (GPED) and the Paducah-Mc-Cracken County Industrial Development Authority (IDA), to reindustrialize the Paducah

DOE Site since he took office seven years ago.

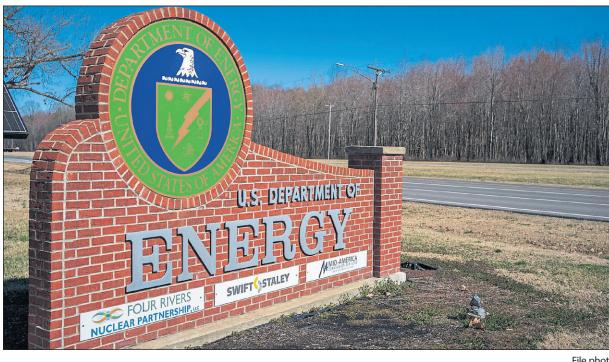
"We have announced, city and county, that we



Clymer said the next step in the project will involve the DOE sending out requests for proposals to AI and power generation companies in the private sector. He anticipates the pro-

cess will be com-White House's AI action pleted within a year and wants the community to have input on the deci-

> The judge executive said he believes the project will create a significant number of high paying technical jobs, as well as construction jobs to aid in building the necessary infrastructure. Local leaders said they will not know how many jobs the project will create until the project is further along in its development. Paducah Mayor George Bray said the nature of AI further complicates the num-nuclear power plants and



A Feb. 23, 2024, photo shows the sign for the Department of Energy site in Paducah. The site is one of four chosen for AI data centers and energy generation projects.

point, because AI infrastructure projects are a lot like Bitcoin projects. They're basically a lot of computers in a big building, and people have to take care of the computers," Bray said. "It's not like your traditional manufacturing site where there's hundreds or thousands of jobs to make cars or steel or something like that. So, we're still trying to understand that.'

Bray said while several projects have been pursued in recent years to revive the Paducah site — including Global Laser Enrichment's plans to create a first-ofits-kind facility to re-enrich the depleted uranium at the site to fuel reactors — the AI infraHe believes the rapid itive for the city's brand of the federal governbehind other nations in AI development.

quickly," Bray said. "In be embraced, especially my impression, the U.S. government has made the decision that we are not going to be left ernment has come in and they have reduced the decision-making time frame for getbecause of the importance of AI.'

how many jobs at this largely evolved in 2025. Paducah Site and a posprogression is the result nationwide. He said he's aware that some people ment wanting to make may be skeptical or have sure the U.S. is not left concerns about the data center, but he believes AI is an unavoidable part "It's happened very of the future that should because of the opportunities it creates.

"The bottom line is artificial intelligence, I behind in AI. We're in an can tell you from personinternational race with al knowledge, is coming other countries, most like a freight train, and it likely China. So, the gov- is not getting out of the way for anybody," Bray said. "The United States government has chosen Paducah as a site, and ting these things done we as leadership in that community are embracing that selection. I Bray said being cho- acknowledge that people sen for this facility is a are going to have convalidation of all the work cerns, and I understand that has been put into those concerns, but emerging and important

here."

Clymer said the process of the Paducah site being chosen has included the cooperation of many legislators from Kentucky, including U.S. Sens. Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell and Rep. James Comer. McConnell released a statement in support of the decision on Thurs-

"This is great news for the Paducah community, and I want to thank President Trump for selecting the Paducah Site to host new AI infrastructure," McConnell said. "The site at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant has long held a critical role in advancing U.S. national security, and is poised, yet again, to be a national leader in an

JOINS

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Sterling was named to five Pro Bowls and earned first-team All-Pro honors the three years he led the league in receptions. He averaged 85 catches in his career - an unheard of number for that era and 10 more than Jerry Rice averaged in his first seven seasons.

In his last season he led the league with 18 touchdown receptions, including a trio of scores in his final game despite dealing with numbness in his arms and tingling in his neck caused by an abnormal loosening of the first and second vertebrae in his cervical spine.

He had felt increasingly bothersome symptoms over the last half of "We're unclear as to structure project has revitalizing the DOE artificial intelligence is technology." **OFFER GOOD** July 29 - August 2 **CLOSED SUNDAY** PROCESSING INC. 8705 Ogden Landing Rd. West Paducah, KY 42086 270-488-3556 WE ACCEPT EBT & ILLINOIS LINKS • Yes! We have GIFT CARDS! Visit Us at: www.hughesmarket.com or on facebook PRICES AND QUANTITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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