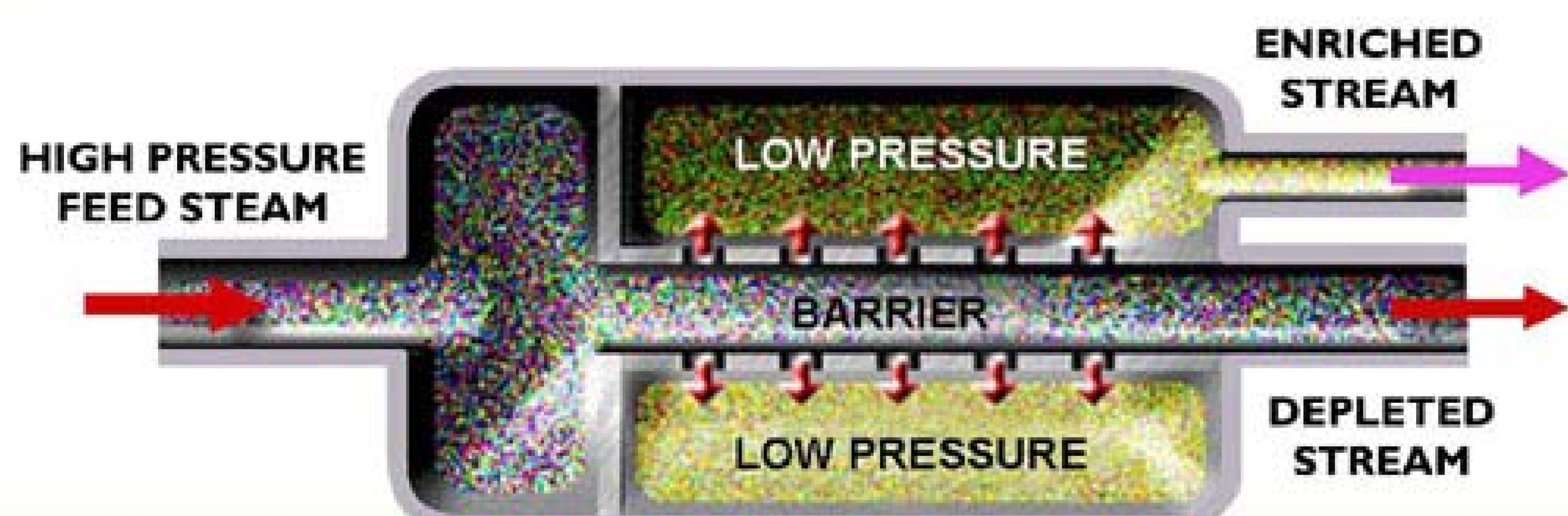


# History of Portsmouth Plant

The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant was built in the early 1950s to enrich uranium as part of the nation's nuclear weapons complex for defense of the country. Now, it is part of the world's largest cleanup program.



The plant was one of three facilities (others in Oak Ridge, TN and Paducah, KY) to enrich uranium by the gaseous diffusion technology. The process separates lighter Uranium-235 isotopes (enriched stream) from the heavier Uranium-238 (depleted stream). Production of highly enriched uranium for the weapons program was stopped in 1964. Highly enriched uranium



production for nuclear submarine reactors was suspended in 1991 and production of all low enriched uranium at the Portsmouth Site was terminated in 2001.

Nearly **50 YEARS** of production as a major industrial site and use of hazardous chemicals and radiological constituents resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. A major environmental cleanup program was started in 1989. The U.S. Department of Energy continues to work today with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the public to make extensive progress on the cleanup actions at the site.

