



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831—

July 2, 1997

Mr. Randy Gordon, Chair
Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental
Management Site Specific Advisory Board
3602 River Road
Ten Mile, Tennessee 37880

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Your August 20, 1996, letter transmitting the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) recommendation to consider extending the comment and review period for environmental assessments (EAs) beyond the Federal requirement of thirty (30) days has been received.

I regret that the review period precluded you from reviewing the EA for Proposed Expansion of the Land Application of Sanitary Sludge on the Oak Ridge Reservation. It is the Department of Energy's intention to provide the ORREMSSAB and the general public sufficient time to review National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

I realize that a thirty (30) day review period is often shortened by the operational structure of the ORREMSSAB which includes a committee review followed by a full board approval. In most instances, an extended review of slightly longer than thirty (30) days should not present a problem. However, I cannot promise that every EA prepared by the Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program will be granted an extension. Though, I do believe that sufficient time will be allotted in the future for the following reasons: (1) Due to the ORREMSSAB's growing familiarity with the Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program and our endeavors to provide you with advanced notification of upcoming events, I believe that hurried reviews will not be necessary, and (2) Last summer, interactions with the Environmental Management staff were in the very early stages. The staff, now well aware of your existence, have been involving your ORREMSSAB members earlier in a project's planning phase. They have also added your board to distribution lists which includes reviews of draft documents.

Thank you for your time and efforts spent, and continued hard work on environmental management issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney R. Nelson".

Rodney R. Nelson
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management

cc:
Sheree Black, Jacobs