



OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

Environmental Management

May 14, 1997

Mr. Rod Nelson
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management
DOE/ORO
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Nelson:

As you are aware, following the public meeting held on February 13, 1997 to discuss alternatives for disposal of Oak Ridge Reservation cleanup waste, the Department of Energy (DOE) decided to coordinate the evaluation of alternatives with the End Use Working Group (EUWG). Public comments from that meeting indicated that DOE should provide information on waste volumes and costs, consider community values, and address concerns raised by the public about National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coverage prior to moving forward with evaluating the on-site disposal alternative locations.

Since the February meeting, the EUWG has gotten underway and is now addressing site-specific issues associated with contaminated areas at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory site. Based on progress made to date, the EUWG will soon be ready to review waste volume forecast and cost analysis information which is critical for evaluation of waste disposal options. Community values are also being developed by the EUWG which should be helpful in evaluating waste disposal options.

However, the issue of NEPA coverage for on-site waste disposal is not anticipated to be addressed by the EUWG. Many in the community feel that the potential environmental impacts associated with the decision to site such a facility on the Oak Ridge Reservation should be evaluated within the framework of NEPA, not in a hybridized Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study document developed under CERCLA procedures. Associated with the NEPA issue is the question of the disposition of operations waste, which needs to be addressed as well.

Recommendation 97.8

Approved May 7, 1997

Mr. Rod Nelson
Page 2

The Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board is requesting that DOE hold a public workshop as soon as possible to address NEPA and its associated issues. Later, public workshops may also be necessary to provide to the general public information on waste volumes and costs and to discuss the community values developed by the EUWG.

We hope that this input is valuable in helping DOE develop a path forward on waste disposal for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Sincerely,

Bill Pardo, Vice Chair
for / Randy Gordon, Chair
ORREMSSAB

RG/sb

cc: Margaret Wilson, DOE
Bill Cahill, DOE
John Hankinson, USEPA Region IV
Earl Leming, TDEC
ORREMSSAB Members