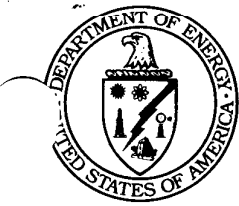


SSAB
File



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831—
May 2, 1997

Mr. Randy Gordon, Chair
Oak Ridge Reservation
Environmental Management
Site Specific Advisory Board
3 Main Street
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Gordon:

ENHANCED COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT (CERCLA) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Thank you for the Board's March 6, 1997, letter of recommendations regarding enhanced public participation in the CERCLA process for Environmental Restoration projects on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

The following are our responses to your requests:

1. Regarding public notices, we will expand the list of newspapers we currently use to advertise documents related to restoration activities under CERCLA to include those currently used for Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) notices. This list, supplied by our SSAB coordinator, includes The Clinton Courier, The Dayton Herald News, The Knoxville News-Sentinel, The Oak Ridger, The Press Enterprise (Farragut) and Roane Newspapers (Roane County News, Roane County News Record, Harriman-Record, Morgan County News Times and Rockwood Times). Additionally, we will add the Lenoir City News Herald to cover Loudon County. All such notices will run as display advertisements instead of classified ads within these newspapers. In addition, DOE also publishes a monthly calendar which provides a listing of Proposed Plans and Engineering Evaluations/Cost Analyses (EE/CA) for public comment which is distributed to a large number of stakeholders.
2. Regarding "early public involvement", we share your view that public involvement prior to the Proposed Plan can promote public input and encourage public acceptance of the EM restoration plans. The current strategy of involving the public has been agreed to by the three (3) parties to the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) and documented in Appendix I to the FFA. Your reference to

the "FFA/CERCLA Flow Process" document as an unofficial document is correct and in conversations with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) it is simply a reformatting of the Appendix I "Document Scheduling" Operating Instruction for internal use by TDEC staff. Any changes to the current Appendix I would have to be agreed to by both TDEC and EPA. We will discuss your request at the next FFA project managers meeting later this month and provide you a status.

3. Regarding ORREMSSAB's "standing request" that DOE offer public meetings or workshops on each Proposed Plan, we are still evaluating our current strategy for offering meetings and/or workshops. We believe that concerns raised by the public in the past regarding DOE having too many meetings still exists. Our current strategy has been to public notice the opportunity for public comment on each Proposed Plan and to solicit interest from the public on whether or not they want a public meeting to discuss our Proposed Plans further. Our reasons for this strategy have been to determine what is of importance to the public by their own admission through the comment period and expression of interests in having a meeting and to be responsive to the public regarding their concern about DOE having too many meetings and being a burden on both the staff and the public's time. Cost is also a factor since the preparation time, meeting location, and presentation of the information can be additional costs to the projects. We will continue to assess feedback from members of the public regarding their desires to hold public meeting or workshops on Proposed Plans.

Thank you for your recommendations as we continuously strive to improve our public involvement activities. If questions arise concerning upcoming Environmental Restoration projects. Margaret Wilson may be contacted at (423) 576-8528. For public involvement activities, Walter Perry of the Public Affairs Office may be reached at (423) 576-0885.

Sincerely,



Rodney R. Nelson
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management