



Department of Energy

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

C98.14
mailed 10/31/97

October 27, 1997

Mr. William M. Pardue
222 Connors Circle
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Mr. Pardue:

OAK RIDGE RESERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 97.5

Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendation Number 97.5 recommended that the Department of Energy (DOE) review the need for an alarm or siren to be installed, audible to a two mile radius, which will indicate atmospheric releases from all thermal relief valves at the Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator.

The East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), formerly known as the K-25 Site, has a general emergency warning system that is activated in the event of an off-site release due to a spill or other accident that occurs at the ETTP site. The warning system extends out to a two mile radius from the ETTP. The Emergency Operations Center, which consists of technical, medical, environmental, operations, and management personnel, evaluates emergencies on a case-by-case basis and decides when to activate the general emergency warning system. Air release modeling and air monitoring data indicate that releases from openings of the Thermal Relief Vent (TRV) are not significant enough to activate the general warning system.

Also DOE and Lockheed Martin Energy Systems are evaluating the best location for an additional ambient air monitor to capture potential releases from the incinerator TRV. The proposed plan must be approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in Nashville. No TRV events have occurred over the last year since modifying the closure mechanism to better hold the TRV in position. Emissions from the TRV are very low because waste feeds are automatically shut off prior to the TRV opening.

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

Sincerely,

Rodney R. Nelson
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management

CC: ORREMSAB Members