



## Department of Energy

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

May 28, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Gordon:

### **OAK RIDGE RESERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING K-25 WORKER HEALTH ISSUES**

Outlined below are responses to the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board's (ORREMSSAB) recommendations dated April 11, 1997, concerning the K-25 Worker Health Issues.

1. **The ORREMSSAB recommends establishing a multi-disciplinary team (e.g., National Institute of Environment Health Studies [NIEHS]) to determine causes for and recommend solutions to employee and resident health concerns connected to the K-25 Environmental Management Site.**

Since mid-1996, the Department of Energy (DOE) and Lockheed-Martin Energy Systems (LMES) has funded a team of occupational health physicians from the University of Cincinnati and John Snow Institute, Boston, to evaluate the health concerns associated with approximately 50 employees at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP - formerly the K-25 Site). The physicians are expected to complete their medical evaluations and provide their findings by the end of May 1997. These highly competent occupational physicians were selected at the recommendation of Dr. Tara O'Toole, DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, and representatives of the concerned individuals. As a result of these ongoing actions, DOE believes that it is premature to initiate another study at this time. Within the last few weeks, the State of Tennessee has committed to establish a "Blue Ribbon" panel of experts to evaluate the operations of the ETTP.

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2. **The ORREMSSAB recommends procedures responding to employee health concerns be improved especially in regard to timeliness and two way communications. The intent is to resolve employee concerns within the applicable time limits.**

Although this request is outside the scope of the charter of the ORREMSSAB, Lockheed-Martin will supply the ORREMSSAB with the existing procedure, *Employee Concern Response Procedure EO-156*, which we believe is adequate to address concerns.

Both DOE and LMES have done their best to respond in a timely manner to employees' concerns. A number of actions have been taken, with the endorsement of DOE and the involvement of the employees, to attempt to address employees' concerns. Examples include:

- Industrial hygiene samples have been taken in an attempt to characterize the alleged hazards in the workplace;
- Support was provided for the NIOSH study; and
- Funding was provided for the independent occupational physician team.

3. **The ORREMSSAB recommends that DOE/ORO fully comply with the requirements (and intent) of Section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) regarding environmental inventories of facilities intended for reindustrialization.**

DOE/ORO intends to fully comply with CERCLA 120(h) regarding environmental inventories. The results of those inventories will be contained in a "Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act Assessment" for each facility planned to be leased. These assessments, prepared according to requirements in CERCLA 120(h), have been developed for all leases executed to date. The assessments identify any areas on the property where hazardous substances or petroleum products were stored for one year or more, were known to have been released, or were disposed of, as well as the times these events took place. DOE will include this assessment, noted in the list of exhibits as the "CERCLA 120(h) Report," in all leases.

Mr. Randy Gordon

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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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rodney R. Nelson  
Assistant Manager for  
Environmental Management