



AK RIDGE RESERVATION

Environmental Management

March 4, 1998

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

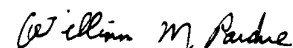
Dear Mr. Nelson:

At our March 4, 1998 meeting, the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) reviewed and approved the enclosed "End Use Recommendation for Contaminated Lands in the Bethel Valley Area of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory."

This recommendation is based upon and consistent with the conclusions reached by the End Use Working Group, an independent group initiated by the ORREMSSAB.

We look forward to receiving your written response to our recommendation. Thank you for your continued support of the ORREMSSAB.

Sincerely,



William M. Pardue, Chair
ORREMSSAB

WMP/sb

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Margaret Wilson, DOE/ORO
Mr. John Hankinson, USEPA Region IV
Mr. Earl Leming, TDEC
M. Heiskell, DOE/ORO
Karol Hazard, DOE/HQ
Ms. Susan Gawarecki, LOC
ORREMSSAB Members
EUWG Members



End Use Recommendation for Contaminated Lands in the Bethel Valley Area of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is a national and local resource, whose preservation and growth are an important part of the long-term vitality of the Oak Ridge community. ORNL needs to remain attractive to both current and new uses. Therefore, it is essential that Department of Energy (DOE) remediation decisions achieve, at a minimum, a controlled industrial end use for the entire ORNL Bethel Valley area.

A controlled industrial end use should at least provide for surface use of contaminated lands. Currently, there are areas where contamination results in the need for controlled access. Reducing such areas would enhance the overall viability of the Laboratory. Remediation should result in lands that are safe for surface use by ORNL employees.

In making its decision, DOE needs to consider the overall utility of ORNL, recognize the variety of uses needed to support an active and vital laboratory environment and use remediation resources wisely. DOE should make the best practical use of existing brownfield sites, and also recognize that not all land needs to be available for every use. If situations occur where DOE cannot meet the surface use criteria due to excessive risks or costs, these exceptions need to be discussed openly in a public forum, as part of the decision-making process.

Implementation of this recommendation by the DOE must be consistent with the Community Guidelines and needs for long-term stewardship. The recommendation is based upon and consistent with the conclusions reached by the End Use Working Group for the contaminated lands in the Bethel Valley area of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (End Use Working Group recommendation dated October 2, 1997.)