



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 Recommendations for Bear Creek Valley West of the Y-12 Plant."

These recommendations are 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: Margaret Wilson, DOE/ORO
John Hankinson, USEPA Region IV
Earl Leming, TDEC
Susan Gawarecki, LOC
Marianne Heiskell, DOE/ORO
Karol Hazard, DOE/HQ
ORREMSSAB Members
EUWG Members



End Use Recommendations for Bear Creek Valley West of the Y-12 Plant

The Bear Creek Valley administrative watershed begins at the western edge of the Y-12 Plant and continues west to just beyond Highway 95. The watershed is about 4,730 acres, of which about 200 acres were used by the Y-12 Plant for waste disposal from 1943-1993. The watershed is divided into three zones (see attached map.)

Zone III includes the land west of the Y-12 Plant for a distance of about three miles. Most of the contaminated areas are north of Bear Creek Road. The main concerns in this zone are the continuing releases of contaminants from the primary waste disposal areas: nitrate from the S-3 Ponds; depleted uranium from the Oil Landfarm Area; and volatile organic compounds from the Bear Creek Burial Grounds. In this zone, the nature of the contamination, and the costs, workers risks and uncertainties associated with its excavation, transport and disposal lead to a recommendation that Zone III lands be safely maintained under restricted use. Remediation in Zone III must reduce the migration of contamination sufficient to bring contaminants in Zone II to within acceptable levels for unrestricted use and protect Zone I for unrestricted use in perpetuity.

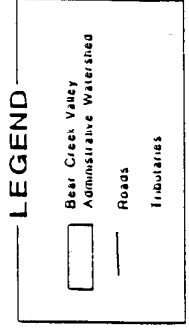
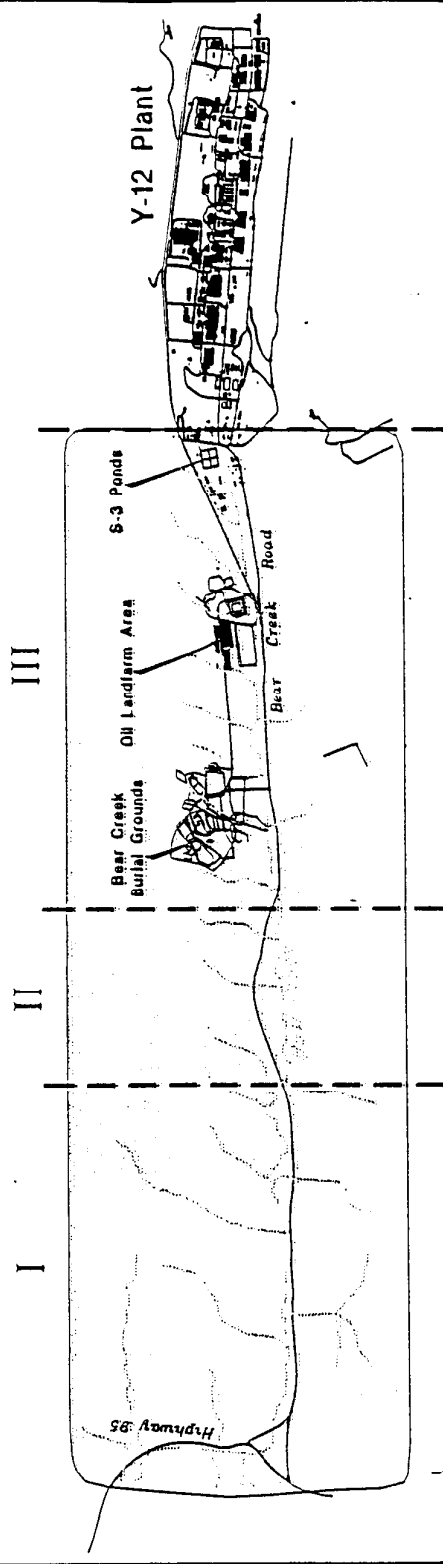
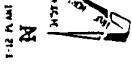
Zone II includes the land west of the Bear Creek Burial Grounds for a distance of about one mile. Contaminants in ground and surface water in this zone are chloride, fluoride, nitrate, boron, non-radiogenic strontium and depleted uranium. Concentrations of these contaminants exceed naturally-occurring levels, but rarely exceed environmental standards. Thus, Zone II must be restricted to DOE controlled or recreational end uses until contaminants in ground and surface waters are within acceptable levels.

Zone I is immediately adjacent to and west of Zone II. Land and water in this zone are free from contamination and available for unrestricted use.

Implementation of these recommendations must be consistent with the Community Guidelines and needs for long-term stewardship. If DOE cannot meet these end uses for Bear Creek Valley, exceptions must be discussed in a public forum as part of the decision-making process.

This recommendation is based upon and consistent with the End Use Working Group's conclusions for the three zones west of the Y-12 Plant in the Bear Creek Valley Watershed (End Use Working Group recommendation dated October 2, 1997.)

Attachment



MODIFIED FROM DOE 1993.

Remediation Zones in Bear Creek Valley
DOE - Y-12 Plant - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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