



# AK RIDGE RESERVATION

Environmental Management

September 8, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Nelson:

At our September 2, 1998, Board meeting the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) reviewed and approved the enclosed "Recommendation for Use of In Situ Vitrification in Remediating Oak Ridge Reservation Sites." The 13 SSAB members present at the Board meeting approved the recommendation unanimously.

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

Sincerely,

William M. Pardue,  
Chair

WMP/po

cc: Marianne Heiskell, DOE/ORO  
Margaret Wilson, DOE/ORO  
Karol Hazard, DOE/HQ  
John Hankinson, USEPA Region 4  
Earl Leming, TDEC  
Susan Gawarecki, LOC



## Recommendation for Use of In Situ Vitrification in Remediating Oak Ridge Reservation Sites

Members of the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) Technology Development and Deployment (TD&D) Project Team recently reviewed the *Proposed Plan for Bear Creek Valley at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant, Oak Ridge, Tennessee* (DOE/OR/02-1647&D3), in which in situ vitrification (ISV) is proposed for use in that watershed. As a result of study of that document and of ISV, **ORREMSSAB recommends use of the technology in remediating appropriate Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) sites and proposes that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) go forward with an incremental approach to ISV use on the reservation.** By incremental, we mean starting with a single, modest-scale project in a carefully chosen area. Study of the area is crucial due to the hydrogeological makeup of the ORR.

ORREMSSAB has studied ISV as a technology for application by DOE in remediation of contaminated sites on the ORR. In February of this year the TD&D team hosted a public meeting on ISV at which representatives from the Geosafe Corporation presented a program on the technology and answered questions from the team, ORREMSSAB, and the public. We are acquainted with the results of the ISV demonstration at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Melton Valley last year and with doubts about the technology in the minds of some members of the public.

Because ISV is proposed for use in Bear Creek Valley, we suggest the demonstration be held there. The ISV trial could be divorced from the current Record of Decision for Bear Creek, allowing the demonstration to take place in the Bear Creek Valley Burial Grounds. Should this site prove unsuitable for hydrogeological or regulatory reasons, we recommend the demonstration go forward in another location on the ORR.