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## Department of Energy

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

April 1, 1998

Mr. William M. Pardue, Chair  
Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management  
Site Specific Advisory Board  
222 Connors Circle  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Mr. Pardue:

### **RESPONSE TO THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES**

Reference is made to the following recommendations provided to the Department of Energy (DOE) from the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board:

- 1) "Community Guidelines for End Use of Contaminated Properties on the Oak Ridge Reservation" dated January 7, 1998.
- 2) "End Use Recommendation for the Disposal Areas in Melton Valley" dated January 7, 1998.

The Board has developed twelve guidelines for DOE to use in making future use decisions regarding contaminated property. In addition, you have asked the Department to commit to the following: complete all remediation to meet recommendations made by the Board, provide opportunities for meaningful public involvement, be protective of human health and the environment as a goal, minimize risks to workers, use best available science and technology while considering cultural, social, economic, and environmental justice factors, and to explain how the guidelines can be incorporated or cannot be incorporated into each of our cleanup decisions. My staff and I are committed to do the best we can to address the Community Guidelines, other recommendations provided by the Board and the general expectations listed above.

I have given the Community Guidelines and End Use recommendations to my senior staff and the appropriate DOE watershed teams for their consideration/implementation into the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) evaluation and decision-making process. They are in the process of making the guidelines and recommendations an integral part of their decision-making process. In the case of the disposal areas in Melton Valley, the feasibility study has been drafted in a manner consistent with recommendations provided by the Board, specifically targeting the land use and water resource protection goals contained in the recommendation. The area defined as "restricted" is being

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made as small as practical to enable DOE to evaluate and engage further alternative surface land uses outside of the restricted area, depending on changing Department missions, needs for security/access buffers, or other relevant considerations.

As the CERCLA decision-making processes for the Oak Ridge Reservation progress, my staff and I look forward to discussing our plans and any exceptions to your recommendations should they come up.

I'd like to thank the Board for the time and effort spent providing these recommendations to the Department. This kind of input, early on in the CERCLA process has already proved to be invaluable to my staff as they work to evaluate the "community acceptance" aspects as part of the nine CERCLA evaluation criteria.

Sincerely,



Rodney R. Nelson  
Assistant Manager for  
Environmental Management

cc:

John Hankinson, USEPA Region 4  
Earl Leming, TDEC  
Karol Hazard, DOE/HQ  
Susan Gawarecki, LOC  
ORREMSSAB Members  
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