



## Department of Energy

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

March 31, 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 PROVIDED**

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) "Recommendation to Site a Waste Disposal Facility on the Oak Ridge Reservation" dated March 4, 1998.
- 2) "End Use Recommendation for Bear Creek Valley West of the Y-12 Plant" dated March 4, 1998.
- 3) "End Use for Contaminated Lands in the Bethel Valley Area of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory" dated March 4, 1998.

The recommendations referenced above have been reviewed by my staff and I and found to be acceptable and applicable to decision making for the DOE Environmental Management cleanup program.

In the case of the recommendation concerning the siting of a waste disposal facility, my staff is currently drafting the proposed plan required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to incorporate the Board's recommendation. The proposed plan will address the need for a balanced combination of onsite and offsite waste disposal practices and will propose an onsite facility at East Bear Creek. In addition, DOE will be holding public workshops in the near future on waste acceptance criteria for the proposed onsite facility.

DOE is addressing the Board's recommendation concerning the Bear Creek Valley West of the Y-12 Plant in our proposed plan which has been drafted in a manner consistent with the land use and water protection goals contained in the recommendation.

Mr. William M. Pardue

- 2 -

As DOE progresses in developing information under the CERCLA process for the Bethel Valley Area of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, we will address the Board's recommendations in our feasibility study and proposed plan for that area.. We are in agreement that a controlled industrial end use which allows for surface use of contaminated land (where appropriate) makes sense and that controlled areas should be reduced by remediation in order to enhance the overall viability of the Laboratory.

As the CERCLA decision-making processes for each of the watersheds mentioned above progresses, my staff and I look forward to discussing our plans and any exceptions to the recommendations you have provided that may 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  
EUWG Members