



## Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831— 8540

May 7, 1998

Mr. William M. Pardue, Chair  
Oak Ridge Reservation  
Environmental Management  
Site Specific Advisory Board  
P. O. Box 2001, Mail Stop EM-90  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Pardue:

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEQUENCING OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION**

I want to formally express our appreciation for the efforts of the Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) in developing recommendations for sequencing of the Environmental Management (EM) activities. The recommendations of the SSAB have been incorporated into the sequencing strategy used to develop the FY 2000 budget submittal and have been provided to Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC for use in rebaselining the program.

Although numerous discussions on the recommendations have been held between DOE staff and the Budget and Prioritization team, we wanted to provide specific information on how the recommendations have been applied. Enclosed is a summary of each recommendation and how it has been applied to the EM program.

Again, we appreciate the efforts of the SSAB and look forward to a continuing involvement in prioritizing and sequencing work to accelerate the cleanup of the Reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney R. Nelson".

Rodney R. Nelson  
Assistant Manager for  
Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc's w/encl.:  
Susan Gawarecki, LOC  
John Hankinson, USEPA, Region 4  
Earl Leming, TDEC

**STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR SEQUENCING OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITIES ON THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION FROM THE  
OAK RIDGE RESERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD  
NOVEMBER 13, 1997**

**RECOMMENDATION - Initiate removal or remedial actions at sites where there are significant releases of contaminants or threats to human health and the environment.**

**STATUS -** The prioritization process ranks all subprojects in relation to their impact on human health and the environment, and sequencing considers this ranking. Examples of projects with high human health and environment impacts or significant releases of contaminants are the removal actions of contaminants at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) associated with the seeps at Solid Waste Storage Areas 4 and 5. Other subprojects in this category from the most recent sequencing are:

1. Upper East Fork Poplar Creek (UEFPC) East End Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (DNAPL) Plume Removal Action;
2. the Bear Creek Valley (BCV) Boneyard/Burnyard 1<sup>st</sup> actions after BCV Record of Decision (ROD);
3. the K-1410 & K-1420 Sumps;
4. the K-1070-C/D trenches and Mitchell Branch Plumes;
5. the K-1420 Contaminated Groundwater;
6. the K-1413 Soils and Groundwater;
7. the K-1401 Acid Line;
8. the K-1410 Old Neutralization Pit and K-1131 Neutralization Pile;
9. ORNL Corehole 8;
10. ORNL Surface Impoundments;
11. ORNL Old Hydrofracture Facility Tanks;
12. ORNL Gunite Tanks;
13. Hydrofracture Injection Monitoring Wells at ORNL;
14. K-1070 C/D G-Pit and Concrete Pad;
15. K-1070 A Burial Ground Remediation, and
16. East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Ponds (debris removal).

**RECOMMENDATION - Expedite removal/disposal of stored legacy waste to the Nevada Test Site, Envirocare of Utah; and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.**

**STATUS -** The disposal of stored legacy waste is being accelerated. The proposed FY 2000 budget contains funds for this. Obviously, our ability to accomplish this expedited removal/disposal is dependent upon the availability of the disposal sites.

**RECOMMENDATION - Consolidate storage of remaining legacy waste as removal/treatment proceed.**

**STATUS -** Stored legacy waste is being consolidated from the ORNL to the ETTP in FY 1998. The savings from this consolidation will allow acceleration of legacy waste disposal in the future.

**RECOMMENDATION - Expedite the decision making process for an onsite waste disposal cell for newly generated CERCLA/RCRA waste which may not be disposed of off site.**

**STATUS -** The onsite waste disposal cell is being planned to receive waste generated from CERCLA activities only. The current plan is for this facility to be operational in FY 2001, and a requirement in the most recent sequencing was to adequately fund this subproject for the FY 2001 start date.

**RECOMMENDATION - Expedite the watershed strategy for environmental remediation.**

**STATUS -** All of the watershed Records of Decision (RODs) are planned to be approved by FY 2000, and sequencing has adequately funded each watershed ROD. The current status of each watershed ROD follows:

1. Melton Valley - Regulator comments were received on the Feasibility Study (FS); incorporation of their comments and preparation of the proposed plan in progress.
2. Upper East Fork Poplar Creek - The Remedial Investigation (RI) Report has been issued to the regulators for review and the FS is in preparation.
3. Bear Creek Valley - The RI Report has been issued to the regulators and approved and the FS Report has been issued to the regulators for review. Work will begin soon on the remedial design for the Boneyard/Burnyard soil excavation, consolidation and capping project in anticipation of the first action required by the ROD.
4. East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) - The field work for the RI began in December 1997 and is expected to continue through March 1998. The initial draft of the RI Report is scheduled to be released in July 1998.
5. Bethel Valley - The combined RI/FS is being prepared for submission to the regulators in June 1998.

**RECOMMENDATION - Expedite removal of surplus facilities and areas.**

**STATUS -** The Nuclear Materials Facilities Stabilization Program is funded to stabilize those facilities currently in its inventory. Examples of recently stabilized facilities include 12 surplus isotope facilities at ORNL which have had residual inventories of hazardous and radioactive materials removed. These facilities now require minimal surveillance and maintenance and are awaiting final demolition. In addition, spent fuel removal is currently underway at the Bulk

Shielding Reactor and will be completed in FY 1998. All of the facilities at ETTP will be evaluated to determine if they are candidates for a CERCLA decision. If they are, a recommendation for either decontamination and/or demolition (D&D) will be provided for each facility. This is anticipated to be included in the July version of the RI report. The demolition of Group I Buildings at the ETTP is an early action funded in FY 1998 with two of the five buildings nearing completion. The footprint reduction project is adequately funded to reduce the size of the National Priorities List area by 85 percent by FY 2000.

**RECOMMENDATION - Coordinate similar remedial/removal activities across the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR).**

**STATUS** - One of the criteria used in sequencing is to execute the subprojects in a way that is logical from a construction standpoint. The current plan often combines like activities for this reason. Examples are:

- Continuation of trenching and reactive media placement near tributaries 7 and 8 in the Bear Creek Burial Grounds from the treatability study and technology demonstration trenching underway at the S-3 Site. This insitu, passive, remedial action taken first, may preclude the need for expensive and hazardous grouting of burial trenches in the burial grounds;
- The K-1070-C/D & Mitchell Branch Plumes project incorporated all of the currently known trenching requirements at ETTP; the ETTP D&D subprojects are large-scale subprojects that combine numerous contaminated or uncontaminated buildings into several subprojects; and
- Demolition of the 3004 Demineralizer Building, the Low Intensity Test Reactor heat exchangers, and Old Hydrofracture Facility storage bins at ORNL was completed in succession by the same fixed price demolition subcontractor. This resulted in cost savings through elimination of mobilization/demobilization costs, training expenses, and other fixed costs associated with individual subcontracted activities.