



198.TDEC.142
cc: SSAB
5/5/98

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DOE OVERSIGHT DIVISION
761 EMORY VALLEY ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830-7072

April 30, 1998

William M. Pardue, Chair
Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management
Site Specific Advisory Board
PO Box 2001
Oak Ridge TN 37831

Dear Mr. Pardue

**Recommendation on the "Department of Energy's Social, Cultural, and Economic
Prioritization Category"**

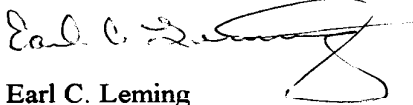
The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, DOE Oversight Division (TDEC/DOE-O) has received and reviewed the above referenced Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) recommendation. In an effort to provide increased dialogue with and better feed back to the SSAB, the Division provides the following response.

The State has a regulatory obligation to assure that DOE complies with applicable laws and regulations. DOE is expected to provide a formal budget request to Congress that adequately funds all public health and environmental activities regulated by the State, the Environmental Protection Agency, DOE, or other agencies. The State through the DOE Oversight Division does provide guidance and assistance to DOE on prioritization. However, for reasons stated above it cannot become involved in the definition of categories within the DOE Headquarters' Environmental Management Benefit Assessment Matrix (EMBAM) budget prioritization process. The State's primary expectation, with any national budget prioritization process, is the assurance the process is consistent, the results are valid, unbiased, and fair.

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The Division appreciates the opportunity to respond to the SSAB's recommendations. If there are any questions or concerns with this response, please contact John Owsley or me at (423) 481-0995.

Sincerely



Earl C. Leming
Director

xc: Rod Nelson - DOE
John Hankinson - EPA
Susan Gawarecki - LOC

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