



Department of Energy

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

January 6, 1999

Mr. William M. Pardue, Chair
Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management
Site Specific Advisory Board
Post Office Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Pardue:

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OAK RIDGE RESERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION ~~FOR PROCEEDING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PROPOSALS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION OF BURIAL AREAS AT OAK RIDGE RESERVATION~~ for use of In Situ Vitrification in Remediating ORR sites

Thank you for the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) recommendation concerning demonstration of in-situ vitrification (ISV) technology as an approach for remediating contaminated sites on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). As you may recall, the ORREMSSAB's recommendation followed ORREMSSAB review of a draft Proposed Plan (PP) for the Bear Creek Valley Watershed. In that draft, ISV technology was proposed for stabilization of select uranium burial areas within the Bear Creek Burial Grounds.

Following review of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) proposal, both the State of Tennessee and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) raised concerns about the long-term stewardship challenge potentially associated with managing these burial areas in place. In response, after consultation with the State and EPA representatives, DOE agreed to defer decision-making for these burial grounds to a later date, while proceeding with agreed upon remedial measures for the balance of the Watershed's contamination sources. Accordingly, no Fiscal Year 1999 funds are currently allocated towards application of ISV technology in Bear Creek Valley.

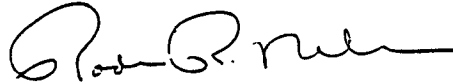
The Department remains interested in ISV as a potentially useful tool for stabilizing long-lived wastes, and will continue to look for appropriate opportunities for application of ISV. In fact, the current draft PP for the Melton Valley Watershed proposes application of ISV to specific burial areas within that watershed. Should this proposal be finalized as proposed, Melton Valley is likely to be the first area subject to future ISV application.

Mr. William M. Pardue

-2-

Thank you for your continued involvement with the Department's environmental restoration effort on ORR. Should you have any additional questions or comments on this subject, please feel free to contact me at 576-0742.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney R. Nelson", written in a cursive style.

Rodney R. Nelson
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management

cc:

D. Adler, EM-915
M. Heiskell, EM-90
M. Wilson, EM-91