



# Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 23, 2000

Mr. Steven H. Kopp  
Chair, Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Kopp:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Richardson dated May 4, 2000, requesting that the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board be allowed to nominate a representative to the blue-ribbon panel on alternatives to incineration. The Department recognizes and appreciates your Board's expertise and involvement with issues associated with the Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator at Oak Ridge. We are grateful for your offer to propose a stakeholder representative from the Oak Ridge Board for the blue-ribbon panel, however the Secretary has already made his selection for representation.

In late April, the Secretary announced his appointment of the members of the blue-ribbon panel charged with evaluating alternatives to radioactive mixed waste incineration. The Secretary chose these task force members because of their expertise and experience in environmental management and the legal and technical aspects of hazardous waste management and related treatment technologies.

Enclosed is the April 28, 2000, press release announcing the appointment of this panel together with brief biographical sketches of each of the task force members. The panel held its first meeting in early May and will report its findings to Secretary Richardson by December 2000. These results will be shared with you and other interested members of the public as well as the Governors of Idaho and Wyoming.

If you have any further questions, please contact me on (202) 586-7710, visit our home page at [www.em.doe.gov](http://www.em.doe.gov), or contact Ms. Martha Crosland, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability on (202) 586-5793.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Huntoon  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

Enclosure



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 28, 2000

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## Blue Ribbon Panel on Technology Alternatives to Incineration Established

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson has appointed a blue-ribbon panel to evaluate and recommend new technology initiatives that the department should pursue to establish alternatives to radioactive mixed waste incineration. The task force members offer a broad range of expertise and experience in environmental management, and the legal and technical aspects of hazardous waste management and related treatment technologies.

"The task force will help the department meet my commitment to deal with waste at its sites – in Idaho and across the country – and focus our efforts on developing the best possible treatment technologies," said Secretary Richardson. "This is a national issue, and the panel I have assembled represents the talents and expertise we need to get the job done."

The panel is a critical component of Secretary Richardson's decision earlier this year not to proceed with the construction of an incinerator at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), and to pursue regulatory and technology options that may make incineration of INEEL waste unnecessary. He announced at that time that he would form an outside, independent panel to assess and recommend alternatives to incineration.

The task force will assess emerging technologies that could treat low-level, alpha low-level and transuranic wastes contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and hazardous constituents. This includes up to 14,000 cubic meters of wastes that the Energy Department proposed to incinerate in the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility at INEEL.

The task force will also evaluate whether these technologies could be implemented by the department to comply with all legal requirements for treating waste, including those contained in the Settlement Agreement and Consent Order signed by the state of Idaho, the Department of Energy and the Navy in October 1995. That agreement requires the department to remove 65,000 cubic meters of waste at INEEL by the end of 2018. The evaluation will also consider technical issues raised by the public about the incinerator DOE has proposed as part of the waste treatment facility.

The task force will report its findings to Secretary Richardson by December 2000. The results and recommendations of the task force will be shared with the governors of Idaho and Wyoming and the public. A brief biographical sketch of each task force member follows:

**Dr. Carl Anderson** is currently the manager of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's

hazardous waste permitting and corrective action program, which he helped develop and implement in 1995. He has broad experience in all aspects of hazardous waste permitting and corrective action, including remedial technologies. Dr. Anderson received bachelor's and master's degrees in geology from Idaho State University and a doctorate in geology from the University of Wyoming.

**Andrew Athy, Jr.** is a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of O'Neill, Athy and Casey. In January 1999, Secretary Richardson named Athy chairman of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board. From 1978 to 1981, he served as counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power; from 1976 to 1978, he was an attorney in the Office of General Counsel of the Federal Election Commission; and from 1973 to 1975, Athy was Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Athy received an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

**Paul Bardacke** is a founding partner in the New Mexico law firm of Eaves, Bardacke, Baugh, Kierst & Kiernan. He was previously a partner in the law firm Sutin, Thayer & Browne. Mr. Bardacke served as Attorney General for the state of New Mexico (1983 to 1986) and was appointed Special U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico (1984 to 1985). He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and is also a member of the American, New Mexico and California Bar Associations. In his legal career, Mr. Bardacke has addressed a number of environmental cases, including cases involving the safety and regulatory requirements of hazardous waste incineration. He received a bachelor's degree cum laude from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Robert Budnitz** is President of Future Resources Associates Inc. in Berkeley, California. Previously, he served as Deputy Director and Director of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, and he also held several management positions at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory of the University of California. His professional expertise and interests have focused on the environmental impacts, hazards, and safety analysis of nuclear materials, particularly of the nuclear fuel cycle. He has been prominent in the field of nuclear reactor safety assessment and waste-repository performance assessment, including probabilistic risk assessment. Dr. Budnitz has served on numerous investigative and advisory panels of scientific societies, government agencies, and committees of the National Research Council. His most recent National Research Council service was with the Board on Radioactive Waste Management Committee on Buried and Tank Wastes and the Committee on Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards. He received a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a doctorate degree in physics from Harvard University.

**Ralph Cavanagh** is a senior staff attorney at the San Francisco office the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a nonprofit environmental-advocacy organization. Prior to rejoining NRDC, Mr. Cavanagh served as an attorney-advisor to the U.S. Department of Justice. He has held appointments as a lecturer at Stanford and Harvard Law Schools and visiting professor of law at the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall). He served on the Energy Engineering Board of the National Academy of Sciences (1987-93), and as vice chair of the Coalition on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies (CEERT). Mr. Cavanagh has also served on the Energy Subcommittee of the President's Commission on Environmental Quality and the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Company. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University.

**Gretchen Long-Glickman** is currently Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Ecosystem Studies based in Millbrook, N.Y. She also serves as the Vice Chairman of the National Parks Conservation Association; Chairman of the Murie Center in Jackson, Wyo.; a Trustee of the Teton Science School in Jackson, Wyo.; and a Trustee of the D.C.-based Rails to Trails Conservancy. Ms. Long-Glickman is a graduate of Harvard Business School.

**Dr. Mario Molina** is a professor in the department of earth, atmospheric and planetary sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 for the discovery of the theory that fluorocarbons deplete the ozone layer of the stratosphere. He was the Jet Propulsion Lab Senior Research Scientist for the California Institute of Technology. In addition, he has been a researcher, teacher, and research associate for the University of California. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Nacional Autonoma de Mexico and a

doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley.

Ralph Cavanagh will serve as the chairman of the panel and Dr. Mario Molina will serve as vice chairman. In addition, the governor of Idaho will nominate a candidate for the panel shortly.

Secretary Richardson plans to host the first meeting of the task force in early May in Washington, D.C.

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