



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

August 5, 2003

Mr. Steve McCracken
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management
U.S. DOE Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001, EM-90
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. McCracken:

ORSSAB Seeks Response on Recommendations Regarding Long-Term Stewardship

As you know, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) has a long history of involvement with stewardship issues for contaminated areas on the Oak Ridge Reservation. Two reports^{1,2} written by stakeholders almost five years ago outline and describe a stewardship program for the reservation, including 30 recommendations. These reports are widely used throughout the DOE complex and elsewhere as a basis for the development of stewardship planning and programs.

In early 2001, DOE Oak Ridge developed an annotated outline for a draft *Oak Ridge Reservation Stewardship Management Plan*. ORSSAB reviewed the plan and identified key areas requiring attention (based on its 1998 and 1999 stewardship reports). Comments were submitted to DOE in May 2001.³ Since that time, nothing substantive has happened with regard to the Stewardship Management Plan.

Just recently, at the request of the DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, the National Research Council published a report on *Long-Term Stewardship of DOE Legacy Waste Sites*.⁴ The report describes many of the same issues raised by Oak Ridge stakeholders almost five years ago and reiterated at meetings and in documents locally and nationally. Nonetheless, DOE continues to rush toward completion of remediation (not cleanup) at East Tennessee Technology Park in 2006 and Melton Valley in 2008 with no long-term stewardship management plans in place and no sustainable funding for long-term stewardship.

Furthermore, in the last several years, DOE Headquarters has disbanded its Environmental Management Advisory Board Stewardship Committee and severely limited field office stewardship activities with the result that stakeholders now have little confidence or trust in the DOE in regards to long-term stewardship, especially for on-going mission sites.

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At this time, ORSSAB is requesting a meeting with you, your local stewardship staff person and the DOE Headquarters person responsible for stewardship. The issues to be addressed are the unresolved local and national items from the SSAB stewardship reports (see attached). We believe the meeting will help you to understand what the community wants in exchange for accepting chemically hazardous and radioactive wastes in its back yard.

And it is our hope that an open and honest discussion of DOE's long-term stewardship management plans will help to restore public confidence and trust and result in the completion of a stewardship management plan for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to receiving your written response.

Sincerely,



Dave Mosby, Chair

cc w/enclosure

Dave Adler, DOE-ORO
Sid Garland, Bechtel-Jacobs Company LLC
Dave Geiser, EM-51
Pat Halsey, DOE-ORO
Connie Jones, EPA Region 4
Steve McCracken, DOE-ORO
John Owsley, TDEC
Ralph Skinner, DOE-ORO
Sandra Waisley, EM-11

1. *Oak Ridge Reservation Stakeholder Report on Stewardship* (July 1998).
<http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/pubs.htm>
2. *Oak Ridge Reservation Stakeholder Report on Stewardship*, Vol. 2 (December 1999).
<http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/pubs.htm>
3. Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. *Comments on the Draft Stewardship Management Plan Annotated Outline* (May 2001).
4. National Research Council. *Long-Term Stewardship of DOE Legacy Waste Sites – A Status Report* (May 2003).

ATTACHMENT

Unresolved Issues Based on Recommendations in *Oak Ridge Reservation Stakeholder Report on Stewardship* (July 1998) and *Oak Ridge Reservation Stakeholder Report on Stewardship, Vol. 2* (December 1999).

Local Issues:

- Development of a *Oak Ridge Reservation Long-Term Stewardship Management Plan*.
- Integration of long-term stewardship requirements in remediation planning and decision documents (i.e., legally enforceable CERCLA documents).
- Establishment of a Stewardship Coordinating Committee to include “stewards” responsible for implementation of the Stewardship Management Plan (i.e., DOE, contractors, city, county and local organizations).
- Establishment of a stewardship information and tracking system consistent with stakeholder recommendations.
- Establishment of land use categories for contaminated areas on the reservation (requires city, county and state cooperation to map, zone, register and file land notices, include in local and state geographic information systems).
- Amendment of the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) to require appropriate milestones for the major stewardship-related documents, including the:
 - o Land Use Control Assurance Plan,
 - o Each Land Use Control Implementation Plan, and
 - o Final Records of Decision.
- Amendment of the *Oak Ridge Reservation Public Involvement Plan* and the Federal Facility Agreement to provide for public and local government involvement in the following activities:
 - o Land Use Control Assurance Plan,
 - o Each Land Use Control Implementation Plan,
 - o Stewardship Management Plan, and
 - o Five-year reviews.
- Development and refinement of costs for operating stewardship activities and incorporating into annual budgets.
- Identification of the expected design life of each remedial action and its replacement and/or repair costs.

National Issues:

- Sustaining funding for long-term stewardship.
- Establishment of a stewardship research program to address exposure/risks of contamination, remedial technologies, and long-term stewardship sustainability.
- Establishment of a DOE secretarial policy for long-term stewardship followed by implementation guidance that allows for local participation and flexibility.