



## Department of Energy

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

October 26, 2003

Mr. David Mosby, Chair  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
Post Office Box 2001, EM-91  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Mosby:

### **RESPONSE TO OAK RIDGE SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DEPLETED URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE DISPOSITION PROGRAM**

Thank you for your letter dated July 10, 2003, transmitting the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board's recommendations on the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF<sub>6</sub>) Disposition Program at the Department of Energy (DOE) East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP).


DOE greatly appreciates your support on the accelerated shipping schedule for DUF<sub>6</sub> cylinders from ETTP. We are currently working to resolve outstanding issues related to commencement of cylinder shipments and are hopeful of starting shipments this year.

In response to your recommendation that DOE keep open transportation options other than highway, please understand that the mode of shipment selected was based on a number of factors: site logistical constraints, public safety considerations, stated preference of State emergency management agency staff, and cost. Should future circumstances warrant, DOE will re-examine its transportation options in light of changing conditions.

With regard to your concerns and recommendations on the safety aspects of the program, DUF<sub>6</sub> shipments have an excellent safety record. There has never been a release associated with any domestic DUF<sub>6</sub> shipments. All shipments will comply with Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements, and any exemptions from current or future DOT requirements that may become necessary will be coordinated with, and approved by, DOT prior to shipment.

We appreciate your interest in this topic and for your continued advice and recommendations on issues concerning the Environmental Management Program.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen H. McCracken  
Assistant Manager for  
Environmental Management

cc:  
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