



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

January 12, 2006

Mr. James P. Bearzi
New Mexico Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Comment on the Class 3 Modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico, EPA ID No. NM48901139088

At its January 11, 2006 meeting, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) voted to support as written the New Mexico Environment Department's intent to approve the Class 3 Modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

The Board is pleased that the New Mexico Environment Department has proposed approval of the permit modifications, which will allow disposal of remote-handled (RH) transuranic (TRU) waste at WIPP. The Board also appreciates the opportunity to comment on this important proposed action.

The Oak Ridge Reservation has the largest inventory of RH TRU waste in the Department of Energy complex. Processing of contact-handled TRU waste is about to begin at Oak Ridge's onsite TRU waste processing facility. Once that work is underway and the permit modification is approved, operations will begin for processing RH TRU for safe transfer and disposal at WIPP.

ORSSAB, chartered by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, is an independent, nonpartisan, broadly representative group of citizens with interests and concerns related to the environment at the Oak Ridge Reservation and surrounding areas.

We appreciate your consideration of our endorsement and eagerly await final approval of the permit modification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kerry Trammell".

Kerry Trammell
Chair

cc: Steve McCracken, Asst. Manager for Environmental Management, DOE-ORO
Melissa Nielson, DOE HQ, Internal/External Coordination
Dave Adler, DOE-ORO

Pat Halsey, DOE-ORO, ORSSAB Federal Coordinator
Connie Jones, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
John Owsley, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Idaho Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB)
Fernald CAB
Hanford Advisory Board
Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs
Northern New Mexico CAB
Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant CAB
Rocky Flats CAB
Savannah River Site CAB