



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 22, 2005

Mr. Kerry Trammell
Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
P.O. Box 2001
200 Administration Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Trammell:

This is in response to your December 7, 2005, letter regarding your recommendations and commitments on the Environmental Management (EM) program. I very much appreciate your communication with me and my staff as we move forward on the cleanup and closure of EM sites.

Your letter specifically mentions your desire to participate in the strategies for mixed and low level waste. As you know, EM's Office of Logistics and Waste Disposition Enhancements (EM-10) has been keeping you informed of our progress in developing corporate strategies for disposition of these materials, and has solicited your input on draft documents. We will continue to do so as we refine these strategies. I ask that you continue to work with Frank Marcinowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM-10, regarding how the EM Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) can assist in our efforts to share these strategies with stakeholders and effectively obtain public input.

In addition, we appreciate your support of the permit modification to the WIPP hazardous waste permit for disposal of remote handled transuranic (TRU) waste as well as a more efficient contact handled TRU waste program. We believe as you do that this permit modification, if approved by the New Mexico Environment Department, will significantly assist our sites in providing for a safe, comprehensive, efficient and environmentally compliant TRU disposal program.

We also appreciate your support for the disposition of high level waste. We are working with the Department's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management in the repository program and have provided them a copy of our response to your letter to ensure that they understand your interest in this program.


Regarding pre-1970 buried transuranic-contaminated waste sites, this waste is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its "Superfund" remedy selection process. The criteria established in this program are derived from the statutory requirements of Section 121 of the Comprehensive



Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund), as well as technical and policy considerations that have proven important for selecting among remedial alternatives. The Department is required and committed to follow these regulations. The appropriate action to take at each buried TRU site is determined at the local level based on regulator decisions and community input, and DOE will continue to work with these parties in reaching these decisions.

I want to thank you for your assistance and I look forward to our continued dialogue as we proceed in the cleanup and closure of our sites in the EM complex. This mission is one that I believe will require our continued need to work together in the best interest of our Nation to be successful. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 586-7709 or Mr. Frank Marcinowski at (202) 586-0370 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JA Rispoli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James A. Rispoli
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management