



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

November 15, 2007

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

Dear Mr. McCracken:

Recommendation 160: Recommendation on Independent Verification of Locations of Waste Sites in Melton Valley

At our November 14, 2007 meeting, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the enclosed recommendation.

Even though boundary surveys of waste-in-place locations in Melton Valley have been done by a reputable company, the Board believes it would be in the public interest to verify the locations of waste sites by an independent surveyor.

We thank you for considering our recommendation and we look forward to receiving your written response by February 13, 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance J. Mezga".

Lance J. Mezga, Chair

Enclosure

cc/enc:

Dave Adler, DOE-ORO
Mike Farmer, Roane County Mayor
Doug Frost, DOE-HQ
Pat Halsey, DOE-ORO
Connie Jones, EPA Region 4

Rex Lynch, Anderson County Mayor
James O'Connor, Oak Ridge City Manager
Melissa Nielson, DOE-HQ
Ralph Skinner, DOE-ORO
John Owsley, TDEC



Recommendation 160

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Recommendation on Independent Verification

of Locations of Waste Sites in Melton Valley

Background

The Melton Valley remedial actions left hazardous substances in-place (i.e. buried wastes beneath hydraulic isolation caps) that could pose a future potential risk if exhumed. The hazardous substances left in place required the construction of engineered multi-layered caps and groundwater diversion/collection systems that require ongoing surveillance and maintenance. In addition, institutional controls were selected as the remedial response action for certain units within the valley.

The Melton Valley Record of Decision (ROD) required the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop and implement a Land Use Controls Implementation Plan (LUCIP) that addresses the units covered by the ROD. DOE developed the LUCIP for the Melton Valley Watershed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to identify specific land use controls that will be implemented and maintained to ensure protection of human health and the environment. The land use controls for Melton Valley include the following: (1) property record restrictions; (2) property record notices; (3) zoning notices; (4) employee protection program, (5) state advisories postings, (6) access controls, (7) signs, and (8) surveillance patrols.

The property record restrictions and property record notices transmitted to the local county registrar of deeds office and forwarded to the tax assessor for inclusion in the state geographic information system mapping system for hazardous substances left in Melton Valley place do not allow unrestricted use and exposure.

Discussion

The locations of the Melton Valley isolation caps were included in the plat maps transmitted along with the property record restrictions to the local county registrar of deeds. The boundary surveys of the isolation caps are also documented in the Remedial Action Report for the Melton Valley Watershed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The Melton Valley ROD does not directly require documentation of the location of the isolation caps. Independent verification should be conducted of the boundary surveys of the caps as it would verify the accuracy of information in the public domain. An independent verification further validates the quality assurance of the Remedial Action Report and encourages public enforcement of land use controls.

Recommendation

DOE should ensure that an independent verification is conducted of the boundary surveys of areas where hazardous materials were left in place in Melton Valley.