



# AK RIDGE RESERVATION

Environmental Management

April 2, 1997

Mr. Rod Nelson  
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management  
DOE/ORO  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Even though we did verbally share the approved motion concerning Public Participation in the CERCLA Process approved at our December 4, 1996 Board meeting, we did not formally forward the motion to you in writing and would like to do so at this time.

### Public Participation in the CERCLA Process

In the "Secretarial Policy on the National Environmental Policy Act" of June 1994 ("the Policy"), there is discussion of meeting the environmental objectives of CERCLA. In Section II.E.4, it states "... the Department of Energy may choose, after consultation with stakeholders (*emphasis added*) and as a matter of policy, to integrate NEPA and CERCLA processes for specific proposed actions."

As Stakeholders, the ORREMSSAB requests the EM, ORO Office take the following actions that concern adequate public participation in CERCLA restoration activities related to the ORR:

1. To achieve effective public notice, please advertise all documents related to ORR restoration activities under CERCLA that are associated with public comment opportunities in at least one major newspaper in each of the counties of Anderson, Roane, Morgan, Knox, Union, Loudon, Rhea, and Meigs.
2. Per the Policy (Section II.E.3.), "The DOE will take steps to ensure opportunities for early public involvement in the CERCLA process and will make CERCLA documents

available to the public as early as possible.” In the “FFA/CERCLA Document Flow Process” document, public review is not suggested (in the case of the Remedial Action Process) until after the Proposed Plan is issued. This does not constitute “early public involvement”. Therefore, to allow public input and encourage public acceptance of CERCLA restoration plans under the Remedial Action process, we ask that:

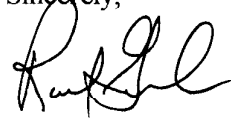
- prior to the beginning of the Remedial Investigation DOE routinely offer a public scoping meeting. This would allow the public to have timely input on sample locations, exposure scenarios and other issues. (It was understood at the meeting that the word “offer,” in the second line, would be interpreted as an offer of information to the public along with an inquiry on the level of public interest in a scoping meeting.)
  - during the development of alternatives in each feasibility study, DOE routinely offer public comment opportunities (including presentations or workshops if requested by the public) on the choice of restoration alternatives to be considered.
3. To enable and encourage public understanding of environmental restoration projects, the ORREMSSAB issues a standing request that DOE offer public presentations or workshops for each CERCLA Proposed Plan prior to the public comment deadline. These workshops/presentations would explain:
- the current status and current risks at the operable unit.
  - the rationale for selecting the Proposed Plan from among a set of alternative plans.
  - how the Proposed Plan protects human health and the environment.

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You did share at the meeting that in Item 1 some counties do not have major newspapers and that in Item 2, the "FFA/CERCLA Flow Process" is not an official document.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Randy Gordon, Chair

RG/sb