



SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

# AK RIDGE RESERVATION

Environmental Management

May 5, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Please replace the previous K-25 Worker Health Issues recommendations sent to you on April 11, 1997 with the enclosed recommendations. I accidentally mailed the incorrect copy.

I have noted changes in the recommendations in the following manner:  
(1) deletions are in *italics* with a line drawn through the word and (2) additions are in **bold and underlined**.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Sheree Black

Enclosure

cc: Earl Leming, TDEC/ORO  
John Hankinson, USEPA Region IV  
ORREMSSAB Members

**Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management  
Site Specific Advisory Board**

**Recommendations to the  
Department of Energy/Oak Ridge Operations  
on the K-25 Worker Health Issues**

The Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) expresses its sincere concern and sympathy to the group of Oak Ridge workers and residents who exhibit unfortunate, marked, and severe medical problems, along with emotional and financial distress, which may have been caused by environmental pollutants.

The mission of the ORREMSSAB is to advise the Department of Energy/Oak Ridge Operations (DOE/ORO) on matters relating to the Environmental Management Program. And, in carrying out this mission, committees were established by the Board to address what they felt were most important, thereby the names: Land Use/Economic Development; Waste Management; Environmental Restoration; and Environmental Justice, Health, and Safety. It is under the latter that employee and resident health concerns in connection with the East Tennessee Technology Park (formerly the K-25 Environmental Management Site) are justifiably addressed.

That this is the second group of employees and residents to raise the same types of concerns over the past few years is of significance. While this issue has been ongoing for over a year and is an evolving situation, there have been no causes identified, and therefore, no solutions found by the investigations so far.

There are restrictions that this Board must observe. The Board cannot advise DOE/ORO on matters of employee-employer relations, on medical advice or care, or on legal issues. However, this Board and its committees have *heard* a number of concerns that we feel merit comment to DOE/ORO which relate to the issues raised. The following recommendations are respectfully submitted:

1. The **ORREMSSAB recommends ~~to~~ that DOE/ORO** establish a multi-disciplinary team (e.g., National Institute of Environment Health Studies [NIEHS]) to determine causes for and recommend solutions to **any** employee and resident health **concerns** **problems** connected to the K-25 Environmental Management Site.

2. The **ORREMSSAB recommends that** procedures responding to employee health concerns be improved especially ~~in~~ **with** regard to timeliness and two-way communication. The intent is to resolve employee concerns within ~~the~~ applicable time limits.
  
3. The **ORREMSSAB recommends** that DOE/ORO fully comply with the requirements (and intent) of Section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) regarding environmental inventories of facilities intended for re-industrialization.

The ORREMSSAB appreciates the opportunity to comment on these issues . We request your response to these SSAB recommendations by May 7, 1997 and would appreciate progress reports in the future.

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# AK RIDGE RESERVATION

Environmental Management

April 11, 1997

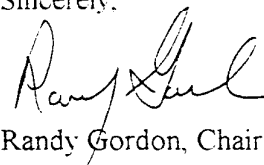
Mr. Rod Nelson  
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management  
DOE/ORO  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The enclosed recommendations concerning K-25 Worker Health Issues were reviewed at the April 2, 1997 meeting of the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB). Consensus was reached with two Board members registering dissent but not wishing to block the recommendations.

We request your written responses to these recommendations by May 7, 1997. Thank you for your continued support of the ORREMSSAB.

Sincerely,



Randy Gordon, Chair

RG/sb

Enclosure

cc: Earl Leming, Director, TDEC/DOE Oversight Division  
John Hankinson, Regional Administrator, USEPA Region IV  
ORREMSSAB Members

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