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STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DOE OVERSIGHT DIVISION
761 EMORY VALLEY ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830-7072

June 8, 1998

William M. Pardue, Chair
Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management
Site Specific Advisory Board
PO Box 2001
Oak Ridge TN 37831

Dear Mr. Pardue

Comments and Recommendations on the Bear Creek Valley Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, DOE Oversight Division (TDEC/DOE-O) has received and reviewed the above referenced Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) comments and recommendations. In an effort to provide increased dialogue with and better feedback to the SSAB, the Division offers the following response.

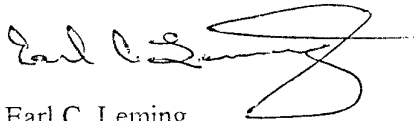
The State and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have yet to approve the Feasibility Study for Bear Creek Valley at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant and are working with DOE on the outstanding issues. The Proposed Plan for the first Phase Record of Decision on Bear Creek Valley will present those actions that can go forward at this time without making final decisions on the Uranium burial grounds or overall ground water remediation. The actions chosen for the phase one, Record of Decision, will be consistent with the final Record of Decision. Each phase of the decision on the Bear Creek Valley Operable Units will occur in Records of Decision (RODs) that have undergone full public review and comment.

The State is in general agreement with three of the four recommendations presented in the SSAB's May 8, 1998, correspondence. An important exception is the application of the End-Use Working Group's criteria for "unrestricted" land use. The State is not prepared at this time to support the release of DOE property with restrictions on excavations and groundwater use as described in the criteria. The recommendation of a two stage ROD may be restrictive. The final remediation of the Bear Creek Valley Operable Units may require more than two RODs. The State will work with DOE and EPA to establish and maintain schedules for the RODs.

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The Division appreciates the opportunity to respond to the SSAB's recommendations. If there are any questions or concerns with this response, please contact John Owsley or me at (423) 481-0995.

Sincerely



Earl C. Leming
Director

xc: Rod Nelson - DOE
John Hankinson - EPA
Susan Gawarecki - LOC

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