



OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

Environmental Management

March 12, 1999

Mr. James Owendoff
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Comments Relative to Alternatives within the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Owendoff:

In considering options for the national Waste Management Program treated in the Environmental Impact Statement that has been under study for some time, the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board suggests that the following characteristics of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) are sufficiently general that they should be recognized in choosing national alternatives. To defer these considerations to site-specific documents could lose time and provoke unnecessary controversy.

1. Oak Ridge currently has no facilities appropriate for safe and economical disposal of national or regional waste streams. A disposal cell for low level CERCLA waste generated onsite is proposed. If built, it is only for local waste streams.
2. Oak Ridge has limited treatment capability for burnable mixed waste and that capability may not be available in the future.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our view of the capabilities of the ORR for disposal, storage, or treatment of wastes from other sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William M. Pardue".

William M. Pardue, Chair

WMP/sb