



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

NOV 29 1999

Steven H. Kopp, Chair  
Oak Ridge Reservation Site Specific Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 2001, EM 90  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

SUBJ: Request for EPA Field Office for Oak Ridge Reservation

Dear Mr. Kopp:

Thank you for your letter dated October 27, 1999, concerning the Oak Ridge Reservation Site Specific Advisory Board's (SSAB) interest in having EPA establish a field office at the U.S. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation based on the model established at the Department of Energy's Hanford, Washington site.

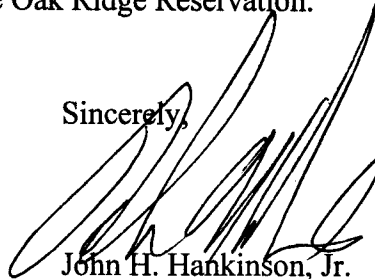
It is good to hear the working relationship between the Regulators, DOE and the stakeholders at the Hanford site is effective and contributing to the progress of cleanup at the site. While all of the EPA Regional Offices structure their Federal Facilities Programs differently in an attempt to address State and local concerns unique to the Federal Facilities within their borders, I do appreciate the Hanford Advisory Boards opinion that the success of Hanford's cleanup program is substantially due to the presence of the local EPA office. Region 4 has determined that our DOE oversight staff should be located in Atlanta, based on our close proximity to Oak Ridge and that our Regional Office location allows for adequate independent oversight of this federal facility.

At this time Region 4 has dedicated four full-time project managers, a Public Health Specialist, and a staff assistant to the Oak Ridge issues described in your letter. Team members spend a significant amount of time in face to face meetings with DOE and TDEC; coordinating project issues by phone with DOE and TDEC; attending public meetings; and participating in project meetings which involve SSAB, LOC and City of Oak Ridge representatives. I think this team of individuals exhibit similar strong working relationships with a focus on cleanup programs while providing the necessary oversight of this complex cleanup.

In the future, do not hesitate to continue to discuss these issues with my staff. Camilla Warren, Chief, DOE Remedial Section, at 404/562-8519 or Constance Jones, EPA ex-officio SSAB representative, at 404/562-8550, would be more than willing to discuss these issues or any others the SSAB has concerning EPA's role at the Oak Ridge Reservation with you.

In closing, I want to thank the SSAB for playing an active and positive role in the on-going CERCLA cleanup activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Hankinson, Jr.", written over the word "Sincerely,".

John H. Hankinson, Jr.  
Regional Administrator

cc: Earl Leming, TDEC  
Savannah River Site SSAB  
James Woolford, FFRRO  
Craig Hooks, FFEO  
Susan Gawarecki, LOC  
Ron Nelson, DOE/ORO