



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

September 19, 2002

Mr. Mike Holland, Manager
U.S. DOE Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8700

Dear Mr. Holland:

REORGANIZATION OF DOE OAK RIDGE SITE OFFICE

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) understands that DOE plans to eliminate the Site Manager's role as it currently exists at DOE-Oak Ridge Operations (ORO). ORSSAB hereby expresses our concerns about this change, as we feel it will negatively impact Environmental Management (EM) program activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation as well as public participation in those activities.

At the ORSSAB meeting on August 3, 2002, the ORO Alternative Management Model Initiative Report, dated June 2002, was discussed. During the discussion of the preferred alternative, "National Nuclear Security Administration's Model Applied to ORO," the elimination of the ORO Manager dominated the discussion. We generally agree with the advantages of an NNSA-like model in Section V of the preferred alternative, but we also completely agree with the disadvantages of an NNSA-like model in Section VI. The ORSSAB feels that the ORO Manager is the single point of contact for DOE, and the absence of the Manager will create a gap in relations with Oak Ridge stakeholders. The absence of the Manager also removes the responsibility and authority for managing the Reservation as well as being the arbiter to resolve multiple-party issues.

We also feel that potential exists for the Site Offices to assign additional responsibilities to their deployed staff rather than utilize expertise residing in the Service Center, particularly if allocation of funding to the Site Offices becomes reduced by any amount.

We are particularly concerned about the integrity of EM on the Reservation. EM crosses over a number of program boundaries, and we are apprehensive that the proposed Oak Ridge Management Council will not be able to effectively resolve cross-cutting issues that overlap programs, contractors, or sites. The ORO Manager has always been an effective judge in past instances that involved these issues.

For these reasons, we ask that you encourage your Headquarters' management to reconsider elimination of the Site Manager's position at DOE-ORO. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to receiving your written response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Mosby", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David N. Mosby
Chair

cc: Honorable Spencer Abraham, DOE-HQ
Gerald Boyd, DOE-ORO
Martha Crosland, DOE-HQ
Pat Halsey, DOE-ORO
Connie Jones, EPA Region 4
Dr. Ray Orbach, DOE-HQ
John Owsley, TDEC
Jessie Roberson, DOE-HQ
Zach Wamp, Congressman