



# Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations Office  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831—

January 23, 2004

Mr. David Mosby, Chair  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
Post Office Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Mosby,

### **RESPONSE TO SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION ON THE COREHOLE 8 PLUME SOURCE (TANK W-1A) REMOVAL ACTION AT OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

Very appropriately the Site Specific Advisory Board has chosen to weigh in on an issue that has been a source of many lengthy discussions with the Regulators. As you know, the safety of the workers will always be the Department of Energy's (DOE) highest priority. When the excavation work being performed at this location ran into extremely highly radioactive material, the selected remediation contract did not anticipate encountering soils with transuranics above 100 nCi/gram that required additional training, equipment, or expertise necessary to appropriately work with this type of material. Based upon significant safety concerns to the contract workers and laboratory employees, insufficient time and funding to re-contract the work, and not having access to a final disposition site for the excavated Transuranic wastes, Environmental Management made the very difficult decision to stop the work and refill the excavation site.

This project has remained a very high priority to the three Parties to the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) and was therefore kept within the Cost Plus Incentive Fee contract recently signed with Bechtel Jacobs Company, LLC, to be completed by Fiscal Year 2008. During a recent meeting of the FFA Parties' managers, this project and its schedule was a main topic of discussion. DOE agreed with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that this work would have scheduled within the FFA Appendix E, a milestone for the Removal Action Work Plan to initiate the completion of this work. As you have recommended, our plans are to, at a minimum, complete the scope of work defined within the signed Action Memorandum.

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this very important project.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 576-0742, or Elizabeth Phillips of my staff at 241-6172.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. McCracken  
Assistant Manager  
for Environmental Management

cc's on page 2

D. Mosby

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cc:

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