



Department of Energy

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

December 1, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Dixon:

RESPONSE TO OAK RIDGE SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD *RECOMMENDATION 164, RECOMMENDATION ON ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ON THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION*

Thank you for your February 14, 2008, letter with comments on the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Environmental Management (EM) Technology and Engineering program. Let me assure you that technology development for Oak Ridge is a very high priority focus for this program.

In January of this year, the DOE Head Quarters Office of Engineering and Technology sponsored a Technical Mercury Workshop at Oak Ridge, and is proceeding to fund the Mercury Remediation Technology Development Project. The Office of EM is also collaborating with the office of Science (SC), which is currently sponsoring a Mercury Science Focus Area at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, with an expected funding level of several million dollars over the next five years. EM and SC will continue to collaborate over the next several years to develop technologies to effectively remediate environmental contamination at Oak Ridge.

With reference to your request for restoration of Site Technology Coordination Groups (STCG) and the interest and needs expressed in your recommendation, I strongly support open discussions with the EM committee on the status of technology development, deployment, and results. While we do not plan to reestablish the STCGs, I have asked Mr. Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Technology, to be available for discussions with the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board on integration and information-sharing among the EM sites.

Again, thank you for your concern in this critical area and for your willingness to engage with us on this issue. If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting with Mr. Mark Gilbertson, please contact me at 576-0742, Elizabeth Phillips at 241-6172, or Pat Halsey at 576-4025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen H. McCracken", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Stephen H. McCracken
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management

cc's listed on next page

Mr. Steve Dixon

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cc:

David Adler, EM-91

Cathrine Brennan, EM-13, DOE-HQ

Doug Frost, EM-13, DOE-HQ

Mark Gilbertson, DOE-HQ

Pat Halsey, SSAB Federal Coordinator, EM-91

Melissa Neilson, EM-13, DOE-HQ

Elizabeth Phillips, EM-92

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Accountability, EM-13

James O'Connor, Oak Ridge City Manager

Connie Jones, EPA, Region 4

John Owsley, TDEC, Oak Ridge