

## Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office  
P.O. Box 2001  
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October 14, 2009

Mr. Steve Dixon, Chairman  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
Post Office Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

### **RECOMMENDATION 180: RECOMMENDATIONS ON EXPANSION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY ACT WASTE FACILITY AND SORTING AND SEGREGATING OF WASTES DESTINED FOR THE FACILITY**

Thank you for your recommendations concerning disposal of wastes from Oak Ridge Reservation cleanup activities. Regarding your recommendation for expansion of the existing Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) waste facility, the Department of Energy (DOE) is currently constructing Cell 5, which will increase the overall capacity to 1.65 million cubic yards. Design for the final Cell 6 is also underway. This will maximize the available footprint at the site and result in a total capacity of 2.2 million cubic yards. This capacity should support cleanup activities out to 2016 or beyond, depending on funding scenarios. To support construction of Cell 6, an Explanation of Significant Difference is currently being prepared. Construction timing for Cell 6 will be based upon availability of funding and the need for additional capacity.

DOE has agreed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to initiate a Feasibility Study/Record of Decision process to establish a path forward for management of contaminated wastes that exceed the capacity of our current facility. Specific milestones for completion of this effort have not been established yet but are currently being coordinated with EPA and TDEC.

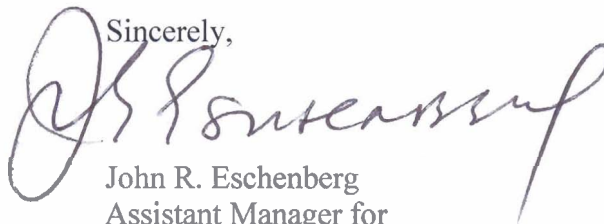
DOE acknowledges and agrees with the Site Specific Advisory Board recommendation for waste sorting and segregation to preserve the capacity of the CERCLA facility. Evaluation of opportunities to reduce volumes and ensure appropriate use of the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) is incorporated into project planning activities. A recent example would be the approach to remediating the scrapyards at Y-12, which will include the use of shredding and compacting metal scrap prior to shipping it to EMWMF. Extensive efforts are also being made to identify facilities that meet the non-CERCLA Oak Ridge Reservation Landfill acceptance criteria. Of the facilities targeted by the recent American Recovery Reinvestment Act funding at Y-12 and

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Oak Ridge National Laboratory, it is estimated that as many as 15 of the facilities may be candidates for disposal at these landfills. Of course, while balancing the desire to reduce volumes disposed of at the EMWFM, DOE must also address elements of safety and overall project efficiency, for example, "cherry-picking" specific waste items from the overall building matrix can be hazardous in facilities that are in an advanced state of deterioration.

Thank you for your support and recommendations regarding the approaches to waste disposition and onsite disposal capacity. If you have any questions or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact me at 576-0742 or David Adler at 576-4094.

Sincerely,



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