



Department of Energy

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

September 12, 2011

Mr. Ron Murphree, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
Post Office Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Mr. Murphree:

RECOMMENDATION 200: RECOMMENDATION ON THE DECISION PROCESS FOR SITTING A SECOND CERCLA WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY

Thank you for your recommendations on the decision process for siting a second Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) waste disposal facility. We are currently preparing a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) for CERCLA Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) Waste Disposal to meet a Federal Facility Agreement milestone in September 2012.

The analysis underway will provide an evaluation of alternatives for disposal of waste generated from CERCLA cleanup actions on the ORR after the maximum capacity of the existing Environmental Management Waste Management Facility is reached. Construction of a new on-site disposal facility is one of the alternatives being considered. Offsite disposal alternatives will also be evaluated.

A screening evaluation of sites considered in previous studies, including the original siting study, and other potential locations is underway as part of the ongoing analysis. If the On-site Disposal alternative is identified as the preferred alternative, a preferred site would be identified in the Proposed Plan and a final site would be identified in the Record of Decision.

Recommendations of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) being addressed in the ongoing FFS effort include:

- Evaluation of projected CERCLA cleanup waste streams, disposal capacity needs, and uncertainties;
- Comparison of cost for off-site disposal of projected waste streams vs. on-site disposal in a second disposal facility, including preliminary assumptions about long-term stewardship of an on-site disposal facility;
- Evaluation of candidate sites for the On-site Disposal Alternative;
- Environmental, socioeconomic, and land use impacts of disposal alternatives; and
- Waste volume reduction, recycling, and segregation options that could reduce capacity needed and costs for waste disposal.

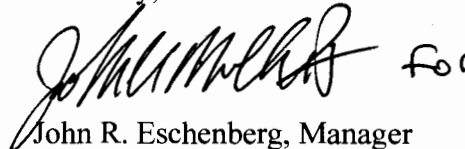
RECOMMENDATION 200: RECOMMENDATION ON THE DECISION PROCESS FOR SITTING A SECOND CERCLA WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY

The ORSSAB recommendation also requests consideration of waste from ORR operations, in addition to CERCLA cleanup activity, be factored into future waste management planning efforts. The Department will work with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to evaluate this issue.

The Board's continued interest in the decision process for future waste disposal is appreciated. A presentation about the FFS was made by the Department of Energy staff to the Board's Environmental Management committee in December 2010. Another update related to the ongoing FFS effort to the ORSSAB will be scheduled in FY12.

If you have questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact me at 576-0742 or David Adler at 576-4094.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Eschenberg", followed by the word "for" in a smaller, cursive script.

John R. Eschenberg, Manager
Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management