



## Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

July 12, 2016

Ms. Belinda Price, Chair  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
Post Office Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Ms. Price:

**RESPONSE TO YOUR LETTER DATED MAY 18, 2016, REGARDING  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY OAK RIDGE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUDGET  
REQUEST**

Reference: Letter from Belinda Price to Susan Cange, *Recommendation 232: Recommendations on the FY 2018 DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Budget Request*, dated May 18, 2016

I would like to express my appreciation for the interest the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board has taken in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget formulation effort.

With regard to your first recommendation, associated with accelerating the design and construction schedule for the Mercury Treatment Facility, please note that this project has been designated as a line item construction project; therefore, the only funding that can be used to design and construct this facility is the funding amount that Congress specifically appropriates for this line item project. Congress has appropriated \$9.4 million for this line item construction project in FY 2016, which is \$2.4 million more than the President's Budget request. This has allowed the Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) to make significant progress on the design of the treatment system. OREM is evaluating options to begin site preparation work earlier than planned and we will keep you apprised of the status of this evaluation. Additionally, OREM is requesting an increase in funding for FY 2018 to reflect the planned ramp up for construction.

The second recommendation in your letter requests that the Department consider providing additional funding "for more in-depth groundwater activities at select locations, particularly to address questions related to offsite contaminate migration." As you know, OREM has dedicated funding in the past and will continue to request funding for the collection and analysis of data to support groundwater and surface water decisions across the reservation. We are currently in discussions with the regulators regarding our next area of focus, including whether to do additional work to address questions related to potential offsite contaminate migration. It should be noted that a groundwater treatability study at the East Tennessee Technology Park is being funded to support the Record of Decision for the East Tennessee Technology Park.

Belinda Price

-2-

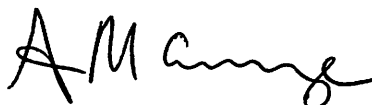
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Thank you for your recommendations; they have been submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A M Cange".

Susan M. Cange  
Manager

cc:

Jeff Crane, EPA Region 4  
Connie Jones, EPA Region 4  
Kristof Czartoryski, TDEC, Oak Ridge  
John Owsley, TDEC, Oak Ridge  
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor  
Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager  
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive  
David Borak, EM-3.2, FORS  
Dave Adler, EM-942  
Jay Mullis, EM-90  
Melyssa Noe, EM-942  
Ed Worth, EM-94