



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831—
June 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Dixon:

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

- References:
- 1) ORSSAB letter dated March 12, 2009, entitled, *Recommendation 177: Recommendation on the National Historic Preservation Act Implementation at U.S. DOE-ORO and Section 106 Process Presentation of September 10, 2008, to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board*, from Steven Dixon to Steve McCracken
 - 2) ORSSAB letter dated February 12, 2009, entitled, *Recommendation on Alternatives to Memorialize the K-25 Building at East Tennessee Technology Park*, from Steven Dixon to Steve McCracken
 - 3) ORSSAB letter dated July 18, 2008, entitled, *Recommendation 172: Recommendation to the Department of Energy-Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management on Lessons Learned from Effort to reserve the North Tower of the K-25 Building for Historic Purposes*, from Lance Mezga to Steve McCracken
 - 4) ORSSAB letter dated March 24, 2008, entitled, *Recommendation on Historic Preservation of the K-25 Building at East Tennessee Technology Park*, from Lance Mezga to Steve McCracken

First, let me express my appreciation to the Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) for taking on the challenge first requested of you in the fall of 2007 for recommendations on the preservation of the K-25 Building North Tower. This has been a long process and I appreciate the effort that the Board has invested. The SSAB's input has, and will continue to be, invaluable as Department of Energy (DOE), plans historical preservation activities on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

This letter addresses SSAB's recommendations contained within the above four (4) referenced letters. The consulting parties meeting held in early May were key to positioning us to respond to your recommendations.

Response Summaries to the Recommendations Received:

- **K-25 Building alternatives:** DOE has determined that because of the deteriorated state of the North Tower, and stability issues associated with the inside walls of the basement the K-25 Building, these structures must be demolished. This decision was also based upon the fact that it would not be practical to stabilize these structures and leave them in a condition that would be safe for use. We are currently developing an alternative approach that would create a new interpretive center for the public to visit at the site. Once a final decision is agreed to by the parties, the existing MOA will be revised for review and approval.

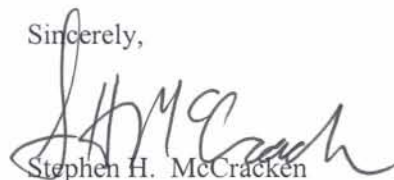
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- On May 6, 2009, the NHPA consulting parties also initiated discussions on the Integrated Facility Disposition Project (IFDP) historic preservation measures decisions that need to be taken at the ORNL and Y-12 Sites. The main purpose of this meeting was to ensure that participants were aware of the many buildings at these two sites scheduled to be demolished prior to September 2011 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). DOE representatives from ORNL and Y-12 were in attendance at the meeting. A vast majority of these buildings have already been recognized as not being historical significant. Final mitigation measures have not been approved on a few of the ARRA funded buildings demolitions, but will be in place prior to demolition.
- Initiating this process for IFDP facilities now will facilitate early identification of the historical preservation requirements for facilities that are not slated for ongoing missions.
- We respectfully chose to not accept the recommendation for a Historical Preservation liaison within the DOE HQ EM program. At present, I coordinate directly with senior headquarters management on these issues and this approach is working well.
- The SSAB also recommended establishment of baseline funding plans for future Historical Preservation Act compliance requirements. The Department's current expectation is that lead program offices responsible for the sites will be responsible for making funding available, as necessary to sustain commitments made under NHPA. In Oak Ridge, this will require that the EM program arrange funding for mitigation efforts at the ETTP Site, NNSA fund activities at the NNSA facilities at Y-12, and the Science program fund for preservation activities at Science facilities. These funding needs will be established after final mitigative measures have been selected for facilities on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

I agree with the need for careful advanced planning on these matters, and the need to ensure that we appropriately preserve the priceless history of facilities and activities conducted on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

If you have any questions or if we can be of any further assistance please feel free to contact me at (865) 576-0742, Dave Adler at (865) 576-4094, or Pat Halsey at (865) 576-4025.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. McCracken
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Catherine Brennan, EM-13, FORS
Melissa Nielson, EM-13, FORS
Katatra Vasquez, SE-322
Connie Jones, EPA, Region 4
John Owsley, TDEC, Oak Ridge
Mike Farmer, Roane County Mayor
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