



Department of Energy

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

June 8, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Murphree:

IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 187: RECOMMENDATION ON A PHASED APPROACH FOR ADDRESSING POTENTIAL OFF-SITE CONTAMINATION IN MELTON VALLEY

Thank you for your recent letter proposing a phased approach for addressing potential off-site groundwater contamination in Melton Valley. Based on input received from technical staff, I can report that our planned approach for evaluation of these concerns is largely consistent with the approach recommended.

Efforts are already underway to analyze ground water for radionuclides, trace elements, pH, specific gravity, salinity and electrical properties from existing and newly established monitoring wells constructed for this purpose. In particular, we will be sampling wells previously found to have elevated pH measurements to see if these results can be duplicated.

For the near term, we expect to rely more heavily on direct monitoring of ground water, rather than estimations generated by modeling, due to the highly complex geological conditions present in the area and our inability to develop a simulation model capable of accurately predicting contaminant migration.

Over time, monitoring results will be used to determine if additional wells are required to evaluate conditions in the area. All of this activity will be coordinated with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

I welcome the Board's recommendations on this subject, and have asked staff to ensure that Board members are kept informed of our progress on this monitoring effort.

If you have questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact me at 576-0742, Pat Halsey at 576-4025, or David Adler at 576-4094.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Eschenberg", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

John R. Eschenberg
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Manager

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See cc's list on page 2

Ron Murphree

-2-

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APPROACH FOR ADDRESSING POTENTIAL OFF-SITE CONTAMINATION IN MELTON
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cc:

Connie Jones, EPA, Region 4
John Owsley, TDEC, Oak Ridge
Catherine Brennan, EM-42
Melissa Nielson, EM-42