



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 12, 2011

Ms. Margaret Owen, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Ms. Owen:

Thank you for your September 19, 2011, letter recommending that the Department of Energy (DOE) consider using Federal transport and/or disposition funds to relocate designated cultural/historic property items to outside organizations, when the organizations are unable to fund the relocation themselves. As you summarized in your letter, it is the current policy of DOE and Office of Environmental Management (EM) to donate property with cultural or historic value when that property no longer has reuse value to the Government, has been deemed appropriate for beneficial reuse, and has been identified for disposition. The receiving entity is responsible for the associated removal and/or transport costs to the offsite destination.

Specifics regarding disposition of cultural or historic property and associated negotiations between the EM site and the interested organization are handled by the Field Manager, and his or her staff, on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with field site budget authority. As a part of those negotiations, it is reasonable, as your recommendation suggests, for Field Managers to evaluate Federal disposition costs relative to relocation costs in making decisions about cultural or historic property, where the receiving entity does not have funds to pay for removal and/or transport and has asked for Federal support for this purpose.

The EM budget must be managed and allocated toward mission goals of compliance, cleanup, and closure of its mission sites. Field Managers and their staff have to first ensure that EM cleanup goals are achieved in a safe, timely, and compliant manner. EM will consider Federal financial facilitation of the relocation if the following criteria are met:

- 1) the cultural or historic item has no reuse value to the Government
- 2) the item will be donated to an outside organization,
- 3) EM funds are available, and
- 4) the cost of the relocation is less than or comparable to that of standard disposal estimates.

Within those circumstances, EM will work with the property receiving entity to explore legal financial mechanisms to facilitate reuse of the cultural and historic items



Thank you for your recommendation. We look forward to working with you to facilitate reuse of historic or cultural property items.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Melissa A. Nielson, Director, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Accountability, at (202) 586-0356 or Ms. Cate Alexander, Designated Federal Officer, Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, at (202) 586-7711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Huizenga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

David Huizenga
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: J. Eschenberg, OR
C. Alexander, EM-42
M. Nielson, EM-42