



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 24, 2014

Mr. David Hemelright
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Hemelright:

Thank you for your March 4 letter recommending the Department of Energy (DOE) make publically available disposition path maps for the current and planned legacy disposition paths.

At the November 5, 2013, meeting, you were briefed by Ms. Christine Gelles, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, on the Department's tool for low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste planning. Florida International University Applied Research Center maintains the tool, called the Waste Information Management System (WIMS). WIMS identifies waste forecasts volumes, material classes, and disposition pathways. The system also enables waste managers to identify potential choke points and barriers to final disposition. The system generates waste disposition maps and pathway geographic information system maps. We believe this is an effective tool to track low-level and mixed low-level waste disposition. WIMS is publically accessible by creating a user name and password. Please visit <http://www.emwims.org/> to register and use WIMS.

While similar systems do not exist for transuranic and high-level waste disposition, the programs and strategies for these waste streams involve fewer variables. As you know, all defense-related transuranic waste is designated for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The disposition path for non-defense wastes is a matter pending ongoing National Environmental Policy Act review. While a small percentage of defense contact-handled transuranic waste may be shipped to an interim site for processing or certification prior to disposal at WIPP, these decisions are made based on a dynamic set of technical and financial factors. While a publically accessible interactive system is not needed to plan and communicate transuranic waste disposition plans, the Office of Environmental Management (EM) does have numerous informative maps that summarize and explain DOE's national transuranic waste program.

For high-level waste, only Idaho, Savannah River, and the Office of River Protection possess DOE-owned high-level waste. In the absence of a designated geological repository, interim storage at these sites is planned for the foreseeable future. Similar to transuranic waste, EM has summary, informational maps that detail the current high-level waste inventories at these sites.



Management and staff from EM Office of Waste Management are happy to discuss the capability of WIMS and other communication and planning tools with you and assist in generating reports that meet your needs. We look forward to a dialogue with you about ways EM might more effectively communicate our challenges and accomplishments regarding the disposition of legacy wastes.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Kristen Ellis, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Community Activities, at (202) 586-5810.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Huizenga".

David Huizenga
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

cc: James Owendoff, EM-2 (Acting)
Jack Craig, EM-2.1 (Acting)
Candice Trummell, EM-3
Kristen Ellis, EM-3.2
Frank Marcinowski, EM-30