



## Department of Energy

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

March 11, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Murphree:

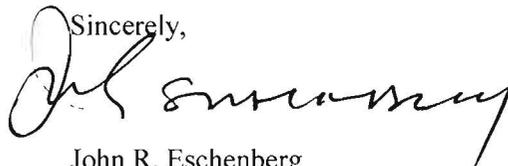
### **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 185: RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING BEAR CREEK BURIAL GROUNDS**

Thank you for your recent recommendation related to the Bear Creek Valley Burial Grounds. I agree with your suggestion to evaluate alternatives for reducing contaminant releases from these burial grounds. We will complete these evaluations within six months.

Prior to implementing new control measures for these burial grounds, the Department must coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Tennessee to establish the scope and budgetary priority for these actions. Releases from this site exceed cleanup goals established by the Bear Creek Valley Watershed Record of Decision, but proximate surface water concentrations are still relatively low, and pose no significant risks to our onsite work force or members of the public. As discussed in our recent public workshop on budgeting priorities, other cleanup projects on the reservation may receive higher schedule priority.

In any event, completing analyses requested by your recommendation will enable informed decisions concerning possible near-term control measures for the Bear Creek Burial Grounds. I am directing staff to conduct these analyses and will schedule briefings for the Board once they have been completed.

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

Sincerely,  


John R. Eschenberg  
Assistant Manager for  
Environmental Management

cc:  
Cate Brennan, EM-13, FORS  
Connie Jones, EPA  
John Owsley, TDEC