



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

May 4, 2000

Mr. Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Richardson:

Formation of Panel to Examine New Technology Alternatives to Incineration

In March you announced that plans to build a mixed-waste incinerator at Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) will be put on hold. You also indicated that a blue-ribbon panel will be convened to assess and recommend new technology alternatives to incineration. For this to be a truly national initiative, we believe DOE sites with incineration facilities should be represented, and we request that the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board be allowed to nominate a representative to the panel.

As you know, Oak Ridge is the only DOE site in the country with an incinerator that treats wastes contaminated with radionuclides, hazardous constituents, and PCBs: the Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator (TSCAI). Our Board has studied TSCAI extensively over the years, including evaluation of emissions monitoring technologies. We have sponsored public meetings on its operations; we have participated in a blue-ribbon panel appointed by Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist to study TSCAI safety issues; and we have made review of TSCAI operations an ongoing activity of our Waste Management Committee. Members of our Board have also kept themselves informed on the status of new technologies and their deployment. You may be sure that any recommendation we make for a representative to this new panel will be an informed choice.

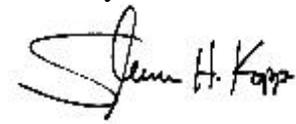
We feel strongly that including a stakeholder representative from Oak Ridge will add value to the panel's deliberations by providing perspectives that could only have been achieved by actively participating in the study of a facility as unique as TSCAI and from having represented the public in discussing waste management and health and safety issues associated with the incinerator. We understand that other DOE incinerators are slated for shutdown in the coming months and that TSCAI will likely be shut down in two or three years. Oak Ridge stakeholders have a vested interest then in

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participating on any panel charged with examining alternatives to incineration. While the focus for this issue may have begun with construction of an incinerator at INEEL, we believe it makes sense to allow sites that may be directly affected by the panel's recommendations to take an active role in its deliberations since these recommendations may be applied nationwide.

We appreciate your consideration of our request, and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Steven H. Kopp, Chair

cc: Leah Dever, DOE-ORO
Susan Gawarecki, Oak Ridge Reservation Local Oversight Committee
Stan Hobson, Interim Chair, INEEL Citizens Advisory Board
Carolyn Huntoon, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
Rod Nelson, DOE-ORO
Karen Patterson, Chair, Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
Teresa Perry, DOE-ORO