



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 9, 2003

Mr. David N. Mosby  
Chair  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 2001, EM-91  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

This responds to your July 16, 2003, letter regarding recommendations to accelerate removal of remote-handled transuranic (RH-TRU) waste from the Oak Ridge Reservation.

I am impressed that the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) has developed a comprehensive set of site-specific recommendations related to the hurdles facing the RH-TRU program. We, along with the Oak Ridge SSAB, are anxious to obtain the regulatory approvals that will permit disposal of RH-TRU waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). We are also working to initiate RH-TRU waste disposal at WIPP during fiscal year 2005.

We agree in principle with the recommendations. The recommendations support concepts presented in the *National Transuranic Waste Management Plan (Rev. 3, July 2002)*, the *Performance Management Plan for Transuranic Waste (August 2002)*, and recent and ongoing transuranic waste studies by the National Research Council. We remain committed to working with the Oak Ridge SSAB, other stakeholders, and regulators to accelerate cleanup of transuranic waste sites and to implement, to the extent practicable, recommendations like those offered by the SSAB.

If you have any further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Ms. Patrice M. Bubar, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Integration and Disposition, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

  
Jessie Hill Roberson  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

