



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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November 9, 2006

Mr. Steve McCracken  
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management  
DOE-Oak Ridge Operations  
P.O. Box 2001, EM-90  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. McCracken:

**Recommendation 151: Recommendations on Logistics for a Public Meeting  
on the 2006 Remediation Effectiveness Report and CERCLA 5-Year Review**

At our November 8, 2006, meeting, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the enclosed recommendation.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to receiving your written response by February 8, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance J. Mezga".

Lance J. Mezga, Chair

Enclosure

cc/enc: Dave Adler, DOE-ORO  
Mike Farmer, Roane County Mayor  
Doug Frost, DOE-HQ  
Pat Halsey, DOE-ORO  
Connie Jones, EPA Region 4  
Rex Lynch, Anderson County Mayor  
James O'Connor, Oak Ridge City Manager  
Melissa Nielson, DOE-HQ  
John Owsley, TDEC



## **Recommendation 151**

### **Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board**

### **Recommendations on Logistics for a Public Meeting**

### **on the 2006 Remediation Effectiveness Report**

### **and CERCLA 5-Year Review**

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#### **Background**

The Oak Ridge Reservation Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) was established between the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) in 1992, to stipulate the administrative processes by which all environmental restoration activities on the reservation are to be performed in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The scope of the CERCLA Five-Year Review is to report on completed and, to some degree, ongoing CERCLA actions on the reservation and to determine whether the remedy or remedies selected at a site is/are effective in the protection of human health and the environment.

The Remediation Effectiveness Report (RER) is an annual FFA document that assesses the performance of completed CERCLA remedial actions on and around the Oak Ridge Reservation, in compliance with the requirements of each CERCLA decision. Every fifth year the RER scope is expanded to incorporate the Five-Year Review effectiveness information.

The Five-Year Review documents the methods, findings, and conclusions of the Five-Year Review process. In addition, the review provides information on technical or effectiveness issues found during the review, if any, and identifies recommendations to address them.

The first Five-Year Review was performed in 1996 but only reported on a very limited scope of the CERCLA remediation projects completed. The review took place five years after the first CERCLA record of decision activity was completed in October 1991 for the United Nuclear Corporation Disposal site.

The first reservation-wide review took place in 2001, at which time all site reviews were moved into the same five-year cycle. The review was conceptualized and designed with the aid of all FFA stakeholders, including DOE, EPA, TDEC, and citizen groups overseeing remediation efforts on the reservation. This year the RER is serving as the second reservation-wide CERCLA Five-Year Review.

The “2006 Remediation Effectiveness Report/Second Reservation-wide CERCLA Five-Year Review for the U.S. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation” (DOE/OR/01-2289) presents information collected in FY 2005 (October 1, 2004, through September 30, 2005).

#### **Discussion**

As a requirement of CERCLA, DOE is obliged to provide access to and public notice about the RER/ Five-Year Review results. And while no regulatory driver exists for a public meeting on the RER/ Five-Year Review, DOE, TDEC, EPA, and members of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) have historically agreed that a public forum is the best way for DOE to meet its public notice requirement and provide information about the RER/Five-Year Review. As a result, a public meeting was held on the first reservation Five-Year Review on September 13, 2001, at the Garden Plaza Hotel.

This year, DOE again agreed to host a public meeting and approached the ORSSAB Stewardship Committee for recommendations and guidance on planning meeting logistics and content. The committee discussed the issue at its October 17, 2006, meeting, attended by the DOE RER/Five-Year Review project manager. The recommendations crafted by the committee and subsequently approved by the ORSSAB membership are contained below.

## **Recommendations**

- **General Recommendations:**
  - Make the RER/Five-Year Review the main focus of a monthly ORSSAB meeting.
  - Constrain the ORSSAB meeting to a very short business meeting prior to the start of the RER/Five-Year Review public meeting.
  - Hold the meeting at the DOE Information Center sometime after the first of the year. The meeting should be conducted as soon as practical upon approval of the RER by the three FFA parties and when attendance would not be adversely affected by holidays or inclement weather.
  - Have poster stations around the meeting room where DOE can provide details on monitoring results, controls in place, and other data for the five watersheds and other remediation areas.
  - Ask EPA and TDEC to participate actively in the meeting.
- **Agenda:**
  - Start with opening comments from DOE, EPA, TDEC, and local government officials in attendance.
  - Give a general overview of both the RER and the Five-Year Review. The overview should give the public some perspective and explain the significance of the review to the cleanup process. The review should clearly identify critical changes in site conditions or monitoring trends affecting site stewardship goals.
  - Follow with comments and presentations from a panel composed of representatives of DOE, EPA, and TDEC, seated at the front of the room.
  - Break for a half-hour poster session.
  - Reassemble for a wrap-up question-and-answer session.
  - Encourage members of the public to continue looking over the posters following conclusion of the question-and-answer session.
- **Advertising:**
  - Be clear that the intended audience is members of the general public who are not completely familiar with the details of the cleanup program.
  - Place a formal notice in the Oak Ridge, Roane County, and Anderson County newspapers.
  - Submit a news release to local media in addition to the public notice in newspapers.
  - Invite the DOE-Oak Ridge manager, the Oak Ridge mayor, the Oak Ridge city manager, the county mayors, and appropriate congressmen.
- **Other Comments and Considerations:**
  - Provide a fact sheet explaining what the RER and Five-Year Review are and furnishing a high-level overview of the results.
  - Instill the notion in those attending the meeting that their comments and concerns will be taken into consideration in subsequent RER/Five-Year Review planning.

- Even though there will be a short ORSSAB business meeting beforehand, do not set up the room in an open “U” as normally done. Use classroom-style seating to make more room.