



## Department of Energy

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

January 11, 2012

Ms. Maggie Owen, Chair, PE, CPE  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Ms. Owen:

### **RESPONSE TO SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 203: RECOMMENDATION ON THE URANIUM-233 PROJECT RE-EXAMINATION**

Reference: September 15, 2011 Letter from Ron Murphree to John Eschenberg, Recommendation 203:  
Recommendation on the Uranium-233 Project Re-Examination

Thank you for your letter of September 15, 2011, expressing support for our alternative approach to U-233 disposition.

We are pleased to report that significant progress has been made toward implementation of the innovative approach discussed at the Site Specific Advisory Board's September 14 meeting. On December 19, 2011, Isotek Systems, LLC, completed a first shipment of the Zero Power Reactor (ZPR) plates, the largest component of our planned programmatic transfers. When completed, these shipments will preserve nearly 45 kg of U-233 for criticality experimentation and training purposes. As noted in your letter, these material transfers, when combined with the planned direct disposal of the Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Project (CEUSP) material, will eliminate over half of the U-233 inventory without any need for dissolution and downblending. Toward that end, the Department of Energy (DOE) negotiated a fixed price with Isotek in December for direct disposition of the ZPR plates and CEUSP material by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2014.

DOE-Headquarters and Congress remain equally supportive of the alternative disposition strategy. Despite significant reductions in the Department's overall FY 2012 budget for Environmental Management activities, the U-233 disposition program was fully funded in FY 2012. This will enable completion of ZPR plate shipments and CEUSP disposal planning in FY 2012, as well as analysis of final alternatives for processing of the remaining inventory. Consistent with your recommendation, this analysis will include taking a second look at any potential for additional programmatic transfers of U-233 in cooperation with the National Nuclear Security Agency and the DOE Office of Science.

We are very excited about the growing momentum in the U-233 disposition program, and look forward to a continuing dialogue on the subject.

M. Owen

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RECOMMENDATION ON THE URANIUM-233 PROJECT RE-EXAMINATION**

If you have questions or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact me at (865) 576-0742, or Dave Adler at (865) 576-4094.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Cange, Acting Manager  
Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management

cc:

Connie Jones, EPA  
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