



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations
Paducah Site Office
P.O. Box 1410
Paducah, KY 42001

July 26, 2000

Mr. J. Craig Rhodes, Chairman
Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant
Citizens Advisory Board
200 McCracken Boulevard
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 99-02

At a regular meeting of the Site Specific Advisory Board held August 19, 1999, the Board discussed the proposal to recycle materials present in the scrap yards of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and passed the following recommendation:

“The Paducah SSAB opposes any plan for ‘free release’ of and/or unrestricted end use of radioactively contaminated metals into commerce, absent federal regulations on this issue.”

On July 13, 2000, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson suspended the release of radiologically contaminated and potentially contaminated scrap metals for recycling from Department of Energy nuclear facilities pending the establishment of national standards governing de minimus levels of radiological contamination. Secretary Richardson made this decision to ensure consumers that scrap metal released from Energy Department facilities for recycling contains no detectable contamination from departmental activities.

While the Secretary encouraged the Department’s managers to look for opportunities to promote internal reuse and recycling, his action has eliminated free release or unrestricted use of such materials, and is consistent with the recommendation of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Don Seaborg".

W. Don Seaborg, Site Manager
Paducah Site Office

cc:

~~J. D. Sheppard, UE-55~~

S. Speer, BJC/Kevil (SSAB and Ex-Officio Members)