



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831—

May 31, 2002

Mr. Luther Gibson
Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
P.O. Box 2001, EM-90
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Gibson:

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN MODIFICATIONS OF/OR EXPLANATIONS OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE FOR CERCLA RECORDS OF DECISION AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

During the next few months the Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Operations Office Environmental Management Program will be proposing to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) either a modification of or an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) for the Melton Valley Record of Decision (ROD). To facilitate public involvement in this activity, we are proposing the following process. If these efforts prove to be of value to both the public and the Environmental Management Program, considerations will be made to make the process standard for future changes to RODs.

- A fact sheet will be developed clearly explaining the scope of the proposed change to the Melton Valley ROD and the potential impacts to the original decision. The fact sheet will be reviewed by the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Environmental Restoration (ER) Committee for clarity and completeness.
- The finalized fact sheet will be made available to the public at the DOE Information Center, and public notification of its availability will be made.
- DOE, TDEC, and EPA ex-officios will keep the Board aware of the decision being made to either modify the ROD (requiring the generation of a Proposed Plan) or to change the ROD through the ESD process.
- DOE will be available to brief the ER Committee and/or the entire SSAB membership on public comments received during the ongoing development/negotiation process with EPA and TDEC.

We hope that this process will result in early public knowledge and involvement in necessary changes to signed RODs. We appreciate of the Board's extensive efforts during the initial

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signing of these RODs, and we hope that the Board will support our making appropriate changes to these RODs in our effort to accelerate the work being performed on the Reservation. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Halsey of my staff at 576-4025.

Sincerely,



Gerald G. Boyd
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management

cc:

Myrna Redfield, EM-91, ORO
David Adler, EM-912, EM-913, ORO
Donna Perez, EM-911, ORO
John Owsley, TDEC
Connie Jones, EPA 4