



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

June 23, 2022

Mr. Leon Shields
Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
Post Office Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Shields:

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 249: ON THE FY 2024 OREM PROGRAM BUDGET PRIORITIES

Reference: Letter from Leon Shields to Laura Wilkerson, *Recommendation 249: On the FY 2024 OREM Program Budget Priorities*, dated June 14, 2022

I would like to express my appreciation for the interest the Board has taken in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget formulation effort. Thank you for your recommendations. We will submit your recommendation to the Environmental Management Federal Advisory Committee Act Designated Federal Officer.

In addition, I am providing a response to each of the Board's recommendations below:

1. The expansion of ORNL's Aquatic Ecology Laboratory provides a vital resource to the EM complex. Future requests should continue funding support for research into mercury and methyl-mercury pollution and prioritize designing and testing new and improved remediation technologies.

Response: The Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Office (OREM) will continue to request funding in our budget submissions to advance technologies for dealing with mercury.

2. Provide adequate funding to construct and operate the urgently needed new onsite disposition facility to allow uninterrupted cleanup progress at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12).

Response: OREM will continue to request funding in our budget submissions to construct and operate the new onsite facility.

3. Increase funding where possible to ensure the Mercury Treatment Facility meets the operational date of 2025 as presented to the community and ORSSAB. In addition, consider using plus-ups or surplus funds to upgrade equipment and technology that may have improved since the original schedule was developed.

Response: Congress fully funded this Line-Item construction project in Fiscal Year 2021 to construct this facility. We can only use Line-Item funding appropriated by Congress for this project to construct this facility.

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4. Provide adequate funds to maintain or upgrade infrastructure.

Response: OREM is funding upgrades that will allow safe and efficient transportation of cleanup debris to disposal sites.

5. Complete transfer of all applicable land parcels at ETPP for productive purposes. Continue working with community partners to fully realize the economic development potential of reindustrialization after transfer.

Response: OREM is working with community partners in the economic development arena, and OREM will continue to transfer available land parcels at the East Tennessee Technology Park to other U.S. Department of Energy program/community organizations.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Melyssa Noe at 241-3315 or me at 576-0742.

Sincerely,

Laura O.
Wilkerson

Digitally signed by Laura
O. Wilkerson
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Laura O. Wilkerson
Acting Manager

cc:

Terry Frank, Anderson County
Mark Watson, City of Oak Ridge
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