



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 20, 2014

Mr. David Hemelright
Chair, Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Hemelright:

Thank you for your September 30 letter regarding the development of communication tools to strengthen public relations and outreach capabilities within the Office of Environmental Management (EM). We agree that the ability to deliver information through a variety of platforms and share programmatic successes is critical to strengthening public support for environmental cleanup.

EM aims to provide the public with clear, timely information about its mission and activities, including overall goals and progress toward achieving those goals. Your recommendations to produce multimedia communication tools falls very much in line with our ongoing efforts to improve public outreach and better engage different audiences. Over the past several years, the EM Office of External Affairs has worked with the field sites to develop materials to aid in those efforts, including news flashes, newsletters, fact sheets, infographics, and an increased social media presence on Facebook, YouTube, and Flickr. Many of our field sites have also established online video libraries and channels that contain short, project-specific vignettes, as well as longer multimedia presentations like *Oak Ridge Environmental Management: 30 Years in 30 Minutes*, and *The Hanford Story* documentary.

As noted in your letter, EM has made substantial progress across the complex in nearly every area of nuclear waste cleanup, and has a compelling story to tell. To help capture that story, we launched an interactive timeline in 2014, which compiles photos and videos chronicling hundreds of critical cleanup accomplishments and other historic events spanning the beginning of the Manhattan Project through the present. The timeline can be found at <http://energy.gov/em/em-historical-timeline>.

We welcome your continued input on our communication tools and strategies, and look forward to future discussions on these important issues. If you have any questions, please contact me or Candice Trummell, Director, Office of External Affairs, at (202) 287-5603.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Whitney".

Mark Whitney
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

