



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

July 25, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Environmental Management (EM) Site-Specific Advisory Board's (SSAB) recommendations regarding the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) report titled "*Waste Disposition: A New Approach to DOE's Waste Management Must Be Pursued.*" The EM SSAB recommends that the Department of Energy (DOE) undertake a comprehensive analysis of the ECA Report, evaluate site-specific impacts, address questions from the EM SSAB Chairs, and provide a timeline.

We appreciate the Chairs' engagement to ensure successful EM cleanup efforts. EM Headquarters has previously met with representatives of the ECA on this report. As you are aware, the Department has stated publicly that it is evaluating a potential revision to DOE Order 435.1, *Radioactive Waste Management*, to interpret "high-level radioactive waste" to enhance the risk-based components of the definition while maintaining public health and safety.

The Department agrees with ECA that there are likely to be significant benefits to disposition DOE's significant quantities of reprocessing wastes - one of the most expensive components of EM's Cold War legacy cleanup mission. DOE also agrees that once the policy is in place, impacts of implementing the changes, such as those mentioned at a high-level by ECA, need to be addressed on a site-by-site basis. Please note that DOE continues to conduct internal analyses and evaluation of the merits of a risk-based classification system for reprocessing waste, that address implementation questions such as the detailed questions posed by the board on the ECA Report. Key examples for implementation include:

- What would the "risk" based classification look like?
- How much waste would be removed from the High-Level Waste category under new definition?
- How much of new Transuranic and Low-Level Waste derive from liquid waste?
- What is the cost/benefit impact for DOE sites?



Thank you for your continued focus and drive to support our important environmental cleanup mission. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David Borak, EM SSAB Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 586-9928.

Sincerely,



Anne Marie White
Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

cc: James Owendoff, EM-2
Mark Gilbertson, EM-4
Betsy Connell, EM-4.3