



Department of Energy

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

September 24, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Wilson:

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 245: ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 DOE OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUDGET PRIORITIES

Reference: Letter from Dennis Wilson to Jay Mullis, *Recommendation 245: On the FY2021 Oak Ridge Environmental Management Budget Priorities*, dated August 28, 2019

I would like to express my appreciation for the interest the Board has taken in the fiscal year 2021 budget formulation effort. Thank you for your recommendation. 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. Continued testing and implementation of measures to stabilize and control mercury-contamination in the banks and bottom of East Fork Poplar Creek to prevent the spread of contamination and minimize recontamination. In consideration of the unusually high amount of rainfall that the Oak Ridge Reservation has received in the last few years, and the resulting stormwater runoff, ensuring the banks of East Fork Poplar Creek are stable is of utmost importance.

Response: Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) has included \$3.0 million in the FY 2021 budget request to continue mercury remediation technology development activities.

2. Address delays in building and operational dates for the Mercury Treatment Facility due to funding and/or procurement delays. Increase funding wherever possible to ensure the Mercury Treatment Facility meets the original operational date of 2022 as presented to both the community and ORSSAB.

Response: OREM received a significant plus up in 2019 in this construction line item project. OREM FY 2021 budget request includes adequate funding to fully fund the construction contract that was awarded this year. The current construction contract schedule has physical construction of the facilities completed in 2022, however, after adding schedule contingency, start up, and commissioning, the facility is not scheduled to be operational until 2025 which is consistent with the approved Critical Decision-2/3.

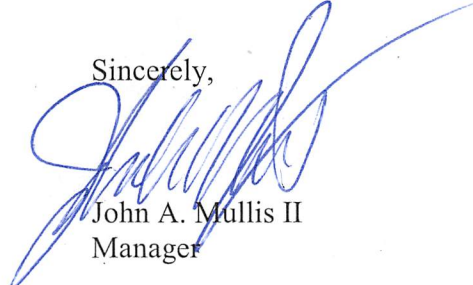
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3. Provide continued support for activities leading to the selection and implementation of final groundwater and soil remedies at East Tennessee Technology Park.

Response: OREM has included adequate funding in its FY 2021 budget request to keep East Tennessee Technology Park on track to be completed in FY 2024. OREM FY 2021 budget request includes \$2.0 million to continue Groundwater Investigation.

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact me at 576-0742, or Dave Adler at 576-4094.

Sincerely,



John A. Mullis II
Manager

cc:

Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Connie Jones, EPA, Region 4
Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Kristof Czartoryski, TDEC, Oak Ridge
Chris Thompson; TDEC, Oak Ridge
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