



Department of Energy

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

May 28, 2021

Ms. Michelle Lohmann, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
Post Office Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Ms. Lohman:

**RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 248: ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2023
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OAK RIDGE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT BUDGET PRIORITIES**

Reference: Letter from Michelle Lohmann to Jay Mullis, *Recommendation 248:*
On the FY2023 Oak Ridge Environmental Management Budget Priorities,
dated May 17, 2021

I would like to express my appreciation for the interest the Board has taken in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget formulation effort. Thank you for your recommendations. We will submit your recommendations 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. 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: Working with community partners in the economic development arena, OREM will continue to transfer available land parcels at the East Tennessee Technology Park to other DOE program/community organizations.
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: The Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (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 the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. In addition, consider using plus-ups or surplus funds to upgrade equipment and technology that may have improved since the original schedule was developed.

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OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUDGET PRIORITIES**

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

4. 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: OREM will continue to request funding in our budget submissions to advance technologies for dealing with mercury.

5. Provide adequate funds to maintain or upgrade infrastructure to ensure safe transportation of waste from cleanup projects to disposal.

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

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

Digitally signed by John A.
Mullis
Date: 2021.05.28 14:15:22
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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
Kelly Snyder, EM-3.2
Dave Adler, EM-94
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