

November 16, 2004

Mr. Stephen McCracken
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001, EM-90
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Subject: Concerns regarding proposed haul road from ETTP to CERCLA waste facility

Dear Mr. McCracken:

The Citizens' Advisory Panel (CAP) of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) Local Oversight Committee (LOC) is concerned about the proposed construction of a haul road from East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) to the CERCLA waste facility. This is a new action that will impact the environment of the Oak Ridge Reservation because the geographic area covered by the haul road and the number of wetlands impacted are much broader than were evaluated by the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision (ROD) for the CERCLA waste facility. The action deserves to be considered with a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study rather than being justified by an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) to the ROD for the CERCLA waste facility.

If the action is done under the ROD, it should at least have the status of a ROD amendment, which by statute requires more stringent analysis and consideration of public input than does an ESD. In this case, the circumstances are such that written public comments should be solicited.

Following is a listing of concerns that the CAP has identified that have not been adequately addressed by DOE:

- The environmental impact of the proposed haul road and associated traffic on the ORR, especially on the National Environmental Research Park;
- The effect on the NABIR background study area;
- The impact on the Wheat Historical District and other culturally sensitive sites;
- The impact on operations of the Secret City Railroad;
- The additional risk of releases attributable to reduced monitoring proposed by BJC due to lack of DOT jurisdiction;
- The cost of D&D of the haul road and whether that is calculated into the life-cycle costs for DOE;

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- Environmental impacts of any other auxiliary uses or connected actions (e.g. improvement of access for wild-land fire fighting);
- The feasibility and cost-effectiveness of alternative actions (e.g. use of Bear Creek Road); and
- The plans and extent of the decontamination and decommissioning of the haul road after termination of its use for hauling waste.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your decision on how to most appropriately evaluate this action.

Sincerely,

Norman A. Mulvenon
Chair, LOC Citizens' Advisory Panel

cc: LOC Register

LOC Board

LOC CAP

Gerald Boyd, Manager, DOE ORO

Jim Elmore, Acting NEPA Compliance Officer, DOE ORO

Carol Borgstrom, NEPA Compliance, DOE HQ

John Owsley, Director, TDEC DOE-O

Jeff Crane, FFA Project Manager, EPA Region 4

Pat Halsey, FFA Coordinator, DOE ORO

Amy Fitzgerald, City of Oak Ridge

Kerry Trammell, Chair, ORSSAB

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Bcc: Dave Adler, DOE ORO EM