

April 7, 2015

To Thom Mason, Director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Dear Thom,

Liane, Sandra, Ellen, and I appreciate the opportunity to talk last Friday with you, Leah, and Dave about the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. We understand your main concern is retaining the research options for Oak Ridge National Laboratory that can best be served by keeping the land under ownership of the Department of Energy. We think that the cultural landscapes opportunities for the Park can certainly be achieved with that objective in mind.

We are very interested in your ideas about tying together the landscape and history of Manhattan Project to tell a story about key cultural elements. It is clear that an interpretive plan needs to be developed based upon the work that was done during the Manhattan Project. Our discussion last Friday about the importance of human and environmental risks from the very beginning of the Manhattan Project and the sacrifices made by the local people will be an essential part of the story.

As Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) and the Tennessee Citizens Wilderness Planning (TCWP) move forward in discussions with the Department of Energy and other groups, we will keep you informed through communications with Leigha Edwards.

Best wishes,

Virginia Dale, AFORR President