



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831—

March 15, 1999

John D. Joslin, Chair
Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation
112 Newcrest Lane
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Mr. Joslin:

I refer to your letter dated February 20, 1999 addressed to Steven D. Richardson, Acting Manager of the Oak Ridge Operations Office (ORO). The issues addressed within your letter have long been topics of concern and consideration by the Department of Energy (DOE).

As part of the Federal government, DOE has a responsibility to assure the accomplishment of its current and potential mission objectives. Many of those objectives require adequate land interests to assure the success of its programs. Accordingly, ORO has conscientiously endeavored to maintain the core integrity of the reservation through retention of sufficient land holdings.

Additionally, DOE is trying to be responsible and responsive to the requests of the community for continuing industrial, commercial, and residential development that is required to assure a healthy economy. Several meetings have been held with the City of Oak Ridge, Anderson County, Roane County, and other entities to discuss available opportunities for this development. Those parties are aware of existing private land that has potential for such development.

The decision to excess any DOE land is made through an iterative process that includes both local and national reviews of the process. If the objectives of both DOE's mission and the betterment of the community can be met through partnerships with other parties that involve the use of underutilized or surplus land, DOE has an obligation to consider any viable proposal from which all parties may benefit. In the past, those partnerships have involved the leased use of underutilized DOE land and facilities through the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET).

I assure you and your committee that your issues are a continuing concern for DOE and that we will continue to strive for a balance between ensuring DOE's mandated mission and assisting, when possible, in economic benefits for the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Wilken".

Daniel H. Wilken
Assistant Manager
for Administration