

January 29, 2001

Ms. G. Leah Dever, Manager  
Oak Ridge Operations  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

BY FACSIMILE

Re: Oak Ridge Reservation land use planning

Dear Ms. Dever:

In response to some of the more impassioned but inaccurate responses in the press to my January 17, 2001 letter, I want to clarify the position of the Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) and the Tennessee Conservation League (TCL) with respect to land use planning for the Oak Ridge Reservation. Neither AFORR nor TCL, nor the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) for that matter, opposes all public or private development of ORR lands. We do believe that significant natural resource values need to be identified, evaluated and protected to the maximum extent practical, and that the EIS process under NEPA is the best tool for including the public in decisions about how to manage these publicly owned lands. But as AFORR and TCL have noted in previous communications with DOE, some development of ORR lands, and especially the utilization of previously developed parcels, could likely be undertaken consistent with protection of significant natural resource values even prior to the completion of any EIS.

We look forward to the discussion of ORR land use planning at the public meeting tomorrow, but we still believe a follow-up meeting would be most helpful to clarify our respective positions and possibly defuse the debate surrounding this issue.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Parrish  
Senior Attorney

cc: Carol Borgstrom, DOE Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance  
Jennifer Fowler, DOE ORO Legal Counsel  
Katy Kates, DOE Realty Officer, Oak Ridge Reservation  
David Allen, DOE ORO NEPA Compliance Officer  
Larry Clark, DOE Oak Ridge Operations  
Dev Joslin, Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation  
Marty Marina, Tennessee Conservation League