

Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation

136 West Revere Circle
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

September 21, 2004

Commissioner Betsy Child
Department of Environment and Conservation
State of Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0435

Dear Commissioner Child:

In May of this year the Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) and the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) wrote to you of our concerns regarding the length of time being taken to conclude the agreement between the State of Tennessee and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the ~3000-acre conservation easement on Black Oak Ridge of DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation. We also expressed concerns in that letter about the lack of communication to the public on progress with that agreement.

On June 2 you replied in a letter to both organizations that "TDEC is currently engaged in negotiations regarding the terms of the agreement" and "hopes to have language in a final form by the end of the summer."

Now that the end of summer is here we have heard nothing from either TDEC or DOE about the progress of negotiations. There have been no announcements regarding the attainment of an agreement. Furthermore, there have been no press releases concerning progress. Nor have there been any public forums to present information or to allow for public input.

While we have heard "through the grapevine" that some progress is being made, we feel that the public—including our two organizations—is not being kept informed. We would like at this time to formally request that TDEC provide the public with information on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dev Joslin, Acting President
Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation
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Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Cindy Kendrick, President
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
130 Tabor Road
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CC:

Joe Sanders, Office of General Counsel, State of Tennessee

John Owsley, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, DOE-Oversight office

Barry Turner, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Marsha White, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Reggie Reeves, Natural Heritage Program, Tennessee Department of Environment and
Conservation

Patrick Parker, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Steven Alexander, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mark Hastings, Tennessee Valley Authority

David McKinney, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Mike Butler, Director, Tennessee Conservation League

Scott Davis, Director, The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee