

Supercedes Letter Dated Feb. 2, 2001

Oak Ridge, TN. 37830
(865-483-0849)
February 3, 2001

Leagh Dever, Manager
US DOE Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001 M4
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8502

Dear Ms. Dever,

I am a member of the Advocates for the Oak Ride Reservation and support this group in their efforts to preserve the reservation for the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park and for its value as a wild sanctuary in the middle of this rapidly developing East Tennessee.

DOE violates NEPA by removing tracts of land and issuing a "finding of no significant impact" without considering the effects of this development on the balance of the reservation.

DOE has been arrogant and continuously demonstrates extreme prejudice in promoting a pro-development agenda while ignoring the wishes of a very large percentage of the population. The public witnessed the prejudice on 30 January when the pro-development people were given preferential treatment and assigned to speak first before the public was allowed to speak. This utilized the first half of a valuable meeting that was supposed to be for everyone to express his or her opinion.

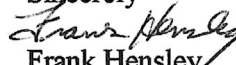
DOE has repeatedly been asked to produce a comprehensive land-use plan and I appreciate the good intentions with the 30 January meeting. This plan needs to be developed before any more ORR land is transferred to developers. This plan should evaluate the cost to benefits of development versus the benefits of a world class research center. The optimum approach would be to have an independent consultant produce this plan so there is not a conflict of interest as we are currently experiencing with DOE.

DOE is setting a dangerous precedent when they destroy irreplaceable resources, violate environmental regulations, and moves ahead without any plans.

It's not too late to save a large part of this reservation. The majority of the data required for a comprehensive land-use plan already exist, produced by Oak Ridge National Lab, The Nature Conservancy and DOE. This plan could easily be put together in a timely fashion and presently there is no critical need to develop any more land until this takes place. You are to be commended for stopping ED3 and I hope this is a sign that future land transfer decisions will be postponed until a plan has been approved

I respectfully request you remove some of the pro-development personnel from this land transfer process and bring a balanced approach to the process by assigning several unbiased people to the staff. Additionally, I request that you personally direct your staff to take a balanced and neutral approach in developing a comprehensive land use plan that addresses the wishes of the people and not just single interest desires.

Sincerely


Frank Hensley