Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 6, 2008

Mr. Lance J. Mezga
Chair
Oak Ridge Site-Specific
Advisory Board
[redacted]
Knoxville, TN 37922

Dear Mr. Mezga:

Thank you for your November 29, 2007, recommendation concerning the incorporation of Long-Term Stewardship (LTS) into new projects and legacy waste decisions. The Office of Environmental Management (EM) Site-Specific Advisory Board plays an important role in both improving our performance, and preserving and sharing the many valuable lessons learned.

As you are aware, before any Records of Decision or permits are issued under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EM takes into account, during the remedy selection process, LTS considerations as well as the risk to human health and the environment. The long-term (life-cycle) cost of such decisions and other required criteria and considerations are also reviewed, including the impact of leaving any contamination in place. These are incorporated into our scope, cost, and schedule baselines, which are independently certified and for which progress at each site is monitored by me during Quarterly Project Reviews.

If you have any other questions or comments, please contact Ms. Melissa Nielson, Director, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Accountability, at (202) 586-0356.

Sincerely,

James A. Rispoli
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Thank you for your recommendation. Essentially, we have accepted it and will require a strong focus on LTS.

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper