



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF REMEDIATION - DOE OVERSIGHT OFFICE
761 EMORY VALLEY ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

November 18, 2015

Doug Colclasure
103 Monticello Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Dear Mr. Colclasure,

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Division of Remediation, Oak Ridge office wishes to thank you for your email correspondence to Mr. John Owsley on August 20, 2015, expressing your continued concern about periodic sedimentation in Bear Creek from DOE operations. The purpose of this letter is to share with you results of our most recent field investigations that were conducted on four occasions to assess stream conditions and to identify possible sources of sedimentation. An assessment was conducted on August 24, 2015 at three locations in Bear Creek along Bear Creek Rd. downstream of the Y-12 Complex security portal. The stream was observed to be at normal flow and water conditions were clear with no turbidity. TDEC personnel were unable to locate possible sources of sedimentation.

On September 3, 2015 TDEC personnel conducted a second investigation to determine if construction activities associated with the Y-12 Uranium Processing Facility were sources of sedimentation into Bear Creek. The Wet Soil Area off Bear Creek Rd. and the soils laydown area at the end of Reeves Rd. were visited. Silt fencing was in place and appeared adequate at both locations. Settling basins, rip-rap culverts, and heavy vegetation were in place at the Reeves Rd. location and appeared to be effective at controlling runoff.

In an effort to identify possible sources of sedimentation after a rain event, TDEC personnel conducted a third site visit on October 1, 2015. This visit consisted of a tour of the Haul Rd. and an assessment of conditions in Bear Creek. Four sites in Bear Creek were selected and visual observations were made. Two sites along the Haul Rd. (Haul Rd./Bear Creek Rd. bridge crossing near Haul Rd. mile marker 4.5 and the Reeves Rd. crossing) and two sites along Bear Creek Rd. (Gate 10 for the EMWMF and Gate 11-A at Gum Hollow Branch) were visited. Elevated water levels in Bear Creek were observed at all locations without noticeable turbidity. There were no signs of an influx of sediment or silt into the creek at any of the four sites.

Mr. Colclasure
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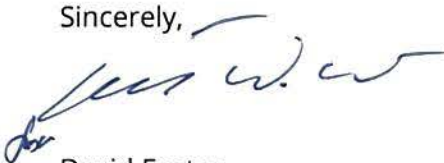
A fourth investigation was conducted on October 2, 2015 as a follow-up from the tour and assessment that were made the previous day. Rain continued overnight and during the field trip on October 2nd. Stream conditions at the same four locations in Bear Creek were visited. Water levels at all locations were elevated slightly higher than the day before. There were no signs of an influx of sediment or silt into the creek at any of the four sites.

Results of the four field investigations suggest that construction activities associated with the Y-12 Uranium Processing Facility have not been contributing to sedimentation in Bear Creek. At the time of the investigations, silt fencing and other erosion control measures appeared adequate. No other possible sources of sedimentation were identified during the recent investigations.

Our staff visits the site on a regular basis performing various monitoring activities, walk downs, audits and investigations. In the recent past our staff has identified two areas of concern regarding sedimentation of Bear Creek. In both cases DOE and its contractors took prompt action to correct the identified causes.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or wish to discuss the matter with staff, please contact David Foster at (865) 220-6566 or Kristof Czartoryski at (865) 220-6580. Thank you again for your assistance in helping to protect our water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Foster", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Foster
Environmental Manager II
Environmental Restoration Program
TDEC-DoR/DOE Oversight Office