



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
Division of Remediation, Oak Ridge Office
761 Emory Valley Road
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

RECEIVED
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COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE

April 6, 2023

Mr. Roger Petrie
Federal Facility Agreement Manager
Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Post Office Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Re: TDEC Approval Letter for the Proposed Plan for the Record of Decision for Groundwater in the K-31/K-33 Area at the East Tennessee Technology Park, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2922&D2)

Dear Mr. Petrie

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Division of Remediation-Oak Ridge Office (DoR-OR), received the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) letter transmitting the above referenced document on March 8, 2023.

This K-31/K-33 Groundwater Proposed Plan for the Record of Decision (ROD) provides details about the preferred remedial action alternative for groundwater in the K-31/K-33 Area at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). The preferred remedial action alternative identified in this document for the K-31/K-33 Area is Monitored Natural Attenuation and Land Use Controls (MNA and LUCs).

While TDEC has agreed to move this Proposed Plan document forward with this approval, it is with the understanding that the following conditions will be met in the ROD, the Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) and the subsequent post rod CERCLA documents, which will satisfy remaining concerns.

The remaining issues / agreements include:

1. MNA must be implemented at the K-31/K-33 Area in accordance with EPA MNA guidance documents identified in the Proposed Plan, specifically including but not limited to: *Use of Monitored Natural Attenuation for Inorganic Contaminants in Groundwater at Superfund Sites OSWER Directive 9283.1-36* (August 2015) (hereinafter EPA MNA 2015 guidance).

2. For all monitoring wells, including those where historical records do not currently show clear downward trends for all COCs or satisfy other MNA decision selection criteria at this time, the post ROD design document (Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) or designated alternate) must include an evaluation of contaminant concentration trends to evaluate if the first tier/line of evidence for MNA as specified in EPA MNA 2015 guidance is met, thus allowing MNA to be implemented at these wells. If MNA is not appropriate to implement at all wells in accordance with EPA guidance, an alternate path forward must be included in the post ROD design document (RAWP or other as approved).
3. The quarterly sampling events which shall be used to support the MNA selection and evaluation of MNA effectiveness, must include all the chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) in groundwater at this site. (See Region 4 Human Health Risk Assessment Supplemental Guidance, dated March 2018 update for reference). This shall include those constituents in addition to nickel and chromium that have been identified exceeding MCL's at minimum for the past 5 years. (Note: TDEC reiterates that for this site, data collected prior to 2015 should not be included in determinations, as hydrologic conditions are considered changed at this site following building demolition.) Also, due to the presence of radiological exceedances that were considered in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to be biased with elevated results attributed to high turbidity and sampling problems, gross alpha and gross beta shall be included in the MNA quarterly sampling of these wells to ensure no radiological impacts are evident.
4. Milestones must be included in Appendix E and/or J of the FFA (as appropriate) for the remaining work at the K-31/K-33 Area. These shall include, but are not limited to, milestones for the Remedial Design Report/ Remedial Action Work Plan (RDR/RAWP) (initially proposed by DOE in project team documentation as 9/30/24) and the Remedial Action Report (RAR).
5. It is understood that DOE will resolve any additional EPA concerns including but not limited to those surrounding the BHHRA or exposure point concentrations with an agreeable path forward.

TDEC looks forward to working with the tri-parties to continue to move groundwater remediation work forward at ETPP in a timely and mutually satisfactory manner. If you have questions or comments concerning the contents of this letter, please feel free to reach out to Heather Lutz at heather.lutz@tn.gov or (865) 310-0474 or to Randy Hoffmeister at randy.hoffmeister@tn.gov or (865) 220-6583.

Sincerely

Randy C
Young

Digitally signed by
Randy C Young
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Randy C. Young,
FFA Project Manager

ec: Sam Scheffler, DOE
Joanna Hardin, DOE
Mike Mathes, DOE
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA
Craig Van Trees, EPA
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA
Tanya Salamacha, UCOR
Belinda Price, Pro2Serve
Bob Gelinis, UCOR
Samantha Pack, UCOR
Chris Thompson, TDEC
Colby Morgan, TDEC
ORSSAB
OREM Mailroom

xc: Amy Fitzgerald, ORRCA
Wade Creswell, ORRCA
Amanda Daugherty, ORRCA
Terry Frank, ORRCA

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