



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Division of Remediation - Oak Ridge
761 Emory Valley Road
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

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COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE

April 21, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Petrie

RE: Record of Decision for Final Soil Actions in Zone 1, East Tennessee Technology Park, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2711&D4) (Zone 1 Final ROD)

On February 24, 2025, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) requested a 60-day extension for review and comment on the above referenced document to allow sufficient time for concurrent review and approval of the Addendum to the Final Zone 1 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for a Supplemental Ecological Evaluation. With the 60-day extension, the response date for the Zone 1 Final ROD was moved to April 21, 2025. TDEC has completed a review of the Zone 1 Final ROD pursuant to the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for the Oak Ridge Reservation and offers the following comments:

General Comments

1. During recent groundwater investigation activities conducted under the approved Zone 1 Groundwater Plumes Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP) (DOE/OR/01-2903&D2) elevated chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) were detected in groundwater within the K-1085 Area. An addendum (DOE/OR/01-2903&D2/A2) to further investigate impacts to groundwater in this area is currently being developed and reviewed by the tri-parties. During review of this addendum and the Addendum to the Phased Construction Completion Report for the K-1007 Ponds Area and Powerhouse North Area in Zone 1 (DOE/OR/01-2294&D2/A1), it became apparent that the CVOC excavation did not extend to the anticipated depth and confirmation samples were not collected. A commitment from DOE to evaluate impacts to soil within the footprint of the Zone 1 soils excavation should be included in the Zone 1 Groundwater RIWP Addendum or within the Zone 1 Final Soils ROD D4 response-to-comments.

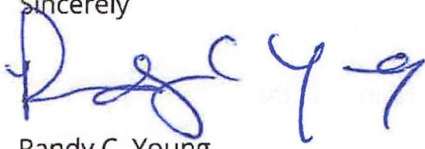
2. The Phased Construction Completion Report for the Zone 1 Powerhouse Area Electrical Vaults (DOE/OR/01-2828&D3) states in section 7 that the LUCs preventing all future landowners from disturbing vault sediments in the former Powerhouse Area will be codified in the approved version of the *Record of Decision for the Final Soil Actions in Zone 1, East Tennessee Technology Park* (DOE/OR/01-2711&D3). For clarity, the implementation of the required LUCs for the Powerhouse Area property transfer was first completed through an appendix to the 2016 CDR. In November 2022, the CDR was modified through an appendix to the CDR specifically addressing the Powerhouse Area electrical vaults and preventing the disturbance of these areas without authorization. The property in this area was transferred in 2024 to a subsidiary of the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) and the deed contains a section including the necessary LUCs to satisfy the CDR appendix and the state statute. Please revise the NFA ROD to clearly state that this LUC has been implemented and is being codified in this approved ROD for the Final Soil Actions as documented in the associated PCCR and associated CDR. Additionally, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 68-212-225, a notice of land use restriction (NLUR) filed as part of the CERCLA 120(h) land transfer process cannot be changed without following the process under state statute. The record needs to clearly reflect the NLUR as required is in place.
3. Please remove all LUCs that are not required under CERCLA from this document (e.g., K-770 2-ft CDR-only restriction). Only LUCs that are required for remedy protectiveness under CERCLA should be mentioned in this document.
4. Please confirm that all references in Table 2.6 are correct. For example, Table 2.6 references DOE/OR/01-1997&D2 as the document which modified the land use and depth restriction for the CSA to controlled recreation to 0 feet, but it appears this land use was modified in the ROD Amendment (DOE/OR/01-2817&D3).
5. Please make sure that the footnote for Table 2.7 includes a reference to the NLUR for prohibiting disturbance of Powerhouse area underground electrical vault contents including engineering controls.
6. Please add additional details on how the Zone 1 IROD RAO to *control leaching and migration from contaminated soil to help minimize future impact to groundwater* was achieved. This discussion should include the contaminants that were addressed, which groundwater numerical criteria (e.g., MCLs, TN General Use Groundwater) were used to calculate the GW SSLs, and which CERCLA document documents this process.

Specific Comments

1. **Page 1-7, Approvals**
Please change the TDEC signatory from Greg Young to Ronne Adkins.
2. **Pages 2-19 and 2-20, Section 2.7.1, Paragraphs 5 and 6**
The text suggests additional work is needed for the Duct Bank Corridor including an updated HHRA. Subsequent paragraphs state that the EU boundaries associated with the CSA and K-720 Ash Pile were modified for risk assessments purposes, but the language for the Duct Bank Corridor is not as clear. Please revise the text stating that the HHRA will be reexamined for the Corridor, or clarify that work is complete without an updated HHRA.
3. **Page 2-31, Section 2.7.2.1, fifth paragraph**
Please add text supporting the statement that dermal exposure for terrestrial vertebrates is expected to be negligible relative to other exposure routes.
4. **Page 2-34, Section 2.7.2.2, Radiation exposure, mid-paragraph**
Please add text differentiating "internal exposures from ingestion, and internal exposures".
5. **Page 2-35, Section 2.7.2.3, first paragraph**
The text in the second sentence seems to contradict text included in Section 2.7.2.1. Previous text states only the top 2 feet of soil were evaluated for risk and residual contamination below soil covers was evaluated independently should erosion re-expose contamination under the soils cover. Text in Section 2.7.2.3 assumed continued maintenance of soil covers. Text in Section 2.7.2.4 also contradicts the cover maintenance assumption. Please clarify how contamination under soil covers was evaluated and revise the text globally for consistency.
6. **Page 2-35, Section 2.7.2.3, first paragraph**
Please add text explaining why the HQ threshold for terrestrial wildlife differs from the HQ threshold for terrestrial plants and invertebrates. Was this a risk management decision? If so, then please include text explaining this decision.

This letter meets the FFA review cycle protocol for the subject document. TDEC looks forward to working with DOE to ensure timely resolution of these comments. Questions or comments concerning the contents of this letter should be directed to Randy Hoffmeister at the above address or by phone at (865) 985-2513.

Sincerely



Randy C. Young
FFA Project Manager
Division of Remediation - Oak Ridge Office

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Sam Scheffler, DOE
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