



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

January 21, 2026

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COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Roger Petrie
Federal Facility Agreement Manager
Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Post Office Box 4067
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Mr. Petrie

Emergency Removal Action for the Sediment Retention Structure

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Division of Remediation Oak Ridge Office is in receipt of the email dated January 16, 2026, notifying TDEC of completion of a second round of repairs to the Sediment Retention Structure (SRS). TDEC understands that on January 12, 2026, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) identified, for a second time, significant deterioration on a portion of the rock core of the SRS which could lead to structural failure. The location of this deterioration was noted to be at the bay that was immediately adjacent to the recently repaired bay that was observed to be failing in November 2025. Although not stated in DOE's email, TDEC assumes that the January 2026 repairs were conducted under the Emergency Removal Action initiated at the SRS under the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for the Oak Ridge Reservation in November 2025. TDEC requests that the DOE schedule a meeting with the tri-parties to discuss DOE's emergency response orders. The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate future discussions on the implementation of timely and appropriate emergency response actions.

As mentioned in a December 4, 2025, letter regarding the initial repair, TDEC reiterates the importance of DOE prioritizing the implementation of permanent repairs to the SRS. Given the age of the SRS, the observed degradation of metal screens in other panels, the resulting significant deterioration in a second rock core, and the semi-temporary nature of the Emergency Removal Actions taken, TDEC requests that DOE immediately initiate FFA discussions to plan and implement additional action to further stabilize the SRS. Contaminated sediments are stored in the White Oak Creek Embayment upstream of the SRS, and consequential failure of the SRS would significantly increase the potential for release of those contaminated sediments into the Clinch River. Additionally, TDEC strongly encourages DOE to conduct daily site inspections, including weekends, especially during times when significant rainfall is forecasted until a more permanent fix has been implemented.

Questions or comments concerning the contents of this letter should be directed to Eileen Marcillo by phone at (865) 985-2397 or by email at eileen.marcillo@tn.gov.

Sincerely

Eileen Marcillo

Digitally signed by Eileen
Marcillo
Date: 2026.01.21 14:22:27
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Eileen Marcillo
FFA Project Manager
Division of Remediation – Oak Ridge Office

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