



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 16, 2003

Mr. James K. Alexander, P.E.

Dear Mr. Alexander:

Thank you for your August 3, 2003, letter accepting a third two-year appointment to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. I am pleased that you are willing to continue to serve in this important capacity. I am, however, puzzled by the reasons you gave for accepting the position and I hope that, as you continue to serve on the Board, you will come to the conclusion that your concerns are unfounded.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has a long history of working with local communities to offset any adverse economic impact resulting from DOE activities. We remain open to discussing DOE operations and any perceived impacts with the City of Oak Ridge and the counties of Anderson and Roane.

Finally, let me respond to your assertion that DOE has an "apparent policy" to no longer promote the Long Tenn Stewardship (LTS) initiative started during the Clinton-Gore Administration. Nothing could be further from the truth. My office remains committed to a policy of effective and safe long-term stewardship for both active and closed Environmental Management sites. In fact, one of my eight Corporate Project Teams is devoted to pursuing that goal. Also, I am sure you are aware that this Administration has established a separate Office of Legacy Management within DOE to assure that activities such as LTS receive adequate visibility and sufficient funding. I look forward to working with you in the future to support these goals.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or call Ms. Sandra Waisley, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability, at (202) 586-3087.

Sincerely,

  
**Jessie Hill Roberson**  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management