



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

February 5, 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Revendra Awasthi
State of Tennessee
Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Solid Waste Management
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, Tennessee 37921

Mr. Ashwin Brahmbhatt
State of Tennessee
Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Remediation
Oak Ridge Office
761 Emory Valley Road
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Mr. Awasthi and Mr. Brahmbhatt:

SITE TREATMENT PLAN FOR MIXED WASTE ON THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OAK RIDGE RESERVATION – RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 11, 2019 LETTER

- References:
1. Letter from Revendra Awasthi and Ashwin Brahmbhatt to James Y. Daffron, Brian Henry, Nathan Felosi, and Johnny Moore, *Site Treatment Plan for Mixed Waste on the United States Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation – Submittal of the Annual Update (Version 24.0) and the Semiannual Progress Report*, dated December 11, 2019
 2. Letter from John A. Mullis II to David W. Salyers, *Response to Your Letter Requesting Submittal of Proposed Plans for Mercury Mixed Waste Treatment, Dated September 13, 2019*, dated October 31, 2019
 3. Letter from James Daffron, Brian Henry, and William McMillan to Revendra Awasthi and Ashwin Brahmbhatt, *Site Treatment Plan for Mixed Waste on the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation – Submittal of the Annual Update and Semiannual Progress Report*, dated October 29, 2019
 4. Letter from David W. Salyers to John A. Mullis, dated September 13, 2019
 5. Letter from Revendra Awasthi and Ashwin Brahmbhatt to James Y. Daffron, Brian Henry, Nathan Felosi, and Johnny Moore, *Submittal of the Semi-Annual Progress Report - Site Treatment Plan for Mixed Waste on the United States Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation*, dated May 14, 2019
 6. Letter from James Y. Daffron, Brian T. Henry, and William G. McMillan to Revendra Awasthi and Kristof Czartoryski, *Site Treatment Plan for Mixed Waste on the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation – Submittal of the Semiannual Progress Report*, dated April 25, 2019

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

(Awasthi 7009 2820 0001 9924 9709)

(Brahmbhatt 7009 2820 0001 9924 9716)

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7. Letter from John A. Mullis II to David W. Salyers, *Provision of Information on Potential Mixed Wastes*, dated March 28, 2019
8. Letter from Shari Meghreblian to Jay A. Mullis, dated December 14, 2018

Thank you for your partnership in developing the Site Treatment Plan (STP) Annual Update. This letter is in response to your December 11, 2019 letter (reference 1), and, specifically, the request for resubmittal of the STP Annual Update (Version 24.0).

As noted in your December 11 letter, the STP Annual Update (Version 24.0) is the product of thorough bilateral discussions, including the meeting held on September 30, 2019, as well as the written communications referenced above, and reflects input from Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC, North Wind Solutions, LLC, and URS | CH2M Oak Ridge, LLC. In particular, pursuant to your May 14, 2019 letter (reference 4), and consistent with communications leading to the submittal of the Annual Update (Version 24.0), Section 3.5 of the Annual Update provides information on the projected quantities of anticipated mixed waste containing mercury that may be generated from future environmental restoration activities and references the “Strategic Plan for Mercury Remediation at the Y-12 National Security Complex Oak Ridge, Tennessee” (DOE/OR/01-2605&D2/RI), dated September 2017, which identifies possible treatment options.

Regarding the request in your December 11, 2019 letter that the Annual Update be resubmitted with the inclusion of a September 30, 2020 milestone for a detailed report on the specific treatment technology, a treatment timeline/schedule, and a characterization plan/schedule for mixed waste containing mercury, enclosed is the requested resubmittal with the understanding that the content of the report required under this new milestone will of necessity be limited to the information available to us at the time of its submittal. Specifics on the treatment to be carried out are still being investigated and will continue to be investigated beyond September 30, 2020.

There currently exist adequate treatment technologies and capacities to address the anticipated mixed waste streams from future environmental restoration work at Y-12, and, therefore, these waste streams are anticipated to be processed and disposed in a steady-state manner without the need for long term storage that would be in violation of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 3004(j). Regarding the notification process, STP Section 2.4.2 states “Additional details about the waste stream and the proposed plan and schedules, consistent with Section 2.2, “Compliance Schedules”, will be provided within 45 days of notification for waste *which, in the absence of the STP, would be in violation of RCRA Section 3004(j) [emphasis added]*” Since there is no RCRA compliance issue requiring an STP remedy for the anticipated mixed waste containing mercury from future environmental restoration activities, the report required by the requested milestone will be submitted for information purposes only, rather than pursuant to the STP Section 2.4.2 notification process.

As stated in previous correspondence, future Waste Handling Plans will address more detailed information on treatment and are the vehicles through which the tri-parties to the Federal Facility Agreement will reach agreements on the management of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act waste generated under the U.S Department of Energy environmental restoration program determined to be suitable for onsite disposal. All practicable measures will be taken to remove/reduce elemental mercury content in waste streams prior to disposal.

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Once removed, elemental mercury will be placed into secure storage or treated and disposed of at offsite facilities consistent with RCRA requirements.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Steve Cooke, Site Treatment Plan Coordinator, at (865) 241-1259.

Sincerely,



David G. Adler, Director
Quality and Mission Support Division

cc:

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