

# CITY OF OAK RIDGE



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December 10, 2013

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur, Chairman  
and Members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Ave., NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Winokur and Members of the Board:

I am Mark Watson, City Manager of Oak Ridge. I am pleased to be here to discuss the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF), which will be constructed and operated in our community.

Under our form of local government, the Mayor and City Council establish policies and ordinances addressing the delivery of services provided to Oak Ridge citizens and businesses. As City Manager, it is my responsibility to manage day-to-day city operations effectively and efficiently with a professional staff of approximately 400 employees.

Oak Ridge is a full service city that provides police and fire protection, as well as water, wastewater, and electrical services. A number of services are provided to the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors through a variety of mechanisms including contracts, grants, memoranda of understanding, and mutual aid agreements. Our staff communicates regularly with federal and state officials to help ensure the highest level of cooperation in emergency response planning, response, and to work together on issues such as equipment interoperability. The City actively participates in drills and exercises that involve the federal facilities in Oak Ridge.

Like the Department of Energy, the City has undertaken a program of modernization to replace aging infrastructure and increase efficiencies. The UPF project presents an unprecedented opportunity to work with our federal and state partners on infrastructure projects that will not only enhance the safety and operation of the UPF, but will benefit taxpayers through operational efficiencies.

The City of Oak Ridge is committed to strengthening intergovernmental partnerships as we move forward with the design and construction phases of the UPF project. City staff is working with our federal and state counterparts to ensure the needed infrastructure is in place to support one of the largest public works projects in Tennessee history. These partnerships are necessary in order to mitigate impacts associated with construction, transportation, security, and other logistical challenges, such as facilitating access to the site by Y-12 employees and construction workers.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions or if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark S. Watson".

Mark S. Watson  
City Manager