UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

October 25, 2021

OFFICE OF
LAND AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

Ms. Amanda Garcia
Attorney
Southern Environmental Law Center
1033 Demonbreun Street
Suite 205
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Ms. Garcia:

Thank you for your letter of August 2, 2021, as a follow-up to your letter of May 26, 2021, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review and reconsider the December 31, 2020, decision issued by former EPA Administrator Wheeler. In your August 2 letter, you raised two main concerns: 1) "Use of the Radionuclide Pollution Decision in the Revised Focused Feasibility Study (FFS)," and 2) "Use of the Radionuclide Pollution Decision in the Premature Draft Record of Decision (ROD).

EPA is taking steps to ensure that the FFS and the ROD meet the requirements of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and ensure a protective cleanup. EPA has reviewed and commented on the recent FFS and is working with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to ensure DOE addresses these comments in the next version of the FFS. EPA is currently reviewing the draft Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) ROD and will submit comments to DOE. TDEC is also reviewing the draft ROD. EPA is working with DOE and TDEC to ensure that the public has an opportunity to review and provide comments on new information since the issuance of the Proposed Plan in September 2018.

We appreciate Southern Environmental Law Center's letter and insights. We are committed to ensuring that the EDMF ROD yields a remedy that is protective of human health and the environment and aligns with the priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration.

Sincerely,

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator