



**The Deputy Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

May 26, 2006

Ms. Sue E. Masica  
Associate Director for Park Planning,  
Facilities, and Lands  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Masica:

Thank you for your letter regarding Public Law 108-340 that directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to study the feasibility of including historic Manhattan Project sites at Los Alamos, New Mexico; Hanford, Washington; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in the National Park System. The Department of Energy fully supports this study, which will help ensure that appropriate preservation and interpretation decisions are made regarding these historically significant properties.

I have directed Dr. F. G. Gosling, the Department's Federal Preservation Officer and Chief Historian, to coordinate the Department's activities in support of the Park Service study. Dr. Gosling informs me that departmental staff have participated in the public meetings and Park Service work sessions held so far in Hanford and Oak Ridge and will also participate in those meetings scheduled for Los Alamos in June 2006.

Dr. Gosling will continue to provide the Park Service with documents needed to conduct the study as his office has done since its inception. He will also ensure that information on hazardous materials and contaminants, cost estimates related to potential visitor access and safety, and determinations regarding the Department's mission requirements relating to potential management alternatives for these properties are obtained in a timely manner during the course of the study.

The Department of Energy takes great pride in its Manhattan Project heritage, and we hope that in working with you we can produce a study that provides preservation and interpretation strategies that appropriately commemorate one of the most significant chapters in modern American history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Sell".

Clay Sell



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