

Anderson County Board of Commissioners
Intergovernmental Committee
Agenda

August 9, 2021
5:00 P.M. Room 312

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Appearance of Citizens**
- 3. American Nuclear Update – EPA Letter**
- 4. Discussion of moving forward on the closing of Bull Run – thoughts, suggestions, etc.**

Unfinished Business

New Business

Adjournment

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LAW DIRECTOR
ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

101 South Main Street, Suite 310
CLINTON, TENNESSEE 37716

N. JAY YEAGER
Law Director

TELEPHONE: (865) 457-6290
FACSIMILE: (865) 457-3775
Email: jyeager@aclawdirector.com

July 19, 2021

VIA U.S. MAIL

Mr. John Blevins
Acting Regional Director
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA
30303-3104

RE: American Nuclear

Dear Mr. Blevins:

I'm writing on behalf of Anderson County Government to enlist your assistance with gathering needed information and possible opportunities for clean-up and remediation related to the former American Nuclear site located in the Claxton community of our county. The site is currently under the control and ownership of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). TDEC is willing to partner with Anderson County and we are asking for EPA support as well.

Leaving the property in its current state is unacceptable to Anderson County, since the true long-term health risks to our citizens are unknown. Furthermore, the American Nuclear property lies precariously at the entrance to the new Blockhouse Valley Nature Preserve and Outdoor Research Center.

Prior to the abandonment and insolvency of the business in the early 1970's, the company processed cobalt and cesium for medical treatment purposes and received the majority of these highly enriched materials from the Oak Ridge National Laboratories and various subcontractors, including Union Carbide. To date the site contains significant measurable amounts of toxic nuclear waste and the unknown dangers to the health, safety and welfare of the surrounding residents are of paramount importance to the Anderson County Board of Commissioners.

We are hoping the EPA can provide us with additional information on this site and the possible application of the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA) codified at 42 USC § 6901 *et seq.* Our understanding of RCRA is that EPA has legal jurisdiction over hazardous waste including the generation, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal from cradle to grave. If our understanding is correct, could EPA assist us in identifying the original generator of the waste and take legal action to ensure the original generator is held responsible for the Clean-up and remediation of the site?

Page 2 of 2
Director Blevins
July 19, 2021

We are anxious to hear your thoughts and look forward to learning more from EPA about the American Nuclear site and who, or what entity is ultimately responsible for the abandoned waste.

With kindest regards,

N. Jay Yeager