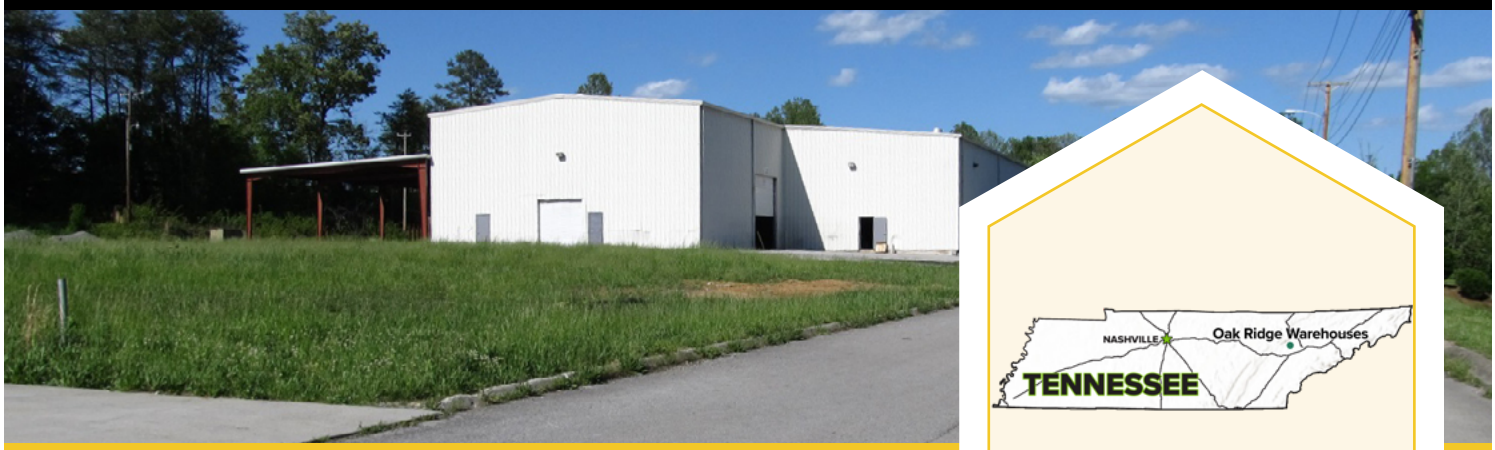
Fact Sheet

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management



Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Warehouses Site

A FUSRAP site

This fact sheet provides information about the **Oak Ridge site**. Long-term stewardship responsibilities for this site are managed by the **U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management** under the **Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program**.

Site Information and History

The Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Warehouses Site (formerly the Elza Gate site) is located north of Meco Lane (formerly Antwerp Lane) in the eastern portion of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in what is now known as Melton Lake Industrial Park. Access to the 17.3-acre site is off Melton Lake Drive near the intersection with Oak Ridge Turnpike.

In the early 1940s, the site consisted of five warehouses and other smaller structures used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Manhattan Engineer District (MED) to store pitchblende (high-grade uranium ore), radium-bearing sludges, and other radioactive materials, such as tailings, oxide residues, and slag for the Manhattan Project. From 1946 to the early 1970s, the site was operated by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) as an equipment storage area for Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The site is divided into nine parcels, and MED warehouses were located in parcels 1 through 4, which are divided from parcels 5 through 9 by Meca Lane, a dead-end asphalt road. By 1988, none of the original structures remained, but the concrete pads were still in place. Several new structures have been built as the area was redeveloped for commercial and light industrial use.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a preliminary radiological survey of the site in October 1988. The survey identified residual radioactive contamination that exceeded DOE guidelines. As a result, DOE designated the Oak Ridge warehouses site for remedial action as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Additional radiological and chemical characterization in 1989 and 1990 identified uranium-238, radium-226, lead, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in site soils, as well as uranium contamination on the surfaces of the concrete pads. Remedial action was conducted in two phases. The first phase, which was completed in spring 1991, consisted of removing the pad for the remaining structure and excavating the soil under the pad and from five nearby locations. During the second phase, concrete pads on the other parcels were removed, and contaminated soil was excavated from beneath the pads and from other locations across the site. The second phase was completed in 1992. A total of 6,700 cubic yards of waste material from both phases was transported in 818 truckloads to the Oak Ridge Reservation for disposal. In addition, a total of 294 cubic feet of PCB-contaminated soil was containerized in 40 drums and transported to a licensed commercial facility for disposal.

Regulatory Setting

AEC, the predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites used in the development of the nation's nuclear weapons and atomic energy programs. DOE has the legislative authority under the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended, to perform radiological surveys, monitoring, and maintenance at sites used to support the nuclear activities of DOE's predecessor agencies. DOE also has legislative authority under the AEA to remediate FUSRAP sites identified as requiring some form of response action. In 1997, Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation from DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) retains responsibility for long-term care of remediated FUSRAP sites. For more information about the program, please see the FUSRAP fact sheet.

The Oak Ridge warehouses site was remediated to criteria in *Guidelines for Residual Radioactive Material at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites*. A notice of cleanup certification for the site was published in the *Federal Register* on November 5, 1993.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred long-term stewardship responsibilities for the Oak Ridge FUSRAP warehouses site from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to LM.

Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial action survey data indicate that the radiological condition of the Oak Ridge warehouses site is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. An independent verification survey conducted after the completion of remedial action detected no residual radioactivity that exceeded current guidelines. Therefore, DOE released the site for unrestricted use.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Oak Ridge warehouses site. LM's responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

CONTACT INFORMATION

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AT THE SITE, CONTACT 911

LM TOLL-FREE EMERGENCY HOTLINE: (877) 695-5322

Site-specific documents related to the **Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Warehouses Site** are available on the LM website at **www.energy.gov/lm/oak-ridge-tennessee-warehouses-site**

For more information on FUSRAP site history or current long-term stewardship activities, contact:
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