

**Summary of the 2013 Annual Meeting  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
Saturday, August 17, 2013, 8 a.m. to noon  
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.**

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) met for its annual planning meeting beginning at 8 a.m., on Saturday, August 17, 2013, at the Holiday Inn, 3230 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Develop an increased understanding of and commitment to the goals of the board
- Evaluate the effectiveness and achievements of the board in FY 2013
- Begin development of the FY 2014 work plan

The meeting was facilitated by Jenny Freeman, Strata G. The agenda is attachment 1.

**Members present**

Jimmy Bell	Dave Hemelright,	Scott McKinney
Noel Berry	Acting Chair	Greg Paulus
Alfreda Cook	Bruce Hicks	Wanda Smith
Lisa Hagy	Howard Holmes	Scott Stout
Bob Hatcher	Fay Martin	
Mary Hatcher	Donald Mei	

**Members absent**

Carmen DeLong	Jan Lyons	Corkie Staley
Gracie Hall <sup>1</sup>	Belinda Price	
Jennifer Kasten	Julia Riley <sup>1</sup>	

<sup>1</sup>Student representative

**Others present**

Dave Adler, Department of Energy-Oak Ridge Office (DOE-ORO), Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer  
Jenny Freeman, Strata G  
Spencer Gross, ORSSAB Support Office  
Connie Jones, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), ORSSAB Liaison  
Melyssa Noe, DOE-ORO, ORSSAB Federal Coordinator  
Pete Osborne, ORSSAB Support Office  
John Owsley, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), ORSSAB Liaison  
James Smith, member of the public

Mr. Hemelright opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for making the effort to attend. Ms. Freeman reviewed the objectives for the meeting and guidelines for how the meeting was to be conducted.

Ms. Noe introduced Mr. Berry, Ms. Hatcher, and Ms. Smith as new members to the board who were attending their first meeting.

## **Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer Comments**

Mr. Adler reminded board members what DOE expects from the board and he summarized current cleanup activities underway on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR).

He said DOE looks to the board for advice and recommendations on basic questions regarding cleanup on the ORR, what areas of the reservation should be reserved for waste disposal, and how those areas should be protected in the future.

The main points of his review of current activities are in Attachment 2.

He began by saying that DOE's Environmental Management (EM) Program mission is to complete cleanup of the ORR with the goal of protecting human health and the environment of the area, making clean land available for future use, and ensuring DOE's ongoing missions at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) and Y-12 National Security Complex.

Significant progress has been made since cleanup work began in 1995 (Attachment 2, page 3). The Oak Ridge EM Program has a number of challenges including a trend of declining annual funding, a number of diverse, complex projects, many regulatory commitments, numerous contractors, and ongoing DOE missions representing billions in investment (Attachment 2, page 4).

DOE EM is doing cleanup work at primarily three sites on the ORR at ORNL, Y-12, and East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). Each site has its own program risks. At ORNL there are radiological risks with radioactive material stored near billions of dollars' worth of science investments. At Y-12 the risk is primarily environmental with the presence of hundreds of thousands of pounds of mercury in the soil and underneath old process buildings. At ETTP the risk is the cost of maintaining essential services while unused facilities are being demolished. Mr. Adler said about \$50 million a year is spent at ETTP to conduct essential services, such as security.

Mr. Adler said DOE is trying to approach cleanup at ETTP in a logical way by attacking the highest risk projects — those that cost a lot to maintain. Most of the K-25 Building has been demolished and the expectation is to have K-27 demolished in five years and the entire site finished in 10 years.

The completion of work at ETTP is a near-term goal for DOE, along with addressing mercury releases at Y-12, removing half of the uranium-233 inventory at ORNL and processing the rest, and continuing to process transuranic waste for eventual disposition (Attachment 2, page 7).

The longer-term strategic plan is to address remaining facilities at ETTP after work starts at other ORR sites. At Y-12 the long-term plan is to finalize site cleanup strategy, initiate characterization and preparation for building demolition, and decontaminate buildings after K-27 at ETTP is demolished. At ORNL the goal is to complete U-233 disposition and transuranic waste processing, and initiate cleanup of remaining facilities after work begins at Y-12.

Mr. Adler showed the overall cleanup schedule (Attachment 2, page 9). The plan is to have all cleanup finished in the early 2040s.

Mr. Hatcher said the budget graph on page 4 of Attachment 2 didn't reflect additional funding in 2009-11 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Mr. Adler said Oak Ridge EM received \$750 million during that time that was used to accelerate and complete some projects. He said that is not likely to happen again.

Mr. Hicks said work at Y-12 seems to focus onsite and not offsite, such as mercury contamination in East Fork Poplar Creek (EFPC). Mr. Adler said the strategy is to clean up the sources of mercury releases. Mr. Hicks said a 1999 report indicated that the problem was from collection of mercury in the soil. Mr. Adler said there have been a number of studies on that. He said the probable explanation from exposure early on was from airborne releases. Today the most plausible exposure is through consumption of fish in EFPC (advisories are posted all along the creek warning against consumption of fish). But he said the new

priority is to reduce releases and be able to tear down old buildings. He said systems must be in place to capture mercury.

Mr. Stout asked if it was proper to spend money to try to reduce mercury releases. Mr. Adler said that is the kind of question the board should consider. He said mercury in fish in EFPC is at or a bit above levels considered safe. He said a new water treatment plant could cost 130-140 percent more than the current system to reduce mercury releases to the creek.

Ms. Cook asked if building a water treatment plant at Y-12 was a precursor to tearing down buildings. Mr. Adler said the plan is to achieve acceptable levels of mercury in the creek and be able to capture mercury releases during demolition of buildings.

Mr. Bell asked if any studies had been done when mercury left the site previously and if there were any effects on the community. He had no knowledge of anyone ever being harmed by mercury from Y-12. He wondered if there should be much concern about mercury releases and just deal with it if and when it happens.

Mr. Adler said that is another question to consider, but he said DOE must abide by regulatory requirements. Mr. Bell said regulations are one of the reasons why the problem is so expensive. He said over the long run a lot of money will be spent preventing releases that could be used in the near term to eliminate mercury at the source.

### **Board Mission and Accomplishments**

Mr. Hemelright reviewed the board's mission statement (Attachment 3) and board and committee accomplishments during FY 2013 (Attachment 4).

### **Board Operations**

Prior to the meeting Ms. Freeman emailed board members to receive input on board operations. She compiled a number of comments that fit into two general themes:

- Theme 1 – Interest in creating more participation from board members in board activities
- Theme 2 – Interest in helping the public accept the success of cleanup  
(Attachment 5, pages 1 and 2)

On the first theme and the first point about all committee members manage at least one issue, Mr. Hicks thought that was too confining; he didn't want members to be restricted to one issue. Mr. Osborne explained that the committees have individual topics or issues they address during the year. Committee members are encouraged to take a topic that interests them, do some extra research, and work with staff to find a presenter who can provide information to the committee. Committee members are not limited to the number of topics they can take as an issue manager.

Mr. Paulus said board members have various backgrounds and levels of knowledge. He wanted all members to get involved in the board's work. He wondered about a forum where each member could express his or her interests and determine what committee to join. Ms. Freeman said Mr. Paulus' comments related to the second point of Theme 1 about reaching to new members.

Ms. Cook pointed out that committees develop work plans and members have an opportunity to look at the topics and pick something that interests them to act as an issue manager or an assistant issue manager.

Mr. Adler said DOE's wish is to receive feedback from the community at large. The basic plans for cleanup have been laid out, but items remain where public input would be useful. He said DOE wants people to be interested in the larger picture of the big projects and to provide questions that are timely and important.

The question, he said, is how to get people engaged. He prefers not to require participation of board members at the committee level. Board members have already volunteered their time to serve on the board, and DOE is appreciative of any additional participation at the committee level.

Mr. Adler said DOE tries to pick people who represent a wide range of interests. DOE wants people to attend board meetings and listen and learn. He said there is value in committee participation, but people have other responsibilities and required participation is too much to ask. He said the board shouldn't 'over-worry' committee participation.

Mr. Hemelright agreed saying board members 'get out of the board what they put into it.'

Ms. Martin noted that non-board member participation is allowed at the committee level and there are public members who participate who are passionate about issues.

Mr. Stout encouraged newer members to learn about the issues but they shouldn't remain silent too long; they should speak up and become engaged in discussions.

Discussion moved to the Second Theme (Attachment 5, page 2), helping the public accept the success of cleanup.

Mr. Hatcher said there needs to be a continuing process of educating the public:

- What are the problems?
- What is being done?
- What has been done?

He said every opportunity should be taken to inform the public. He suggested contacting producers of locally produced television programs to try to secure appearances.

Mr. Paulus said word of mouth is a good way of providing information. He said members should always be ready to explain what they do. Ms. Smith said members should be careful what they say to avoid causing alarm.

Ms. Martin said the Chamber of Commerce is a good outlet for educating the business community about the board.

Ms. Cook said 80 percent of citizens know what took place in Oak Ridge and they know things are being done to clean up the ORR, but she asked how active the board should be in discussing what it does. Mr. Hemelright said DOE has a public relations office and the board needs to be careful about what is said without consulting with that office.

Ms. Martin suggested hosting more public meetings about specific topics.

Mr. Bell asked about contact with Knoxville News Sentinel writer Frank Munger. Mr. Osborne said he receives each month's agenda and he usually posts it on his blog.

Mr. Hicks said he had reviewed the DOE Public Involvement Plan, and he thought it was a 'disaster.' He said that is not what the public wants to see and won't 'wade through that bureaucratic mess.' He said the plan was 'inreach' and not outreach. He said DOE should be doing more like what the board's Public Outreach Committee is doing. Mr. Adler said the Public Involvement Plan is revised every three years and comments on how to make it better would be welcome.

Ms. Jones said a lot of information has been provided previously. She wondered if an overview of projects would be a way to get the public involved.

Mr. Mei wondered how many people actually look at the board's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Ms. Freeman thought perhaps there should be more effort to publicize those sites.

Mr. Holmes said there should be a need for people to seek information. He said perhaps there should be a focus on a single issue. When all information on that issue has been considered thoroughly then a new topic is examined.

### **Work Plan Topics and Discussion**

Mr. Adler reviewed the priorities suggested by DOE, EPA, and TDEC that the board consider in FY 2014 (Attachment 6). The agencies suggested three common topics:

- Comprehensive groundwater strategy
- Strategy for addressing mercury at Y-12
- Sufficient waste disposal capacity on the ORR

TDEC additionally suggested a comprehensive discussion about the operation of the current waste disposal facility related to maximizing disposal capacity, which would be useful in operating a second facility. Input from ORSSAB would also increase public awareness of the issues involved with the on-site disposal of hazardous and radioactive waste.

DOE and EPA suggested completion of the ETTP Zone 1 Soils Record of Decision (ROD).

DOE suggested input on the FY 2016 DOE-ORO EM budget request to DOE Headquarters, an annual standing request.

Regarding sufficient waste disposal capacity, Ms. Jones said it was important to consider lessons learned from building and using the current EM Waste Management Facility in selecting a site for a new landfill. Mr. Adler said that included things like better waste segregation and volume reduction.

Ms. Cook asked about water going through the waste cells. Mr. Adler said that will be part of the discussion about the location of a second waste facility and how water and leachate will be handled.

Mr. Adler said the Zone 1 Soils ROD at ETTP refers to the release of about 1,400 acres of land surrounding the main industrial area of ETTP that is primarily unaffected. He said work is in the final stages of developing a proposed plan for the ROD, which will determine the final uses for the land and what the land use controls will be. Ms. Jones said the agencies are working through what has been done during an interim ROD for the site.

Ms. Jones explained that Zone 1 was to be addressed first because it has fewer concerns than Zone 2, the central industrial complex at ETTP. Work is now being done now to determine if the area is clean enough for release.

Mr. Adler said the intent was to address soil and groundwater at the same time, but because of groundwater problems it was decided to move forward with soils release for site redevelopment and groundwater will be addressed in the future.

Mr. Hicks asked about the status of disposing of U-233 from ORNL. Mr. Adler said the governor and other elected officials of Nevada have voiced strong opposition to having the U-233 shipped to the state and disposed at the Nevada National Security Site. DOE and the Secretary of Energy are working with Nevada to resolve the issue. He said the delay is costing DOE some money.

Mr. Hemelright asked if the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico could take the U-233. Mr. Adler said he didn't know if that has been considered.

Mr. Adler concluded his review of suggested work plan topics by saying DOE wants the board to work on these topics, but it's also important to keep the board updated on ongoing projects like the U-233 disposition, the processing and disposition of transuranic waste, the removal of the remaining hot cells from the old Building 3026 site at ORNL, etc.

He said he hopes better ways can be found for people to participate in committee meetings. He said the EM and Stewardship Committees are talking about consolidating, which would engage more board members at one time. He said since a number of board members have to travel some distance to Oak Ridge for meetings there is a possibility of engaging them through teleconference.

### **Committee membership sign up**

Mr. Hemelright asked the committee chairs to describe what their committees do. Following, he asked board members to express an interest in a committee. He said they can change later if they like.

While not everyone was ready to pick a committee, the list follows:

EM/Stewardship

Jimmy Bell  
Alfreda Cook  
Bob Hatcher  
Dave Hemelright  
Bruce Hicks  
Fay Martin

Public Outreach

Alfreda Cook  
Mary Hatcher  
Bruce Hicks  
Howard Holmes  
Scott McKinney  
Scott Stout

Board Finance & Process

Lisa Hagy  
Mary Hatcher  
Dave Hemelright  
Greg Paulus

**Presentation of Slate of Candidates**

Mr. McKinney, chair of the ad hoc Nominating Committee, presented a slate of candidates for FY 2014 officers.

He said all board members had been contacted to determine their interest in being an officer.

The slate of candidates includes:

Dave Hemelright, chair  
Bruce Hicks, vice chair  
Lisa Hagy, secretary

The candidates will be voted on at the September 11 meeting. Mr. McKinney said additional nominations will be taken from the floor at that time.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Closing Remarks**

Ms. Noe said since the annual meeting schedule had been shortened considerably from previous years she would like to receive comments from board members on this year's format.

Mr. Hemelright thanked everyone for attending and participating. He adjourned the meeting at noon.

Attachments (6) are available through the ORSSAB support office.

rsg



**Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board**

**Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, August 17, 2013**

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Holiday Inn, 3230 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN**

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**OBJECTIVES**

1. Develop an increased understanding of and commitment to the goals of the board
2. Evaluate the effectiveness and achievements of FY 2013
3. Begin development of the FY 2014 work plan

**AGENDA**

8:00–8:05 ..... Welcome – David Hemelright

8:05–8:15 ..... Objectives, Logistics, Keys to Success – Jenny Freeman

8:15–8:45 ..... DDFO Comments – Dave Adler

8:45–9:05 ..... Board Mission and Accomplishments – David Hemelright

9:05–9:50 ..... Board Operations – Jenny Freeman

9:50–10:05 ..... *Break*

10:05–11:35 ..... Work Plan Topics Presentation & Discussion – Dave Adler, Panel

- Agency suggestions
- Suggestions from members
- Prioritization of topics & assignment to committees
- Committee membership sign-up

11:35–11:45 ..... Wrap-up – Jenny Freeman

11:45–11:50 ..... Presentation of the Slate of Candidates for FY 2014 Officers – Nominating Committee Chair

11:50–11:55 ..... Public comment period

11:55–12:00 ..... Closing Remarks – Melyssa Noe, David Hemelright

# **Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Annual Planning Meeting**

**Dave Adler  
Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer**

*August 17, 2013*





# Cleanup Work is Urgent and Essential

- Our Mission is to complete cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation to:
  - Protect the region's health and environment
  - Make clean land available for future use
  - Ensure DOE's ongoing vital missions



***The Oak Ridge Reservation will be  
Remediated, Modernized and Reindustrialized***

# Significant Progress has Been Made



**2006:** Haul Road opens



**2006:** Building K-29 at ETPP demolished



**2006:** All 7,000 UF<sub>6</sub> cylinders removed from ETPP



**2008:** First shipment of TRU waste leaves OR



**2011:** New cleanup contract awarded



**2010:** Building K-25 West Wing demolished



**2009:** Initiated cleanup of ORNL & Y-12 under Recovery Act



**2009:** TSCA Incinerator closed



**2011:** Building K-33 at ETPP demolished



**2011:** Building K-25 East Wing demo begins



**2012:** Tank W-1A at ORNL removed



**2012:** Expansion of onsite disposal facility complete



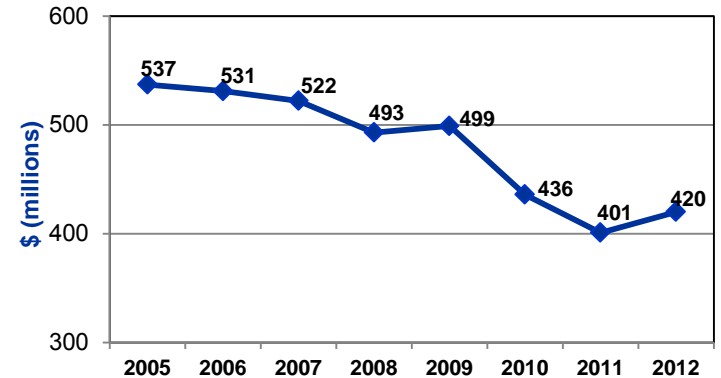
**2012:** First Phase of U-233 Direct Disposition campaign complete



# Program Challenges

- Diverse, complex projects
- Declining budgets
- Little relief on regulatory commitments
- Numerous contractors
- Ongoing DOE missions and billions in investment

Historical Base Funding Profiles



MOVING TO THE FUTURE BY CLEANING UP THE PAST

# Key Program Considerations

- **Y-12 National Security Complex**
  - **Environmental Risk**
    - Nearly 20 million lbs of mercury was used at Y-12 and approximately 2 million lbs are unaccounted for; roughly 700,000 lbs may have been released into the environment
- **Oak Ridge National Laboratory**
  - **Nuclear Radiological Risk**
    - Over 26 million curies are currently stored in ORNL's Central Campus alongside billions of dollars of Science investment
- **East Tennessee Technology Park**
  - **Lifecycle Cost Risk**
    - Nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the EM-OR budget is spent on minimum safe/essential services, and ~40% that is spent at ETTP
    - As ETTP facilities continue to degrade, the cost for D&D continues to increase



# Positioning for the Future

- **Balancing competing risks**
  - Environmental: Y-12
  - Nuclear/radiological: ORNL
  - Lifecycle cost: ETTP
- **Optimizing progress and efficiencies while maintaining our outstanding safety record**
  - Accelerate cleanup of high risk facilities
  - Utilize our efficient and experienced workforce
- **Looking for innovative ways to perform work**
  - Challenge our approaches
  - Improve use of technology
- **Identifying near-term goals while continuing our longer-term strategic focus**



# Near-term Cleanup Goals

- Complete demolition of Buildings K-25 and K-27 at ETTP
- Continue to identify ways to address mercury releases at the Y-12 site
- Remove half of the U-233 inventory at ORNL and prepare for processing remaining inventory
- Continue processing transuranic waste (debris) and prepare for sludge processing



# Longer-Term Strategic Plan

- **East Tennessee Technology Park**

- Complete demolition of the highest risk facilities -- Buildings K-25 and K-27
- Address remaining facilities after work starts at other Oak Ridge Reservation sites



- **Y-12 National Security Complex**

- Finalize overall site cleanup strategy/plan
- Initiate characterization, treatability studies and building demolition preparation
- Begin decontamination and demolition after K-27 demolition is complete

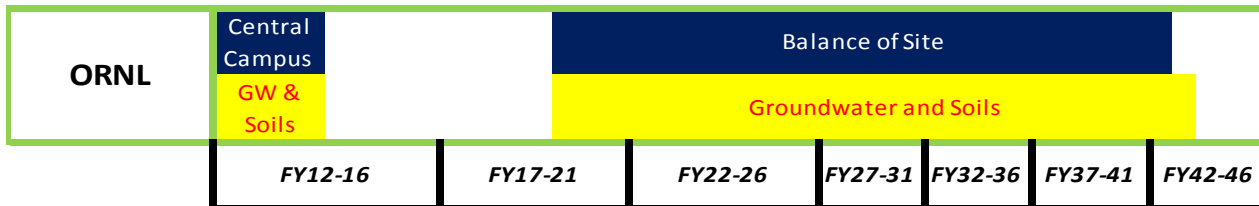
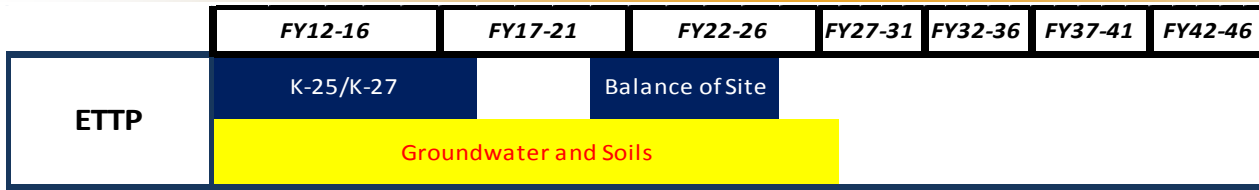


- **Oak Ridge National Laboratory**

- Complete U-233 disposition and Transuranic waste processing
- Initiate cleanup of remaining facilities after work is underway at Y-12



# Proposed Overall Cleanup Schedule



	Demolition
	Remediation
	Waste/Material Processing





# Role of the Board as it Relates to DOE

- Maintain Awareness of Key Program Focus Areas
- Provide Recommendation on High-level Programmatic Decisions and Project Implementation
- Solicit Input from Broader Regional Stakeholder Community
- Participate in National Dialogues Concerning EM Program

# Mission Statement

The mission of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board is to provide informed advice and recommendations concerning site specific issues related to the DOE Environmental Management Program at the Oak Ridge Reservation.

In order to provide unbiased evaluation and recommendations on the cleanup efforts related to the Oak Ridge site, the Board seeks opportunities for input through collaborative dialogue with the communities surrounding the Oak Ridge Reservation, governmental regulators, and other stakeholders.



## Overall FY 2013 Board Accomplishments

### Environmental Management

Provided suggestion for a top issue for Oak Ridge for the spring EM SSAB Chairs' meeting (webinar):

*Long-term stewardship for sites with ongoing missions*

### Stewardship

Provided suggestion on top issues for spring EM SSAB Chair's meeting (webinar):

*Long-term stewardship at DOE sites with ongoing missions*

Invited Dale Rector, TDEC, to get the state's comments on status of stewardship:

*Requirements for stewardship of remediated areas must be enforced*

*The state views anything less than 300 years as short-term for stewardship*

*Buffer zones around remediated areas is important*

*Understanding potential hazards in groundwater is important*

### Environmental Management

The Committee identified a groundwater consultant, who functioned as a liaison between the Board and the groundwater workshop participants formulating the long-term groundwater strategy for the reservation.

### Public Outreach

Issued four news releases; Published two guest editorials; Published four Advocate newsletters; Published the FY 2012 annual report and Distributed ORSSAB monthly meeting videos to Knoxville, Oak Ridge, and Lenoir City cable stations.

### Recommendations from Environmental Management and Stewardship

The EM Committee drafted a recommendation on legacy material disposition for the board to consider.

The Stewardship Committee drafted three recommendations for the board to consider:

*Permanent point of contact for stewardship for the Oak Ridge Reservation*

*Re-stating request to develop a site transition fact sheet based on Legacy Management fact sheet*

*Test site transfer*

## Overall FY 2013 Board Accomplishments (continued)

### **Board Finance & Process**

Reviewed the FY 2013 ORSSAB budget allocation from DOE, recommended distribution of funding among expense categories, and recommended allocation of FY 2012 carryover.

Prepared the FY 2015 ORSSAB budget request for submittal to DOE.

### **Public Outreach**

Redesigned the ORSSAB website to provide improved functionality and better comply with DOE website guidance.

# Individual Committee Accomplishments

## Environmental Management

### Accomplishments:

1. The Committee drafted a recommendation on legacy material disposition for the board to consider.
2. Provided suggestion for a top issue for Oak Ridge for the spring EM SSAB Chairs' meeting (webinar):  
*Long-term stewardship for sites with ongoing missions*
3. The Committee identified a groundwater consultant, who functioned as a liaison between the Board and the groundwater workshop participants formulating the long-term groundwater strategy for the reservation.
4. Provided suggestion for a board accomplishment for Oak Ridge for the spring chairs' meeting:  
*Work with independent consultant to better understand groundwater flow patterns on the Oak Ridge Reservation.*
5. Began consideration of a possible recommendation on nickel in storage that could be taken to the EM SSAB Chairs' meeting for consideration.
6. Committee member Alfreda Cook participated in public meeting with Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry regarding health risks posed by Y-12 mercury releases on adjacent communities.

### Presentations to EM in FY 2013

October – Siting of a second CERCLA waste disposal facility

November – Briefing on Groundwater Strategy Workshops

January – Hazardous and radioactive waste in long-term storage

March – Remediation strategy plan for the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment

April – Update on status of U-233 Project

Update on Groundwater Strategy Workshops

## Stewardship

### Accomplishments:

1. Committee invited Dave Adler to talk to the committee regarding a number of topics:  
*Reservation-wide ROD*  
*Records disposition*  
*Public outreach*  
*Reservation point of contact for stewardship – Dave Adler agreed to be POC*
2. Committee invited Dale Rector, TDEC, to get the state's comments on status of stewardship:  
*Requirements for stewardship of remediated areas must be enforced*  
*The state views anything less than 300 years as short-term for stewardship*  
*Buffer zones around remediated areas is important*  
*Understanding potential hazards in groundwater is important*
3. Provided suggestion on top issues for spring EM SSAB Chair's meeting (webinar)  
*Long-term stewardship at DOE sites with ongoing missions*
4. Drafted three recommendations for the board to consider  
*Permanent point of contact for stewardship for the Oak Ridge Reservation*  
*Re-stating request to develop a site transition fact sheet based on Legacy Management fact sheet*  
*Test site transfer*

### Presentations to Stewardship in FY 2013

October – Land Use Manager

January – National Priorities List Site Boundary Delineation

March – Remediation Effectiveness Report

## **Board Finance & Process**

### **Accomplishments:**

1. Reviewed the FY 2013 ORSSAB budget allocation from DOE, recommended distribution of funding among expense categories, and recommended allocation of FY 2012 carryover.
2. Prepared the FY 2015 ORSSAB budget request for submittal to DOE.
3. Maintained board expenditures within budget.
4. Reviewed expenditure and travel requests.
5. Led planning efforts for the 2013 annual planning meeting, including determination of location; development of agenda; and decisions on menu, packet materials, and other logistics.
6. Reviewed the ORSSAB Bylaws to determine if any amendments should be made to keep them current.

## **Public Outreach**

### **Accomplishments:**

1. Revised the ORSSAB infomercials to incorporate new footage and information.
2. Redesigned the ORSSAB website to provide improved functionality and better comply with DOE website guidance
3. Made a number of improvements and updates to the ORSSAB Facebook and YouTube sites.
4. Revised the ORSSAB presentation.
5. Coordinated participation in and provided staffing for the ORSSAB booth at the Oak Ridge Earth Day festival.
6. Issued four news releases.
7. Published two guest editorials.
8. Published four Advocate newsletters.
9. Published the FY 2012 annual report.
10. Distributed ORSSAB monthly meeting videos to Knoxville, Oak Ridge, and Lenoir City cable stations.





# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

## Annual Planning Meeting

### Themes of Board Member Comments

#### **First Theme: Interest in Creating More Participation from Board Members in Board Activities**

- All committee members manage at least one "issue," or support someone else who does.
- Do something as a group to reach out to new members. "Hooking" new members is crucial to keeping the ORSSAB focused on being the most helpful, productive federal advisory committee in America.
- How can we increase committee participation? One idea: *require* participation.
- Write a vision statement and discuss what a "model" board member might do to maximize his/her contribution toward that vision.



# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

## Annual Planning Meeting

### Themes of Board Member Comments

#### **Second Theme: Interest in Helping the Public Accept the Success of Cleanup**

How do we help foster widespread public acceptance (awareness?) of the success of all cleanup efforts?

1. Educate the public by helping them understand what "cleanup" means, and give them the rationale, e.g., "Elimination of introduced radioactive materials so that their emissions are less than 50% of the natural background."
2. Maintain regular but infrequent monitoring of all locations where cleanup has been completed. Publicize the results so as to elevate the DOE image as a concerned environmental manager.

# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE, EPA, and TDEC

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## ***Comprehensive Groundwater Strategy***

### *DOE request*

In September 2013, a first draft of the Oak Ridge Reservation Groundwater Remediation Strategy will be formally issued. All parties (DOE, EPA, TDEC) hope this draft document will represent a consensus approach for future groundwater work. Dr. Daniel Goode, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, has been retained to assist with this effort. After issuance of the draft document, we request that the Board work with Dr. Goode to understand the strategy document and to offer comments on its recommended strategies for addressing ORR groundwater challenges.

### *EPA request*

The September 30, 2013 enforceable milestone for the submission of this draft document remains on schedule. Since this strategy document will impact the successful evaluation and future remediation efforts of groundwater, not only on the Oak Ridge Reservation but potential off-site impacts, the Board's involvement is crucial. The EPA urges the ORSSAB to continue its participation and work with DOE to finalize the strategy, while ensuring the greater Oak Ridge community understands the concepts and application of the strategy as it is implemented to guide the prioritization of cleanup actions. (TDEC request next page)



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE, EPA, and TDEC

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## ***Comprehensive Groundwater Strategy***

### *TDEC request*

Groundwater contamination from the Oak Ridge Reservation has been documented across the Clinch River. There is potential for deep groundwater flow systems that could transport Department of Energy contamination for unknown distances off the ORR. There is not a comprehensive offsite groundwater sentinel monitoring program for early detection of contamination migration off the ORR. The DOE, EPA, and TDEC are developing an ORR Groundwater Strategy Document that will address these issues as well as the need for on-site groundwater treatment. The Strategy Document is milestone for September 30, 2013. The Strategy is expected to identify a groundwater project to be started by September 30, 2014. Input from SSAB on these matters will increase public awareness and assist in developing a schedule for characterizing and treating groundwater from the ORR.



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE, EPA, and TDEC

## ***Strategy for Addressing Mercury Contamination at the Y-12 Facility***

### *DOE request*

DOE is working with EPA and TDEC to develop a comprehensive strategy to address mercury contamination at the Y-12 facility. This strategy will address near-term plans for design and construction of a water treatment plant, and longer-term plans for eliminating sources of mercury releases within the facility. After collaboration with EPA and TDEC on a mercury strategy, which is expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2013, we would like to present the strategy to the Board for comment.

### *EPA request*

The March 31, 2013 milestone for submission of a draft strategic cleanup plan for mercury releases from Y-12 has been met and the document is currently under review. The June 30, 2013 milestone for submission of a conceptual design for capturing and treating mercury discharges has been met and the document is also under review. Additionally, the Federal Facility Agreement will be modified to include additional milestones for the Y-12 Outfall 200 Water Treatment Plant remedy selection and implementation process. These milestones will include opportunities for public participation during the evaluation/selection of the remedial action. (continued next page)



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE, EPA, and TDEC

## ***Strategy for Addressing Mercury Contamination at the Y-12 Facility***

*EPA request* (continued from previous page)

Key issues in the mercury strategy include the treatment plant's discharge requirements, the balancing of building demolition activities with cleanup of environment media in a phased approach, and residual free phase mercury present in soils below the planned zone of remediation (i.e., the uppermost 2 feet). The ORSSAB's involvement in understanding the goals of protecting the ecological food chain community will assist in developing remediation strategies that will also protect human health.

*TDEC request*

Releases of mercury from Y-12 National Security Complex continue to exceed State and EPA water quality criteria. DOE submitted a Mercury Action Strategy Plan to EPA and TDEC on March 31, 2013, which identified construction of a facility to treat waters emanating from Outfall 200 as a high priority project to reduce mercury levels in the environment and also to accelerate actions that will result in source removal. DOE submitted a Remedial Design Work Plan and Conceptual Design for the facility on June 30, 2013. (continued next page)



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE, EPA, and TDEC

## ***Strategy for Addressing Mercury Contamination at the Y-12 Facility***

*TDEC request (continued from previous page)*

The continued progress of the Outfall 200 water treatment plant is crucial to the continued clean-up efforts at the Y-12 National Security Complex. This system needs to be in place prior to the D&D of Beta 4, Alpha 5, and Alpha 4 begins in order to capture as much mercury discharge from those sites as possible. Input from the SSAB on this project would increase public awareness of the nature of the mercury problem and the path forward for mercury remediation.



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE, EPA, and TDEC

## ***Sufficient Waste Disposal Capacity on the ORR***

### *DOE request*

Current schedules call for issuance of a formal proposal for addressing future disposal capacity needs this November, and issuance of a draft Record of Decision the following fall. DOE will seek Board input on both the desirability of constructing additional disposal capacity and input on potential facility locations.

### *EPA request*

The revised Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for a new onsite land disposal facility was submitted June 14, 2013. Significant issues have been raised in the review pertaining to Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) for landfill operations and monitoring, a commitment to treatment technologies including size reduction and waste water discharges, lessons learned from the existing EMWMF Landfill, and the location of the landfill. At this time, the parties to the FFA have not held meetings to resolve comments and the schedule for this project could be delayed. The ORSSAB's involvement in the issues raised in the review of the evaluation of alternatives will assist in efforts to incorporate input from the greater Oak Ridge community into the ongoing remedy evaluation and selection process. (TDEC request next page)





# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE, EPA, and TDEC

## ***Sufficient Waste Disposal Capacity on the ORR***

### *TDEC request*

The DOE is proposing a second on-site CERCLA disposal facility, the Environmental Management Disposal Facility. A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RIFS) was submitted on September 28, 2012. A Proposed Plan for the facility is due November 30, 2013. Continued design of the EMDF onsite disposal facility will need to be closely scrutinized to ensure that lessons learned from the construction and operation of the first on-site CERCLA disposal facility, the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF), are taken into account when planning for this new facility. Input from SSAB on this project would increase public awareness of the issues involved with the on-site disposal of hazardous and radioactive waste.

The SSAB may request DOE provide a comprehensive discussion of the operation of EMWMF. There are opportunities to maximize the disposal capacity of the current CERCLA disposal facility and reduce the capacity and space that would be needed for a second CERCLA landfill. Methods to maximize disposal capacity include: volume reduction; waste segregation to allow clean waste to be disposed elsewhere on the ORR (e.g., the Y-12 solid waste landfills); and project coordination to provide contaminated soil for use as fill material. (continued next page)



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE, EPA, and TDEC

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## ***Sufficient Waste Disposal Capacity on the ORR***

*TDEC request (continued from previous page)*

Benefits include: a reduced waste volume and less clean soil occupying space at EMWMF. An understanding of the function of the EMWMF Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) Attainment Board would be useful in this endeavor. Input from SSAB on this subject would also increase public awareness of the issues involved with the on-site disposal of hazardous and radioactive waste.



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE and EPA

## ***Completion of the East Tennessee Technology Park Zone 1 Soils Record of Decision***

### *DOE request*

During FY 2014 the Department expects to issue a Proposed Plan and ROD for final cleanup of the land area surrounding the former K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant. These document will stipulate final requirements for soil and burial ground remediation along with any land use controls necessary to ensure future protectiveness. ORSSAB review and comment on these documents is requested.

### *EPA request*

Although progress has been slow to achieve the original Accelerated Cleanup Program to complete cleanup in 2008, the cleanup of the entire ETTP and transferring this property for economic reuse is a priority for DOE. DOE has agreed to defer lower priority cleanup activities at ETTP to the 2020s to allow for higher priority cleanup of uncontrolled releases at other portions for the ORR (e.g., Y-12 mercury flux). Funding and cleanup priorities are periodically evaluated, balancing of cleanup priorities and future reuse objectives at ETTP should be monitored by the ORSSAB. (continued next page)



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE and EPA

## ***Completion of the East Tennessee Technology Park Zone 1 Soils Record of Decision***

*EPA request (continued from previous page)*

The goal of completing cleanup of ETTP Zone 1 and Zone 2 Records of Decision remains a priority and where funding opportunities arise, the ORSSAB's assistance in DOE's planning activities will enhance the possibility of completing ETTP cleanup before the 2020s.



# Suggested Priorities for the FY 2014 Work Plan by DOE

## *Provision of input into the FY 2016 Budget Prioritization Effort*

ORSSAB's annual participation in this effort will remain important, particularly given the tight fiscal environment anticipated in upcoming years and the related necessity to establish program priorities strategically.

