



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved March 11, 2026, Full Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly full board meeting virtually via Zoom and in person at 1 Science.gov Way on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 6 p.m. Copies of referenced meeting materials are attached. A video of the meeting is available on the board's YouTube, www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos.

Members Present

Brandon Adcock
Sammantha Ashley
Kris Bartholomew
Mary Butler
Harold Conner, Jr.
Paul Dill
Lauren LaLuzerne
Kenneth Lewis

Harriett McCurdy
Otto Merz
Charles Moore
Melanie Rogers
Michael Sharpe
Kelli Thompson
Tom Tuck
Matt Van Dalen

Members Absent

Laure Clark
Rosario Gonzalez

Thomas McCormick
Tonya Shannon

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM)
Abby Hill, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA

Others Present

Leah Alexander, OREM
Emily Day, UCOR
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Staff
Mary Magleby, UCOR
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Staff

Sarah Springer, UCOR
Brad Stephenson, TDEC
Michael Vestal, OREM
Anne Wallace, OREM

2 members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Ms. Hill – Ms. Hill gave members an overview of OREM activities since the last board meeting. She discussed the most recent land transfer at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP); the current status of the U-233 disposition campaign; a media event planned to be held at Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12); rescheduling a visit by EM's Assistant Secretary Tim Walsh; and OREM Manager Erik Olds' planned participation at an upcoming Oak Ridge City Council work session. She also introduced the board's new members, Brandon Adcock, Sammantha Ashley, Kenneth Lewis, and Matthew Van Dalen.

Mr. Czartoryski – None

Ms. Urquhart-Foster – Ms. Urquhart-Foster said the EPA is reviewing DOE's request to remove a portion of ETTP from the scope of work.

Presentation

Mr. Bartholomew introduced OREM's Michael Vestal to discuss OREM's Efforts to Assure Sufficient Waste Disposal.

Mr. Vestal provided members an overview of OREM's current waste disposal facilities, which include several engineered landfills for Oak Ridge remediation, demolition, and sanitary waste. He then described DOE's decision-making process for disposing of waste and demolition debris for sustainability purposes. The process is as follows:

1. Recycle or reuse materials instead of disposing;
2. If materials cannot be recycled or reused, DOE will determine if they can be disposed of in Oak Ridge sanitary waste landfills (Landfill IV for classified waste, Landfill V for sanitary materials, and Landfill VII for construction/demolition debris).
3. If materials do not meet the criteria for acceptance at one of the sanitary waste landfills, DOE will determine if it meets the criteria for acceptance at Oak Ridge's Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF), a CERCLA facility used for low-level radiological-and/or chemical-contaminated soil and demolition debris and equipment. The Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) currently under construction will also be a CERCLA waste facility.
4. Waste that does not meet the acceptance criteria for any of the Oak Ridge disposal facilities will be shipped offsite.

Mr. Vestal said the majority of the material, by volume, stays onsite, while the majority of the material based on radiological activity is shipped offsite.

Next, Mr. Vestal gave members an overview of the locations for Oak Ridge's onsite disposal facilities.

He then discussed the importance of onsite disposal in the cleanup efforts and said it has been key to the

successful cleanup of ETTP. This has opened new opportunities for private industries to build facilities there.

Mr. Vestal then provided additional details about EMWMF. He said the approximate total capacity of 2.3 million cubic yards is currently about 86 percent full and is projected to be full in the late 2020s to early 2030s. He said additional waste disposal capacity (to be provided by EMDF and expansions to Oak Ridge's permitted landfills) will be needed to allow OREM to continue cleanup efforts at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Y-12, which contain more than 200 buildings to be demolished between the two sites.

Next, he described the systems approach to waste disposal that's used to provide multiple layers of protection. This approach includes site selection and characterization, design and construction, site operations, and performance assurance. He then discussed the steps remaining before construction can be completed on EMDF and waste disposal at the facility begins. Lastly, he described OREM's public outreach efforts.

Board members asked the following questions:

- Mr. Lewis asked to confirm that there are more than 200 buildings remaining to be demolished. He then asked to confirm the amount of time required for public comment.
 - Mr. Vestal said that is correct approximate number of buildings. He said the amount of time for public comment was extended to 120 days.
- Ms. McCurdy asked if the water levels being monitored are meeting expectations.
 - Mr. Vestal said the data is not available yet, but he said the groundwater levels seem to be going down. He said design is starting with the current levels due to time requirements.
- Ms. Rogers asked if there was a lawsuit filed regarding EMDF.
 - Mr. Vestal said he did not have information on that.
- Mr. Conner asked what the impacts of new nuclear companies moving into the area would be on DOE waste facilities.
 - Ms. Hill said private industry would be regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and their waste generated would fall under NRC regulations.

Public Comment

- Public Comment #1 – Mr. Luther Gibson asked what the impact on water quality will be from the Wheeler Decision and about support for EMDF and EMWMF in the Waste Information Management System created for DOE by Florida International University's Applied Research Center. Mr. Gibson also discussed February ORSSAB activities, capacities at offsite waste

disposal facilities, and potential emergency management implications of new nuclear facilities at ETTP under DOE jurisdiction. (see attached)

Board Business/Motions

- Ms. McCurdy introduced the officer slate for elections and opened the floor for nominations. With no additional nominations from the floor, candidates include Kris Bartholomew, Chair; Charles Moore, Vice Chair; and Kelli Thompson, Secretary.

Mr. Dill made a motion to approve the officer slate as presented. Mr. Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Responses to Recommendations & DDFO Report

None

Committee Reports

Executive – Mr. Bartholomew said the executive committee discussed the membership package approvals.

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Moore said the next EM & Stewardship committee discussed the previous topic on outreach. He said the next meeting is March 25.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

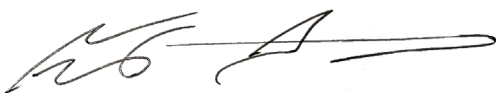
None

Action Items

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the March 11, 2026, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Kris Bartholomew, Chair



Kelli Thompson, Secretary

April 27, 2026

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

KB/sbm

Public Comment to Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB)
March 11, 2026
Luther Gibson
ORSSAB Member (1999-2005), Chair (2000-2002)
DOE Oak Ridge Contractor Employee (1977-2017)
Coalition of Oak Ridge Retired Employees Board of Directors (2019-)

Potential Questions for the Presentation “Ongoing Efforts to Assure Waste Disposal Capacity.”

What is or will be the impact on water quality from the Wheeler Decision?

WIMS, the Waste Information Management System created for DOE by Florida International University’s Applied Research Center, appears not to reflect planning data beyond 4Q FY 2024. A Disposition Map generated for Oak Ridge Reservation to EMWMF shows 285,836.21 m³ from 2025 through 2054. EMDF has not been built into the application. Is this project still supported?

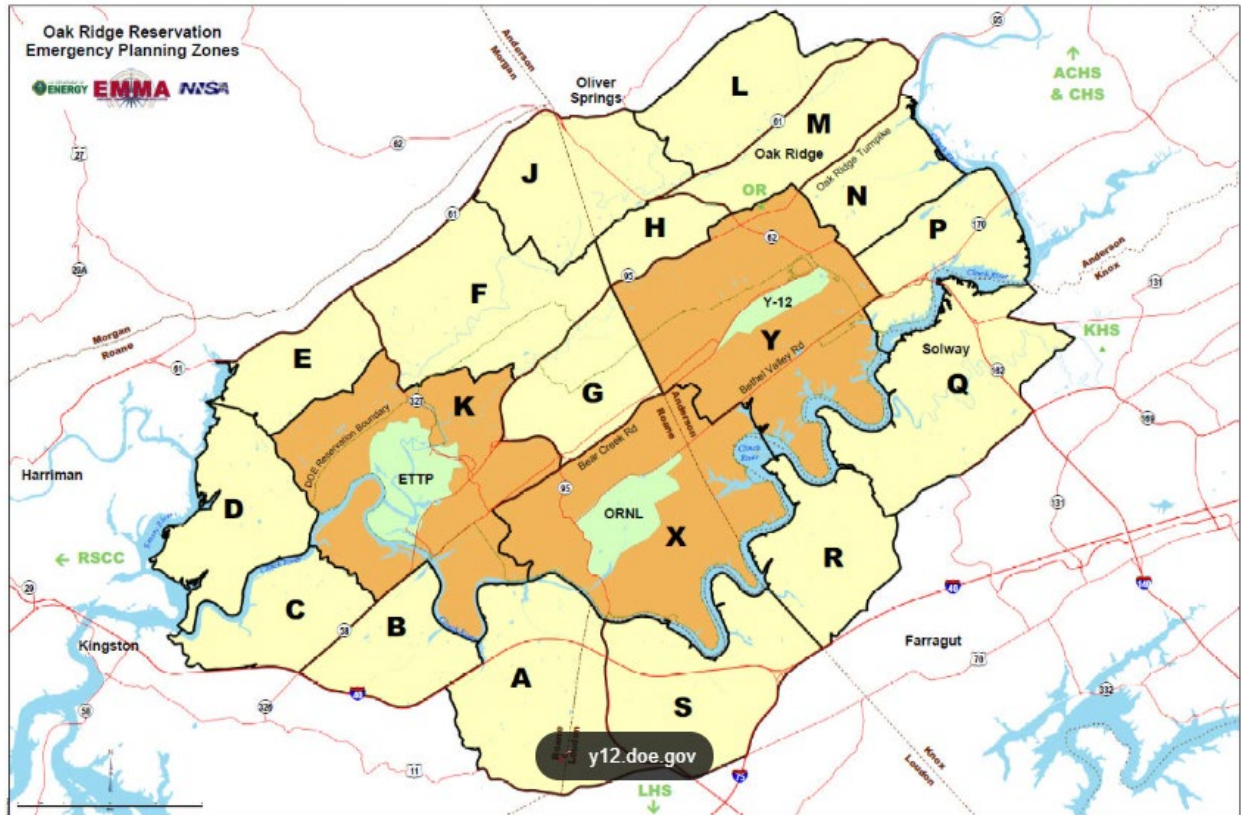
Other Comments: Discontinuing the Environmental Management Advisory Board was terrible.

ORSSAB activities in February fell short of expectations that built up since the annual planning meeting in August. How OREM communicates what it wants the public to hear is of less priority to some than how it can engage on a deeper level. The committee meeting held subsequent to the Board meeting could be better used to provide quick updates on issues that are evolving as disclosed in documents that have surfaced.

“Ongoing Efforts to Assure Waste Disposal Capacity” should include assurance of access to off-site facilities. A Disposition Map generated for Oak Ridge Reservation through WIMS indicates disposition at Area 5 LLW Disposal Unit (NNSS), Area 5 MLLW Disposal Cell (NNSS), Clean Harbors, Commercial TBD, Energy Solutions-Clive (formerly Envirocare), Energy Solutions-TN (formerly GTS Duratek), Perma-Fix Gainesville, Perma-Fix--Diversified Scientific Services-Inc, Perma-Fix--Northwest (formerly PEcoS), Veolia, and Waste Control Specialists. This analysis does not include transuranic wastes. According to the Annual Transuranic Waste Inventory Report – 2025, if all potential waste being reported became eligible for disposal at the WIPP facility and was added to the current volume estimate of WIPP bound stored and projected TRU waste up through and beyond CY 2033, the total waste volume would be approximately 175,000 m³. Under the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act, the WIPP facility is authorized to dispose of 6.2 million cubic feet (175,564 m³) of TRU waste.

Operation of new nuclear facilities at ETPP under DOE authorization could have serious emergency preparedness implications. Standard Nuclear has provided NRC with a Notice of Intent to Engage with the NRC Regarding Future Licensing of Advanced Fuel Production Facilities. The strategy involves transitioning facilities at ETPP and Idaho National Laboratory back to DOE jurisdiction, obtain DOE authorization of the processes, and then leverage that authorization to facilitate NRC licensing. In 2022, removal of hazards under jurisdiction of DOE at ETPP enabled four emergency planning sectors (B, C, D, and E) to be removed. Return to DOE jurisdiction of facilities likely to become Hazardous Materials Program facilities under DOE Order 151.1E, *Comprehensive Emergency Management System*, will assuredly result in reevaluation of the situation.

Before 2022:



Since 2022:

