



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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June 11, 2015

Susan Cange  
Manager  
Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 2001, EM-90  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Ms. Cange:

## **Recommendation 228: Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2017 DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Budget Request**

At our June 10, 2015, meeting, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the enclosed recommendations regarding the FY 2017 DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program budget request.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendation and look forward to receiving your response by September 10, 2015.

Sincerely,

*Dave Hemelright*

Dave Hemelright, Chair  
DH/rsg

Enclosure

cc/enc:

Dave Adler, DOE-ORO  
Dave Borak, DOE-HQ  
Fred Butterfield, DOE-HQ  
Kristof Czartoryski, TDEC  
Connie Jones, EPA Region 4  
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor

Melyssa Noe, DOE-ORO  
John Owsley, TDEC  
Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager  
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive  
File Code 140



## **Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendation 228: Recommendations on the FY 2017 DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Budget Request**

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### **Background**

Each year the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Program develops its budget request for the fiscal year two years beyond the current fiscal year, incorporating budget requests from DOE field offices to develop the EM Program budget request to the President.

DOE EM Headquarters typically issues guidelines to the field offices advising them how much budget they should reasonably expect when developing their fiscal year +2 budget requests. The field offices then brief the public, the regulatory agencies, and the respective site specific advisory boards and seek input from them regarding budget requests.

### **Discussion**

In March 2015, DOE briefed the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) on the current budget picture and described near-term and long-term priorities. Near-term priorities (2015–2017) are:

- Demolish Building K-25 at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP)
- Complete deactivation and initiate demolition of the K-27 Building at ETTP
- Continue direct disposition of uranium-233 from Oak Ridge
- Process transuranic debris waste
- Award contract for sludge processing facility and construct mock test facility at the Transuranic Waste Processing Center
- Initiate and complete Y-12 Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment System design
- Complete design for additional waste disposal facility to be known as the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF)

Long-term (2018–2021) priorities include:

- Complete U-233 direct disposition campaign
- Continue transuranic debris processing and shipments
- Complete ETTP cleanup except for Centrifuge Buildings
- Construct Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility
- Address critical infrastructure.

Post FY 2021 Activities

- Complete Processing of Remaining U-233 Material
- Demolish Centrifuge Buildings and Complete Closure of ETTP
- Construct Follow On Disposal Facility (EMDF)
- Construct Sludge Processing Facility
- Complete Y-12 and ORNL Cleanup

After the March meeting, David Adler, ORSSAB's Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer asked board members to rank a list of near-term projects:

- Complete demolition of the Gaseous Diffusion Buildings and support facilities at the East Tennessee Technology Park.
- Complete direct disposition of the Uranium-233 material and initiate processing campaign.
- Complete contact and remote handled transuranic (TRU) debris processing.

- Construct and operate the TRU sludge mock test facility.
- Begin construction of the Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility at Y-12.
- Complete design of the new Environmental Management Disposal Facility.

A majority of board members ranked the projects and the ranking was provided at a public meeting DOE held on April 29 to discuss its priorities and receive input from other stakeholders.

Here is how ORSSAB ranked the projects:

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Average Score*</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Complete demolition of the Gaseous Diffusion Buildings and Support Facilities at East Tennessee Technology Park	2.36	1
Complete the direct disposition of the Uranium-233 material and initiate processing campaign	2.84	2
Complete design of the new Environmental Management Disposal Facility	3.6	3
Begin construction of the Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility at Y-12	3.73	4
Complete contact and remote handled transuranic (TRU) debris processing	3.73	5
Construct and operate the TRU sludge mock test facility	4.87	6

\* Respondents were asked to rank each project 1-6 with 1 being the most important. Each project's scoring was averaged to obtain an average score. For instance, if all respondents ranked demolition of the Gaseous Diffusion Buildings at ETP as number 1, the average score would be 1.

Additional suggestions for number one priority:

- Long-term groundwater and off-site contaminant migration.
- Ensure groundwater modeling work continues and continued funding for groundwater strategy.

Additional projects suggested for consideration:

- Other EM facilities (especially Alpha 5 at Y-12 National Security Complex) that are viewed as deteriorating and a continuing source contamination.
- Focus on completing some projects prior to starting any new ones.

Although not considered a formal recommendation, the ranked list was sent to DOE EM Headquarters by Mr. Adler as an indication of how the board stood on the six projects.

At the April 29 public meeting other governmental agencies made suggestions for DOE to consider when developing its budget. Suggestions were made by the City of Oak Ridge, Anderson County, the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (presented by the mayor of Roane County), and the Oak Ridge Partnership.

Following is a list of suggestions from those entities beyond what is noted above:

- Demolish tall structures such as the centrifuge buildings at East Tennessee Technology Park to allow the building of a general aviation airport.
- Stabilize and transition utility and roadway infrastructure to appropriate public entities.
- Ensure cleanup of Poplar Creek where contaminated and dilapidated facilities remain.

- Work toward cleanup of excess facilities not currently in the EM scope.
- Strengthen the local subcontracting supply chain.
- Historic preservation, specifically accelerate renovation of ETPP fire station for the K-25 History Museum.

**Recommendation**

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board respectfully requests that DOE consider prioritizing the six projects provided for consideration in the order in which ORSSAB ranked them, but also place a high priority on long-term groundwater problems, including off-site contaminant migration, and provide sufficient funding required to accomplish these objectives.

ORSSAB also believes that input provided by the City of Oak Ridge, Anderson and Roane Counties, the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance, and the Oak Ridge Partnership is worthy of consideration.