



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved April 11, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at the DOE Information Center, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, beginning at 6 p.m. A video of the meeting was made and may be viewed by contacting ORSSAB support offices at (865) 241-4583 or (865) 241-4584. The presentation portion of the video is available on the board's YouTube site at www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos.

Members Present

Leon Baker
Kathryn Bales
Christopher Beatty
Leon Shields
Bonnie Shoemaker
John Tapp
Michelle Lohmann
Martha Deaderick

Rosario Gonzalez
Eddie Holden
Belinda Price, Vice Chair
Venita Thomas
Ed Trujillo
Fred Swindler
Rudy Weigel
Dennis Wilson, Chair

Richard Burroughs
David Branch

Members Absent

Deni Sobek¹

¹Second consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Dave Adler, Acting deputy manager and ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO),
Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (DOE-OREM)
Michael Higgins, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Connie Jones, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, DOE-OREM

Others Present

Brian Henry, DOE-OREM
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office
Teresa Lamarche, ORSSAB Support Office
Cameron Neimeyer, Hardin Valley Academy

16 members of the public were present.

Dennis Wilson called the meeting to order by congratulating Pete Osborne for 20 years of service to the ORSSAB. Mr. Wilson reminded everyone that there is a tour of Y-12 scheduled on Wednesday, April 18 and that members need to let Shelley Kimel know if they will be attending. Mr. Wilson indicated that there will not be a May SSAB meeting and that the Community Budget Workshop would be held in place of the meeting, which members are encouraged to attend. The next board meeting will be June 13 with the topic of Ongoing Ground Water Efforts.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Adler presented a student plaque to Cameron Neimeyer from Hardin Valley Academy for his participation in the SSAB.

Mr. Adler then presented a plaque to Pete Osborne for his many years of service to the SSAB. Mr. Adler indicated that Mr. Mullis was not at the meeting tonight because he is at the Cleanup Caucus meetings in Washington D.C. He thanked everyone who came out tonight to discuss this topic because making sure that OREM has a place to take the less contaminated waste it generates is critical to the cleanup program. He noted OREM is at a critical time in the program; once the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) cleanup is fulfilled, the organization will need to request different funding. The ETTP cleanup used a specific type of funding (D&D funding) that will no longer be accessible for other cleanup efforts.. In addition to beginning the new Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) landfill project, the 2018 budget of \$125 million will allow DOEM to begin tearing down the biology buildings at Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12). Mr. Adler encouraged all SSAB members to attend the Community Budget Meeting on May 11.

Ms. Jones

Ms. Jones said water management is a big concern on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). She wants the SSAB board to know that EPA is working diligently with DOE and the state to develop a strategy in regards to discharge of water at the ETTP site. Once this project is working, then we will come with a consensus approach to deal with the groundwater.

Michael Higgins - TDEC

Mr. Higgins indicated there are several issues at hand such as working on the new proposed waste disposal facility, which is a high priority for TDEC, EPA and OREM, and water discharge issues. All three entities are working together to address these issues. He went over several personal changes at TDEC that affect the work on the ORR: Commissioner Martineau is stepping down the end of April and Deputy Shari Meghrebain, PhD will be stepping into that role; Steve Goins, Director of the Division of Remediation in Nashville is retiring June 15 and Chris Thompson, who is currently the Deputy Director in Oak Ridge, will be replacing him; and Colby Morgan will be stepping in as the TDEC Oak Ridge Office Manager.

Belinda Price introduced Brian Henry as the guest speaker for the evening.

Public Comment

None.

Presentation

Mr. Henry gave a presentation (Attachment 1) on "Ongoing Efforts to Assure Waste Disposal Capacity for the Oak Ridge Reservation."

Mr. Henry began the presentation with a broad overview of current onsite disposal facilities, detailed further in Attachment 1. He noted that the ORR has a number of onsite disposal facilities permitted for a variety of uses from construction debris to industrial waste and others that take low level radioactive and hazardous waste. The current Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) and future EMDF are both regulated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and OREM works closely with EPA and TDEC on actions associated with those facilities. All the landfills and disposal facilities have waste acceptance criteria for disposed materials. Characterizations are made of the waste and options are considered for disposal. Mr. Henry estimated that by volume, 90 percent of waste goes into onsite disposal facilities and by hazard, more than 90 percent of hazardous waste goes to offsite waste facilities. The ORR is about 34,000 acres that contains three main industrial sites. The focus has been on cleanup of ETTP and using the current EMWMF, said Mr. Henry. In the next few years, the focus will shift from ETTP, since we are nearing the end of cleanup, to Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). To make sure OREM can efficiently and effectively perform its cleanup duties at those sites over the next several decades, it needs to construct a new onsite waste disposal facility.

Mr. Henry explained a typical project scenario: a project starts by cleaning up what is inside of the building, followed by building demolition, and then foundation slabs are removed, and underlying soil is remediated. This

is the waste stream of the cleanup and the basic kinds of waste, he said. With such wastes, the goal is to recycle anything that can be recycled. Each type of waste – non-hazardous, low-level hazardous and low-level radioactive waste – each are safely disposed of in the appropriate landfill. Higher-level waste is disposed of offsite.

EMWMF is 75 percent full, Mr. Henry explained, and is at its constructed capacity. OREM is currently working with EPA and TDEC to adjust the cap on waste amounts allowed into EMWMF, but that has not been finalized yet, said Mr. Henry.

As the ETTP cleanup transitions to cleanup of Y-12 and ORNL we have been given money to start going after other contaminated areas that will help us get to the major portion of the cleanup. The 2018 budget allocates money for the biology complex and if Congress continues to give more money that will allow OREM to move into more facilities at Y-12 and ORNL.

For the program to be successful OREM needs new low level radioactive waste disposal capacity at EMDF up and operational. OREM, TDEC and EPA have a solid path forward and expect to have a proposed plan for EMDF this summer and a Record of Decision in 2019. Characterization was done for the proposed site. Topography is such that the area is a ridge/valley system and the conclusion was that Bear Creek Valley is the right location for the onsite disposal facility. OREM also looked at options on the east side, center and west side of Bear Creek Valley, as well as a separate option for two small facilities. Part of the challenge for siting a new landfill, he said, is the need to take into consideration topology, geology, hydrology, land use and lots of other factors in partnership with the state and EPA. An important consideration from the EPA is trying to site a landfill between existing tributaries. Additionally, some roads on the ORR will need to be rerouted. As part of the site research for EMDF, OREM in March installed piezometers to monitor ground water and surface water and install surface water plumes to determine how the system behaves. Data is now being collected so that the analysis can be included in the proposed plan presented to the public this summer.

There are decades worth of cleanup work ahead, said Mr. Henry, and it's key to ensure the new onsite waste disposal facility is up and running prior to starting those projects.

After the presentation board members asked the following questions.

Mr. Wilson asked when the rerouting of the standard roads and haul roads is complete, where will the waste go, and once the rerouting is complete will the old roads be removed? Mr. Henry said the current roads will remain functional until the new roads are complete. He also indicated that after rerouting is complete the roads will be removed. He is pursuing DOE approval to do early site preparation in fiscal year 2019.

Mr. Trujillo asked if industrial landfill four that accepts classified waste only accepts waste that is not contaminated? Mr. Henry explained what waste each type of landfill and the EMWMF would accept and said that if there is significant hazardous waste it would go offsite.

Mr. Trujillo asked how successful the recycle/reuse program is? Mr. Adler indicated that it is very hard to recycle materials from contaminated sites and is sometimes prohibited to recycle/reuse hazardous materials Successful recycling is paper or when a building is taken down that is not contaminated that can be recycled. It is often more expensive to recycle than to use new material, he noted. OREM has numbers on the recycle program and Mr. Adler will share this information at a later meeting.

Mr. Trujillo asked on the proposed waste disposal site, will there be a problem with rerouting tributaries and do we have an estimate of how much it will cost? Mr. Henry answered that the project will reroute the stream to have good surface water flow as well as have a temporary drainage feature on the outskirts to help drain as construction is completed and a liner put on the site. Once the site is constructed and a liner put in it effectively cuts off recharge to the area. He estimated the project will range from \$175 million to \$355 million for construction of the landfill in phases and all of the support facilities, but does not include the final cap, which is decades in the future. The lifecycle cost is approximately \$600 million to \$700 million, he added.

Mr. Tapp asked about the haul road being removed when ETTP cleanup is completed – does this location have any impact on this decision? Mr. Henry indicated that the way the haul roads are laid out is one portion comes from ETTP, then there is another road that comes from ORNL to the haul road, and a haul road from Y12. The piece of haul road between ORNL and ETTP would not be impacted by this project

Ms. Shoemaker asked if the selection of this site was based on groundwater and followed up by asking if the tributaries in this area are blue line tributaries? Mr. Henry replied that there were a lot of factors when shifting from the East Bear Creek Valley to Central Bear Creek Valley site and they are based on the hydrology - not only surface water and tributaries but the placement of ridges. The site is hydrologically separated to have drainage all around it so that surface water can be handled. The tributaries may have good or bad flow depending on the time of year, he noted.

Mr. Wilson asked about runoff that comes off the current waste disposal site, and if there is a tie in from the runoff of the new facility to the same runoff site? Mr. Henry replied that the concept is to plan for a water treatment facility onsite.

Mr. Borroughs. asked about building the haul road prior to doing construction and how much time does this save? Mr. Henry replied that OREM is looking at doing things in parallel to open the site sooner, and estimates that approach should save three to six months of time.

Mr. Trujillo then asked if that meant OREM is behind schedule? Mr. Henry replied that at this point OREM is okay on schedule time, but a lot of it depends on when EMWFMF gets full and how much cleanup is done, as well as how much funding is acquired. Current estimates say the EMWFMF will be full in the mid-2020s, he explained, and completion of EMDF is projected for 2024. OREM would like to have a two year overlap in site availability and so we are looking at ways to bring the time forward. The key driver is to minimize programmatic risk that are associated with waste disposal and if funding remains steady over the next three-to-five years, we need to be open sooner rather than later to keep up with cleanup needs.

After the presentation members of the public asked the following questions.

A member of the public asked if OREM still plans to return the haul road to greenfield once the ETTP cleanup was finished? Mr. Adler explained the record of decision calls for returning the haul road to a greenfield, but that could change. Unless this decision is changed that is what will occur, he said, however, there has been some interest in maintaining the road for other purposes.

A member of the public asked what is the end use designation for the Central Bear Creek Valley site? Mr. Henry indicated future land use designations after cleanup are recreation, industrial and unrestricted use. Right now the site is designated for recreation, but if the project moves forward at this site, the designation would be changed to industrial for future use

Mr. Holden asked if the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) had asked that management/use of the haul road be given to them for their use? Mr. Adler said that at this point NNSA has not expressed an interest in preserving the road.

Mr. Wilson reminded everyone that the EM & Stewardship Committee will be discussing this topic further in two weeks and asked members who are issue managers on this topic to begin considering items to be discussed.

Motions
4/11/2018.1

Mr. Wilson asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Rudy Weigel motioned, Leon Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4/11/2018.2

Mr. Wilson asked for a motion to approve the February minutes. Leon Baker moved to approve and Eddie Holden seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Alternate DDFO Report

Ms. Noe welcomed new staff member Teresa Lamarche to the ORSSAB. She said all new member packages were submitted to DOE headquarters for approval, but other sites have experienced delays and that ORSSAB might have the same issue. She noted that Ms. Kimel is looking into options for the annual meeting in August because the venue from last year is not available this year.

Committee Reports

EM and Stewardship Committee report – Mr. Swindler summarized the last committee meeting on February 28, which was centered on OREM Excess Contaminated Facilities. He said members asked questions relating to various buildings on the ORR and what determines the priority of the cleanup.. He reported that the committee decided not to make a recommendation on this topic because the presentation was meant more as background information for the current topic of waste disposal. The next EM and Stewardship meeting will be on April 25..

Executive Committee report – Mr. Wilson reported on actions regarding the annual meeting including the search for a new location. He noted that he and Ms. Price met with Ms. Kimel to discuss updating the board's outreach presentation.. He reminded members who are interested in giving the presentation to provide input.

Open Discussion

Eddie Holden said he heard that NNSA had asked the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) about using Building 1065 at ETPP to store materials and asked for clarification on if NNSA had received the building over CROET's objection. Mr. Adler said that this had been worked out. He said there is a collection of warehouses that NNSA has taken over management responsibility for and they did seek to take waste storage boxes to Building 1065, however, DOE asked that they not use the building for hazardous waste as a condition of taking ownership of the building. Mr. Adler also said Site 3133 has been transferred to CROET. For the near term, he explained, NNSA will use half of this site as a lay down area for materials needed for construction of the Uranium Processing Facility but again it will not be used for radiological materials.

Announcements and Other Board Business

ORSSAB's next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at the DOE Information Center. The topic will be Ongoing Ground Water Efforts. Issue Managers: Richard Burroughs, Michelle Lohmann, Belinda Price, Leon Shields, Bonnie Shoemaker, Fred Swindler, John Tapp and Dennis Wilson.

Action Items

Open

1. David Adler will provide the board information on the volumes of material DOE recycles

Closed

1. Staff will send an email to board members to gauge their interest in giving presentations about the board to community groups. **Completed by email 2/15/2018**

Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Attachments (1) to these minutes are available upon request from the ORSSAB support office.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the April 11, 2018, meeting of the

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Richard Burroughs, Secretary

Dennis Wilson, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
DW/mtl

6/13/18