



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendation 241: On the FY 2020 Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program Budget Priorities, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

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 (FY), 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 funding they should reasonably expect when developing their FY+2 budget requests. The field offices then brief the public, the regulatory agencies, and the respective site-specific advisory boards and seek input from each regarding budget requests.

On May 9, 2018, the Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) program held its annual Community Budget Workshop to discuss the FY 2020 budget formulation process and provide the EM portfolio project directors with an opportunity to talk about priorities for their projects. The workshop provided content and discussions that the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) used to draft its recommendations.

Discussion

In creating its recommendations for the FY 2020 OREM budget, ORSSAB focused on general near-term and long-term cleanup priorities identified at the Community Budget Workshop:

- Complete ETPP cleanup
 - Complete all demolition and remedial action consistent with CERCLA agreements
 - Implement reindustrialization and historic preservation activities at ETPP
- Disposition ORNL uranium-233 inventory
 - Complete uranium-233 direct disposition campaign
 - Conduct down-blending operations and dispose of remaining uranium-233 inventory
- Disposition ORNL transuranic waste inventory
 - Complete disposition of transuranic debris waste
 - Begin construction of the Sludge Processing Facility
- Address Y-12 mercury contamination
 - Ensure proper planning for future mercury cleanup
 - Reduce mercury in surface water exiting Y-12
 - Begin addressing mercury-contaminated buildings

Project-specific objectives spelled out in the Community Budget Workshop provided additional details for discussions that took place at the May 23, 2018, EM & Stewardship Committee meeting. The board referred to the OREM 10-year Program Plan FY 2014-2024, the DOE Plan for Deactivation and Decommissioning of Nonoperational Defense Nuclear Facilities, and the

board's previous Recommendation 235: Recommendations on Groundwater Investigations at the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation for additional guidance on budget recommendations.¹

Recommendations

ORSSAB supports OREM's Program Plan and recommends fully funding the activities that are currently supported by that Plan for FY2020. In addition, ORSSAB has identified three priorities for Oak Ridge Reservation cleanup and recommends that the FY 2020 OREM program budget request reflect adequate funding to keep these projects going. Also, when additional funds from suitable plus-ups and savings become available, we recommend that these funds be targeted for these projects.

1. Complete a groundwater model that would be usable and agreeable by all parties, within the 2020 Vision for ETTP.
2. Complete technology selection and commence implementation phase for treatment of contaminated underground/groundwater plume under the footprint of building K-1401 at ETTP if feasible within the 2020 Vision.
3. Complete sampling, evaluation and report findings on groundwater contamination at the southwest side of ORNL bordering the Clinch River.

¹ All documents are available on www.energy.gov.