



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

August 28, 2019

Jay Mullis
DOE Oak Ridge
Office of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 2001, EM 90
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Mullis:

Recommendation 245: On the FY2021 Oak Ridge Environmental Management Budget Priorities

At our August 24, 2019 meeting, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the enclosed recommendation on the FY2021 Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) Budget Priorities.

The recommendation is based on budget objectives spelled out at the board's June 12, 2019 and June 26, 2019 meetings, the OREM 10-year Program Plan, additional FY 2019 topic presentations, and the board's previous recommendations, particularly Recommendation 235 on groundwater investigations.

We ask that DOE consider these recommendations as it formulates its own plan for future budget needs. There are three specific points in the recommendation the board would like you to address in your response. We appreciate your consideration of our input and look forward to receiving your response by October 29, 2019.

Sincerely,

Dennis Wilson, Chair
DW/smk

Enclosure

cc/enc:

David Adler, EM-94
David Borak, EM-3.2, FORS
Kristof Czartoryski, TDEC, Oak Ridge
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor

Connie Jones, EPA Region 4
Melyssa Noe, EM-942
Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendation 245: On the FY 2021 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 June 12, 2019, the Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) program presented on its FY 2021 budget formulation process to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB). The meeting was attended by several EM portfolio project directors who gave specifics on their projects. This presentation 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 2021 OREM budget, ORSSAB focused on general near-term and long-term cleanup priorities identified by OREM:

- Complete ETTP cleanup
 - Complete all demolition and remedial action consistent with CERCLA agreements
 - Implement reindustrialization and historic preservation activities at ETTP
- 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

Project-specific objectives provided additional details for discussions that took place at the June 26, 2019, 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 Recommendations for additional guidance on budget recommendations.¹

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

Recommendations

ORSSAB supports OREM's Program Plan and recommends fully funding the activities that are currently supported by that Plan for FY2021. In addition, ORSSAB has identified three priorities for Oak Ridge Reservation cleanup.

The board recommends that the FY 2021 OREM budget request reflect adequate funding to maintain or accelerate these projects. In addition, when extra funds from suitable plus-ups and savings become available, we recommend that these funds be targeted for the following projects.

1. Continued testing and implementation of measures to stabilize and control mercury-contamination in the banks and bottom of East Fork Poplar Creek to prevent the spread of contamination and minimize recontamination. In consideration of the unusually high amount of rainfall that the Oak Ridge Reservation has received in the last few years, and the resulting stormwater runoff, ensuring the banks of East Fork Poplar Creek are stable is of utmost importance.
2. Address delays in building and operational dates for the Mercury Treatment Facility due to funding and/or procurement delays. Increase funding wherever possible to ensure the Mercury Treatment Facility meets the original operational date of 2022 as presented to both the community and ORSSAB.
3. Provide continued support for activities leading to the selection and implementation of final groundwater and soil remedies at East Tennessee Technology Park.