



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved May 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 6 p.m. Copies of referenced meeting materials are attached to these minutes. A video of the meeting was made and is available on the board's YouTube site at www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos.

Members Present

Lorna Hollowell
Shell Lohmann, Secretary
Harriett McCurdy

Marite Perez
Michael Sharpe
Leon Shields, Chair

Fred Swindler
John Tapp
Tom Tuck

Members Absent

Thomas Geissberger
Chris Hampel
Amy Jones, Vice Chair
Noah Keebler

Greg Malone
Thomas McCormick
Georgette Samaras
Bonnie Shoemaker

Rudy Weigel
Zach Wilkins

¹Third consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Dennis Mayton, OREM
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Others Present

Brian Henry, OREM
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Support Office
John Patterson, UCOR
Roger Petrie, OREM
Darlene Prather, DOE HQ
Michael Pribish, DOE
Alan Stokes, OREM
Ben Williams, OREM

Six members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Ms. Noe – Ms. Noe told members that OREM received a very strong budget from Congress. She said the budget includes an increase of about \$15 million over previous years for cleanup at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Next, she said crews began demolition on Building 9213, a high-risk excess facility at Y-12.

She also told members that OREM is starting a monthly newscast to increase awareness about OREM's progress and to reach the public in new ways. She said the first episode airs May 22 on community television and will be available online the next day. The show will also spotlight the board and its members.

Next, Ms. Noe told members that OREM reached agreement with EPA and TDEC on several notable topics related to the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), so they will be moving forward with a public comment period starting May 9 and continuing through June 7, with a public meeting scheduled for May 17 at Pollard Auditorium in Oak Ridge, and she encouraged members to attend. She added that there is a website containing information about this available online and staff would share that information.

Ms. Samantha Urquhart-Foster – Ms. Urquhart-Foster said EPA representatives are excited to be part of the upcoming public meeting about EMDF and happy to have been able to work with DOE and TDEC to come to agreement on a lot of the things that were outstanding.

Mr. Czartoryski – Mr. Czartoryski said that the public comment period on EMDF had started, and he said TDEC is working with UCOR and DOE to resolve some issues related to inaccessible links to some supporting information.

Presentation

Mr. Shields introduced Dennis Mayton, presenter for the evening's topic on EMDF and Efforts to Assure Waste Disposal Capacity.

Mr. Mayton said this evening's presentation is similar to those given previously by Mr. Brian Henry, but it has been updated to include new information. He added that Mr. Henry is also in attendance in case anyone has any questions of him.

Mr. Mayton began his presentation with an overview of OREM's existing waste disposal process and capacity. He said OREM is constantly evaluating landfill space and needs and begins planning well before space is needed, adding that OREM's existing Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) waste disposal facility, the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF), is currently about 82 percent full. He said now that OREM has moved its cleanup focus to ORNL and Y-12, additional capacity is needed to have the same success in those areas as OREM had at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), and the new proposed CERCLA landfill is called EMDF.

Mr. Mayton described the various paths for waste disposal used across the complex, including onsite and offsite, but he said the preferred option is to reuse or recycle whenever possible to avoid waste. The next option is to dispose of waste in sanitary landfills, with the next preference being the CERCLA landfills. If none of those are feasible, the waste is shipped offsite, mainly out west.

He said OREM currently operates three non-CERCLA landfills: Landfill Four, which handles classified sanitary waste; Landfill Five, which handles non-classified sanitary waste; and Landfill Seven, which handles construction debris. He added that each of these landfills are permitted by TDEC and have regular inspections.

The next option, EMWMF, takes items that can't be accepted at sanitary landfills or recycled and is generated as part of OREM's CERCLA work in Oak Ridge. Mr. Mayton said the proposed EMDF also would be for CERCLA waste – low-level radiological and/or chemical contaminated soil, demolition debris, and equipment – and would be very similar to EMWMF.

Mr. Mayton said most of the waste volume – about 95 percent – stays on site, while 5 percent is shipped offsite; however, the majority of the radioactive activity – nearly 100 percent – is shipped offsite. He said the large volume that stays onsite is mostly the concrete, steel, and soil from cleanup projects.

Next, Mr. Mayton gave members an overview of the proposed site location for EMDF in relation to the existing landfills on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR).

He then described the upcoming cleanup work planned, including remaining soil cleanup at ETTP and planned building demolitions at ORNL and Y-12. He said Y-12 has fewer buildings than ORNL, but they're much larger and anticipated to take up about two-thirds of the space in the proposed EMDF; the cleanup at ORNL will be comprised more but smaller buildings that are expected to require the remaining one-third of the space at EMDF.

Mr. Mayton said that because ORNL and Y-12 are located in valleys, it is very important to demolish these excess facilities to have the space to build new buildings and continue the mission of ORNL and Y-12. He told members the current schedule for the proposed EMDF would have it operational by the late 2020s. He said the preliminary plan for EMDF includes 2.2 million cubic yards comprised of four cells.

Mr. Mayton told members that DOE submitted the first draft record of decision (ROD) for EMDF to regulators in July 2021, and the second draft, which includes changes made in response to regulator comments, will be submitted to regulators in the next couple months.

Lastly, Mr. Mayton described the planning, design, construction, and operation involved to ensure CERCLA landfill safety, including characterizations, waste acceptance criteria, monitoring and controls.

After the presentation, board members asked the following questions:

- Mr. Czartoryski asked for clarification regarding attribution of EMDF delays to a State request for a groundwater demonstration.
 - Mr. Henry said the State had concerns about the groundwater levels and proposed elevating the facility over current levels. He said DOE felt like that was not particularly feasible and DOE and regulators agreed they could move forward using a groundwater field demonstration.
- Ms. McCurdy asked how the amount of landfill space required is determined.
 - Mr. Henry said OREM completes a waste generation forecast, which is constantly being revised, that looks at the remaining historical buildings to estimate how much waste may be generated, and then factors an additional contingency volume in case more is needed. Mr. Mayton said the proposed landfill would be build in stages, so if some of the capacity is not needed at cleanup completion, the final cells simply would not be built.

Questions from the Public

None

Public Comment

Mr. Sid Jones cited concerns about the accuracy of DOE's estimates for the volume of radioactive materials remaining onsite in CERCLA landfills versus shipped offsite.

Board Business/Motions

1. Mr. Shields asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.
 - a. **5.11.22.1 Motion to approve the agenda**
Motion made by Ms. Lohmann and seconded by Mr. Tapp. Motion passed.
2. Board members discussed a draft FY 2024 Budget Recommendation the issue group planned to forward to the EM & Stewardship Committee for discussion. Mr. Sharpe said the draft was largely similar to last year's budget recommendation, however the primary difference was the current draft attempts to rank the projects by priority of most important to least important. He added that issue group members had not yet discussed the rankings.

Mr. Shields recommended issue group members continue email discussions since many of the group members were not present.
3. Board members were unable to vote to approve the March 9, 2022 meeting minutes due to the lack of a quorum in attendance.

Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report

Ms. Noe told members that ORSSAB's draft membership package is at headquarters for its initial review. She said there are a couple packages in front of ORSSAB's, so it might take a while to get the initial draft package done. Once the draft package is back, it can then be formally submitted, which is typically a long process.

She then told members ORSSAB's Annual Planning Meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 13 in Townsend, and members will receive additional details in the next few weeks.

Next, she said OREM is in the process of updating the DOE Information Center to be allow for future hybrid meetings. She said supply issues have delayed equipment installation and if key components haven't arrived in time for the June meeting, that meeting may be virtual.

Committee Reports

Executive – Mr. Shields gave members a recap of the Waste Management Conference and the Spring Chairs Meeting held in Paducah. He said Ms. Kelly Snyder attended the Chairs meeting and discussed changes to the membership package process. He also encouraged members to participate in some of the available conferences and meetings.

EM & Stewardship – None.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

None.

Action Items

Open

None

Closed

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the May 11, 2022, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Leon Shields, Chair



Michelle Lohmann, Secretary

June 8, 2022

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

ML/sm