



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# **Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board**

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## ***Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board***

### **Approved October 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its annual planning meeting virtually via Zoom and in person at 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, on Wednesday, October 12, 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](http://www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos).

### **Members Present**

Amy Jones, Vice Chair  
Harriett McCurdy  
Michael Sharpe  
Leon Shields, Chair

Bonnie Shoemaker  
Fred Swindler  
John Tapp  
Tom Tuck

Rudy Weigel

### **Members Absent**

Thomas Geissberger  
Chris Hampel  
Lorna Hollowell

Noah Keebler  
Shell Lohmann, Secretary  
Greg Malone

Thomas McCormick  
Marite Perez  
Zach Wilkins

### **Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present**

Erin Sutton, OREM  
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM  
Roger Petrie, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM  
Heather Lutz, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)  
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

### **Others Present**

Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office  
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Support Office

Nine members of the public were present.

### **Liaison Comments**

**Ms. Noe** – Ms. Noe welcomed members and noted the meeting was the first in-person meeting in more than two years and the facility had been upgraded to allow for virtual hybrid meetings. She then introduced Erin Sutton, who replaced recently retired Dave Adler. Next, Ms. Noe gave an overview of key OREM accomplishments that had been achieved since the board last met, including demolishing the Criticality Experiment Laboratory at Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) and the Bulk Shielding Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). She said many demolitions remain to be done and space will be needed to dispose of debris from those demolitions. With this aim, OREM recently signed a document with regulators that will allow OREM to finalize the design for a new disposal facility. Next, Ms. Noe discussed recent workforce development efforts by OREM contractor UCOR and OREM’s newly launched news program, Energycast-Oak Ridge, which featured profiles about some ORSSAB members.

**Ms. Samantha Urquhart-Foster** – Ms. Urquhart-Foster said EPA is glad to have the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) record of decision (ROD) finalized and is looking forward to many achievements this fiscal year.

**Ms. Lutz** – Ms. Lutz said TDEC is delighted to be part of the tri-parties and working with OREM to continue cleanup.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Jones introduced Erin Sutton, presenter for OREM’s program overview.

Ms. Sutton started her presentation with a brief overview of OREM’s history and mission. She said this mission includes protecting human health and the environment, enabling critical ongoing DOE missions, and making clean land available for future use.

Next, Ms. Sutton described the cleanup program’s impact on the local economy, which includes a \$1.3 billion economic impact annually. She described key accomplishments by the program, including being the first in the world to remove a former uranium enrichment complex – K-25, later known as the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) – and transforming the site into a multi-use industrial park, a national park, and a conservation area. She said that as building demolition and soil remediation work at ETTP is ending, work is transitioning to ORNL and Y-12. At Y-12, deteriorating buildings are being torn down and infrastructure to remove sources of mercury contamination are being built; at ORNL, contaminated facilities are being demolished, waste inventories eliminated, and radiological risks removed.

Ms. Sutton then discussed OREM’s need for a new disposal facility to meet the required capacity for cleanup planned at Y-12 and ORNL, and she discussed the recently signed ROD for the new facility. She then went into additional detail on the work currently underway at Y-12 and ORNL, including demolition of Beta 1 and Alpha 4 at Y-12 and OREM’s uranium (U)-233 processing project at ORNL.

### **Work Plan Topics and Discussion**

**DOE**

Mr. Petrie presented DOE's suggested topics for board focus this year:

- Ensuring sufficient waste disposal capacity to continue cleanup at Y-12 and ORNL
- ETTP Main Plant groundwater remedy selections
- Processing remaining inventory of U-233 stored at ORNL
- Excess contaminated facilities risk reduction activities at Y-12 and ORNL
- Provide input related to the fiscal year 2025 budget development for OREM

Regarding waste disposal, Mr. Petrie said that there is still a lot of work to be done on EMDF, so it would be a good topic for the board to continue to monitor. Next, he gave additional details about the remaining groundwater work to be done at ETTP. He said OREM hopes to reach an interim decision on a remedy for the Main Plant area of ETTP within the next year. After that is complete, several smaller areas will be evaluated over the next five or six years and board input will be needed on that. Mr. Petrie then discussed OREM's U-233 processing project at ORNL, providing an overview of the process and explaining that after the project is completed, the hope is that ORNL can reduce its security posture. He then moved on to excess contaminated facilities. He said Oak Ridge has the majority of the DOE complex's high-risk excess facilities, according to an inventory completed five or six years prior. That process will be ongoing for the next ten years, and OREM will continue to seek board input on it. Lastly, he said OREM is seeking the board's input on OREM's budget submittals. The budget the board will be considering this year's submittal will be for fiscal year 2025. He added that the budget recommendation is an opportunity for the board to provide input on areas board members feel need more attention in the OREM budget.

## **TDEC**

Ms. Lutz presented TDEC's suggested topics for board focus this year:

- Future disposal for the Environmental Management generated waste
- Remediation of contaminant sources within Bear Creek Valley (BCV)
- ETTP Main Plant Groundwater Remedy Selections
- Excess facilities risk reduction and decommissioning and demolition at ORNL and Y-12
- Processing and disposition of transuranic (TRU) waste

Ms. Lutz said TDEC's concerns are very similar to OREM's, including ensuring adequate waste disposal, selecting a groundwater remedy for the ETTP Main Plant Area and removing excess facilities at ORNL and Y-12. She also discussed two additional items TDEC would like to keep on the board's radar: remediation of contaminant sources within BCV and processing and disposition of TRU waste.

## **EPA**

No topics discussed or submitted.

After the presentation, board members asked the following questions:

- Ms. Shoemaker asked for the estimated completion date of the Mercury Treatment Facility (MTF). She then asked if funding is available for completion.

- Mr. Petrie said it's currently estimated for completion in 2024, but it most likely will be later. Regarding funding, Mr. Petrie said the project is fully funded.
- Ms. McCurdy asked how difficult it is to get contractors working on MTF in and out of the site since it is within Y-12, a secured area.
  - Mr. Petrie said it typically takes two hours going in and two hours leaving, plus an hour for safety planning, so roughly half of a ten-hour day. He said OREM is working with Y-12 to try to have at least some of the work area relocated to outside the more heavily secured area.
- Mr. Sharpe asked for a high-level explanation of mercury fog. He then asked if this is the first time it's been tried.
  - Ms. Sutton said it's a kind of spray adhesive that encapsulates. Mr. Petrie said it is not the first time it has been used, but OREM uses larger scale. He added that OREM has a technology development program that reviews different technologies for mercury cleanup and is still exploring options.
- Ms. Shoemaker asked if there is an issue with technetium (tech-99) at ETTP.
  - Mr. Petrie said there is still tech-99 at ETTP.

After the presentations, Ms. Noe gave members an overview of the work plan development process and issue groups' roles and responsibilities and the signup process.

### **Questions from the Public**

None

### **Public Comment**

See attached Public Comment #1.

### **Board Business/Motions**

The board lacked a quorum of members present (including virtual attendees) at the time of business discussions, so no business was conducted.

### **Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report**

Ms. Noe asked members for feedback regarding whether they preferred the evening's reduced format for the annual planning meeting or the previous format, which included a day and a half of presentations and meetings.

She also said staff plans to arrange a tour for the board in January or February.

**Committee Reports**

Executive – None.

EM & Stewardship – None.

**Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion**

None.

**Action Items**

*Open*

None

*Closed*

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the June 8, 2022, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Leon Shields, Chair



Michelle Lohmann, Secretary



February 8, 2023

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

ML/sm