Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Appoved November 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting virtually via Zoom and in person at 1 Science.gov Way on Wednesday, November 9, 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

Chris Hampel
Amy Jones, Vice Chair
Noah Keebler
Greg Malone
Harriett McCurdy
Michael Sharpe
Leon Shields, Chair
Bonnie Shoemaker
Fred Swindler
John Tapp
Tom Tuck
Rudy Weigel

Members Absent

Thomas Geissberger
Lorna Hollowell
Shell Lohmann, Secretary
Thomas McCormick
Marite Perez

[1]Third consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Laura Wilkerson, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) Acting Manager
Nathan Felosi, OREM
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM
Roger Petrie, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM
Kristof Czartoryski, 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

Emily Day, UCOR

Five members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Ms. Wilkerson – Ms. Wilkerson began the meeting by recognizing board members completing their service on the board: Greg Malone, Marite Perez, Fred Swindler, Rudy Weigel, and Zach Wilkins. She then gave members a brief update on achievements within the cleanup program since the board met last, including the launch of hot-cell U-233 processing at ORNL, and the transfer of 18 acres of land that once housed the Biology Complex at Y-12 to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). She then said that with the recent signing of the record of decision (ROD) for the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), OREM is continuing to keep the public informed about the project through public information sessions, one of which is scheduled for December 8 at the Scarboro Community Center. Next, she told members that OREM recently released an update to the program's 10-Year Plan, which provides an overview of the program's strategy, goals, objects and timetables for the following years. She said the document will continue to be updated. Lastly, Ms. Wilkerson reminded members that the new Energycast – Oak Ridge program airing on local community television and YouTube is a good way to get the latest updates on the OREM cleanup program.

Ms. Samantha Urquhart-Foster – Ms. Urquhart-Foster said DOE has accomplished a lot and she's looking forward to the future work coming up. She said she's grateful for the board's support.

Mr. Czartoryski – Mr. Czartoryski said he concurred with Ms. Urquhart-Foster's statements and value's ORSSAB's involvement.

Presentation

Ms. Jones introduced Nathan Felosi, presenter for the evening's topic on U-233 Processing.

Mr. Felosi told members the U-233 processing project has two facilities at ORNL: Building 3019 and Building 2026. He said that during the Manhattan Project, plutonium that had been irradiated at the graphite reactor was then moved to Building 3019 for the first plutonium extraction process. After that, the building served a variety of missions and in the 1960s was designated as the nation's U-233 repository.

Building 2026, he said, was constructed in the 1960s as a radioactive materials analytical laboratory and had a variety of missions over the years for ORNL. In 2017, OREM took over the building from ORNL in preparation for U-233 processing.

Mr. Felosi told members that the U-233 being processed came from different parts of the country, so it is in varied containers with varied materials, and the materials fall within two categories. The first category, direct disposition, does not need to be downblended at Building 2026 and can be disposed of directly. This category comprised about half the inventory, and most has already been dispositioned. The remainder of the inventory must be downblended for proper disposal. He said if there was programmatic

value for the material in DOE or other program offices, it was transferred there.

In order to support the planned downblending in Building 2026, OREM had to first complete modifications to the building, including upgrading hot cell manipulators to increase reach and strength, installing piping and solidification equipment, adding a diesel backup generator, and upgrade the hot cells. He said that while OREM was completing the modifications to Building 2026, OREM was able to downblend some of the low-dose containers in gloveboxes. Those are complete now, so the remainder of the inventory will require hot cells.

Mr. Felosi said that OREM spent a considerable amount of time testing all the new equipment, making sure it all worked together, and going through readiness reviews. After receiving approval from DOE headquarters in Washington D.C., hot cell processing was able to begin. He added that OREM is beginning with just one set of hot cells with the aim of eventually using all the available sets.

Next, Mr. Felosi gave members an overview of the partnership between OREM contractor Isotek and TerraPower. One product of the U-233 downblending process is a rare isotope called thorium. Isotek has agreed to provide this isotope to TerraPower, which will then use the isotope to generate actinium-229 for a new targeted cancer treatment called alpha targeting therapy. In return, TerraPower provides funding that reduces taxpayer costs for the project.

<u>After the presentation, board members asked the following questions:</u>

- Mr. Swindler asked what types of tumors are targeted using the actinium.
    - Mr. Felosi said there were about five or six, including lymphoma, prostate, and breast cancer. He said the benefit of the alpha targeting therapy is it targets the cancer cells and affects healthy cells less than traditional treatments.
- Ms. McCurdy asked how many hot cells will there be.
    - Mr. Felosi said there would be five.

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. Ms. Noe told members that the existing board officers (Leon Shields, chair; Amy Jones, vice

chair; Shell Lohmann, secretary) each expressed willingness to serve an additional year. She said no other members expressed interest. Ms. Noe then opened to the floor for nominations for each position. No nominations were made from the floor.

Ms. Noe asked for a motion to close nominations and elect Leon Shields as chair, Amy Jones as vice chair, and Shell Lohmann as secretary.

a. **11.9.22.1 Motion to close nominations and re-elect current officers**
Motion made by Mr. Weigel and seconded by Ms. Shoemaker. Motion passed.

2. Mr. Shields asked for a motion to approve the June 8, 2022 meeting minutes.

a. **11.9.22.2 Motion to approve the June 8, 2022 meeting minutes**
Motion made by Ms. McCurdy and seconded by Ms. Shoemaker. Motion passed.

Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report

Ms. Noe told members that ORSSAB's draft membership package was approved at headquarters and staff is just waiting to receive the official letters to distribute to the new members.

Committee Reports

Executive – None.

EM & Stewardship – None.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

None.

Action Items

Open

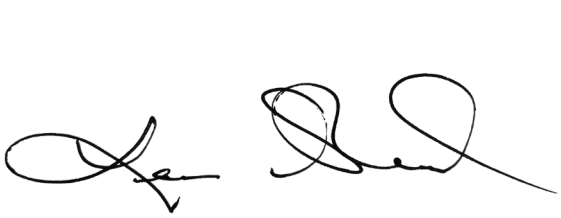
None

Closed

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the November 9, 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