



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

May 15, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Mullis:

Recommendation 253: On the FY 2025 OREM Program Budget Priorities

At our May 10, 2023 meeting the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the enclosed recommendation on the FY2025 Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) Budget Priorities.

The recommendation is based on the March 2023 presentation to the board on the Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program as well as the 10-year Program Plan, EM Strategic Vision document, and the current EM Budget Request.

We ask that DOE consider these recommendations as it formulates its own plan for future budget needs. There are six 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 June 19, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leon Shields".

Leon Shields, Chair

Enclosures

cc/enc:

Kelly Snyder, EM-3.2, FORS
Kristof Czartoryski, TDEC, Oak Ridge
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA Region 4

Melyssa Noe, EM-942
Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager
Wade Creswell, Roane County Executive



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendation 253: On the FY 2025 Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program Budget Priorities

Background

Each year the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Program develops its budget request for the fiscal year (FY) two years beyond the current year, including 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 March 8, 2023, the Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) program presented on its FY 2025 budget formulation process to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB). This presentation provided content and discussions that ORSSAB used to draft its recommendations.

Discussion

In creating its recommendations for the FY 2025 OREM budget, ORSSAB focused on general near-term and long-term cleanup priorities identified by OREM. Project-specific objectives provided additional details for discussions that took place at the March 22, 2023 EM & Stewardship Committee meeting.

The board referred to the [OREM 10-year Program Plan](#), the [EM Strategic Vision](#), the current [EM Budget Request](#), and the board's [previous Recommendations](#) 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 FY 2025, broadly understood as follows:

- Complete remediation & transfer all potential property at ETP.
- Continue demolition of excess contaminated facilities at ORNL & Y-12.
- Continue to develop infrastructure to enable cleanup at ORNL & Y-12.
 - Mercury Treatment Facility, including mercury technology development.
 - CERCLA waste disposal facility (EMDF).
- Continue disposition of U-233 material.
- Continue disposition of legacy transuranic debris and sludges, including use of data from the onsite sludge test area to inform design of the future Sludge Processing Facility.
- Maintain and operate facilities at ORNL and Y-12.

¹ All documents are available on www.energy.gov/orem or www.energy.gov/orssab.

With this support, ORSSAB recommends funding the FY 2025 budget to include all activities necessary to complete these cleanup priorities in an effective, timely and safe manner.

Related to this, ORSSAB is also concerned that inflationary pressures exist to an extent that has not been realized in 40 years; therefore, ORSSAB further recommends that the funds requested for FY 2025, 2 years from now, reflect the appropriate amount necessary to offset those inflationary pressures.