



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved August 14, 2024, Annual Planning 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 on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 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

Kris Bartholomew
Mary Butler
Paul Dill
Rosario Gonzalez

Amy Jones
Harriett McCurdy
Charles Moore
Michael Sharpe

Members Absent

Atilio Anzellotti
Candace Atkinson¹
Raiyan Bhuiyan
Harold Conner, Jr.
Noah Keebler
Mike Mark

Thomas McCormick
Christine Michaels
Tonya Shannon
Rachel Stewart
Tom Tuck

¹Third consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Jay Mullis, DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) General Manager
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM
Roger Petrie, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM
Erin Sutton, OREM
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA

Others Present

Leah Alexander, OREM

Steve Clemons, OREM
Emily Day, UCOR
Sierra Generette, UCOR
Abby Hill, OREM
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Staff
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Staff

Four members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Mullis – Mr. Mullis opened the meeting by giving members an update on recent OREM activities. He said crews are in the process of finishing soil remediation at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), which helps facilitate the land transfers there. He said there would be an event to celebrate that at ETTP, and members of the public are invited to attend. He added that DOE signed an agreement with the State a few weeks ago to settle DOE's outstanding Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) responsibilities. DOE has already transferred the balance of the money to the State, \$42 million that the community can access through grants, and the State will be the ones to accept grant applications and distribute the funds, while the NRDA Trustee Council will decide who receives the grants. Roane County, Anderson County, parts of Loudon County, and parts of Knox County may apply. He said the State is in the process of finishing the application website, which is supposed to be up before the end of the calendar year, and DOE will begin public outreach in the next couple months about how to apply for grants. He said there have only be a couple other DOE sites that has settled that, so Oak Ridge is one of the first to do so.

Next, Mr. Mullis said deactivation at Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) are going quite well. Crews have finished safely removing the third reactor at ORNL, and at Y-12 Alpha-2 is finishing its deactivation and demolition should begin by the end of the calendar year.

Lastly, Mr. Mullis expressed appreciation to the stakeholders and regulators and other partners who attended the tour of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) a few weeks ago. He said the feedback received so far has been very positive. He said EMDF early site prep is ahead of schedule and under budget, and work is underway on items needed to start the groundwater field demonstration.

Mr. Roger Petrie – Mr. Petrie said the build-out of the State's website for NRDA grants should occur within the fiscal year, and after that goes live, DOE plans to have at least three public meetings – one in Clinton, one in Oak Ridge, and one in another area, possibly Kingston. He said they have not been set yet, but the goal is to help people understand how to apply for this money. He then gave additional details about the NRDA Trustee Council.

Mr. Czartoryski – Mr. Czartoryski said the State held a public meeting last week on the on conditional approval of the Site Treatment Plan, and the public comment period expires tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Ms. Urquhart-Foster – Ms. Urquhart-Foster said DOE has submitted the Zone 1 Final Soils Record of Decision (ROD) for EPA’s concurrence and the Feasibility Study Addendum must first be approved, but that should be coming up later this calendar year.

Presentation

Mr. Bartholomew introduced OREM’s Erin Sutton to present on OREM’s Program Overview and Updates.

Ms. Sutton opened her presentation by giving background information on the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM), its history, and its active cleanup sites nationwide. She said Oak Ridge is one of the largest of EM’s 15 cleanup sites. She then gave an overview of the Oak Ridge site’s key areas – East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), formerly named K-25, ORNL, and Y-12 – and their respective roles and histories. Ms. Sutton then discussed OREM’s key goals for the respective areas. She said OREM’s main focus is protecting human health and the environment while enabling critical Department of Defense (DOD) missions, making clean land available for use, and returning land back to the community to help support the local economy.

Next, Ms. Sutton gave an overview of OREM’s recent budgets and impacts on the state and local economies. She said the program produces 42,906 jobs and its economic impact totals \$1.3 billion annually and generates nearly \$400 million in personal income.

Ms. Sutton then discussed notable OREM accomplishments, plus current cleanup work underway and planned in Oak Ridge. She said Oak Ridge was the first site in the world to remove a former uranium enrichment complex, which involved removing nearly 500 structures spanning a total footprint of 13 million square feet. The crews responsible for that accomplishment are now deactivating and demolishing excess contaminated facilities at Y-12 and ORNL, and it’s expected that 400 additional structures will be removed from these two areas in the next 20-plus years. She added that at ETTP, DOE’s work is transforming the former enrichment site to a multi-use industrial center, a national park, and a conservation area, and she described some of the industries planning to move onto the site.

Ms. Sutton said that with the work wrapping up at ETTP, OREM is shifting its focus to ORNL and Y-12, and she described some of the recent progress.

Some of the projects she discussed included demolitions of the Bulk Shielding Reactor and the Low Intensity Test Reactor, removal of portions of the Oak Ridge Research Reactor, the Uranium-233 (U-233) Disposition Project, the Sludge Processing Facility Buildouts Project, and construction on the Mercury Treatment Facility (MTF) Headworks Facility and the MTF Treatment Plant.

Each agency then provided their input for ORSSAB topics for FY 2025. Mr. Petrie spoke for DOE, Mr. Czartoryski spoke for TDEC, and Ms. Urquhart-Foster spoke for EPA (See attachments 1, 2 & 3).

Board members asked the following questions:

- Ms. McCurdy asked Ms. Urquhart-Foster if EPA has set up criteria for other DOE sites for water discharges.
 - Ms. Urquhart-Foster said there are national standards for safe drinking water.

- Ms. McCurdy asked about how DOE prevents ambient water from spreading materials.
 - Mr. Petrie said DOE typically leaves the concrete pads for buildings in place during teardowns in order to prevent rainfall from permeating the footprint of where the building was, and when the building has basements instead of concrete pads, the basement is filled with grout.
- Mr. Bartholomew asked if the real constraints on getting work done is always funding.
 - Mr. Mullis said work at Y-12 and ORNL are constrained because of topography and site operations, and he described some of the specific examples.

Public Comment

- Public Comment #1 – Mr. Luther Gibson shared suggested FY 2025 ORSSAB topics and comments. (See attached)

Board Business/Motions

Ms. Jones asked members if they have any requests for topics to be discussed in FY 2025.

Ms. Butler said she would like to see something on the topic of Waste with No Path to Disposal that is a compilation of various items (specified below) in one presentation to the board. This presentation would include information on: What they are; what's being done to protect the public; who's responsible for which wastes; what TDEC's and EPA's perspectives are on these wastes; what research has been done to find paths to disposal. She listed specific areas of interest as TRU sludge, the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment (MSRE), the Bear Creek Valley dump site, what's behind the dams, such as at Melton Hill Dam and White Oak Lake, and PFAs.

Ms. Noe also gave members an overview of ORSSAB's work planning process and the role of issue groups.

Board members were unable to vote on the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes due to the lack of a quorum present.

Ms. Jones told members that officer elections would be held October. She listed the members currently running and asked members to contact staff if they are interested in running.

Responses to Recommendations & DDFO Report

Ms. Noe thanked those who participated in person and online.

Committee Reports

Executive – None.

EM & Stewardship – Ms. Butler said the next EM & Stewardship committee meeting will be held in

October and members would include the election of the FY 2025 EM & Stewardship Committee Chair and Co-chair.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

Ms. Jones and Ms. Butler described the value of attending the EM SSAB Chairs Meeting and encouraged members to attend the meeting being hosted in Oak Ridge on September 25 & 26.

Action Items

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the August 14, 2024, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Amy Jones, Chair



Harriett McCurdy, Secretary

October 9, 2024

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

AJ/sbm