Path forward

Work is underway to complete our cleanup mission at ETTP.

Zone 1 Groundwater Plumes

Seven source areas were identified for a future CERLCA decision based on historical and current groundwater conditions. The source areas have been investigated, and further investigation is being conducted for two of the source areas: the K-720 Fly Ash Pile, and the K-1085 Old Firehouse Burn Area. Additional characterization for these two areas, including additional groundwater monitoring and soil sample collection, is necessary prior to proceeding to the Remedial Investigation Report.

This report, followed by a Feasibility Study, will help in characterizing the nature and extent of contamination and risks to human health and the environment to pursue cleanup effectiveness for groundwater at the source areas. Following that documentation, the next steps include an approved Proposed Plan and Record of Decision, which would define the decisions and selected remedies made for each source area.

Remaining Media

Surface water, sediment, and remaining ecological risks consists of media not addressed in previous or planned CERCLA decisions at ETTP. This project focuses on seven investigation areas where potential contamination and exposure to human and ecological receptors occur.

The risks are being investigated in two phases of scope. Phase 1 has been completed and included collection of new surface water and sediment from various locations. Phase 2 includes additional analytical and ecological data collection and is awaiting the finalized and approved Remedial Investigation Work Plan Sampling and Analysis Plan Addendum document. Additional steps for this project include developing a Remedial Investigation Report and Feasibility Study Report that will characterize the nature and extent of contamination and risks to human health and the environment to pursue cleanup effectiveness for the contaminated Remaining Media. These will assist in the development of a Proposed Plan and Record of Decision that will define the decisions and selected remedies for remaining media.

All remedies listed will implemented as required by the Record of Decision in the future.







SOIL AND GROUNDWATER East Tennessee Technology Park | Oak Ridge, TN









The Final Chapter of Cleanup at the East Tennessee Technology Park

February 2025

The Final Chapter



DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) and its contractor UCOR have completed major field work at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). That involved demolition and soil remediation. In 2020, crews finished tearing down more than 500 facilities, including what was once the world's former largest building.

Following demolition, crews identified and removed areas with impacted soil at the site. That effort, which was completed in 2024, involved excavating more than 50,000 dump truck loads of soil.

Building demolished

The final chapter of cleanup at ETTP involves groundwater remediation. In 2024, regulators signed two Records of Decision that provide approved approaches for how to address impacted groundwater at the site, and it allows that work to begin.

After decades of national service, ETTP's restored footprint is being returned to the community-emerging as a hub for new businesses, energy research, greenspaces, and the 409th National Historical Park.



Soils

For final soil cleanup at ETTP, crews characterized the soil to identify areas with contaminants, and then they worked to excavate and backfill those areas with clean fill.

In Summer 2020, DOE and its cleanup contractor, UCOR, completed removal of all contaminated soils in Zone 1 per the Zone 1 Interim Record of Decision (ROD). The Zone 1 Groundwater Plumes ROD will address the K-770 Fly Ash Pile (coal ash from power generation) and is the only area/action included in this ROD.

Work in Zone 2 was completed in Summer 2024. DOE and UCOR removed over 50,000 truck loads of contamined soil. This milestone marks completion of soil remediation across both zones.



The cleanup footprint is divided into two main areas.

- Zone 1 encompasses 1,400 acres bordering the site center
- Zone 2 includes an 800-acre footprint in the center of the site that housed the large uranium enrichment process buildings









Power of Partnerships

Working together, Federal Facility Agreement partnersthe U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation-will achieve final cleanup of the East Tennessee Technology Park. Through a Regulatory Partnership Framework, FFA partners, along with cleanup contractor, UCOR, meet regularly to discuss issues impacting cleanup and courses of action to resolutions. This collaborative effort to restore ETTP protects people and the environment and makes land available for beneficial reuse.