Ensuring Sufficient Waste Disposal Capacity for the Oak Ridge Site

Dennis Mayton

Environmental Management Disposal Facility Deputy Federal Project Director

Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management

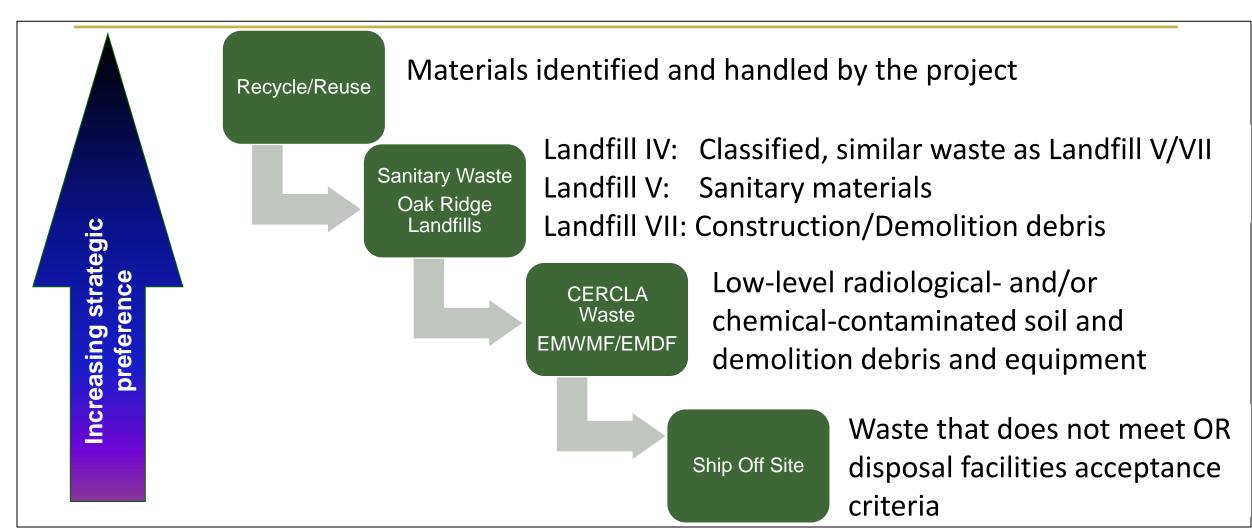
April 9, 2025



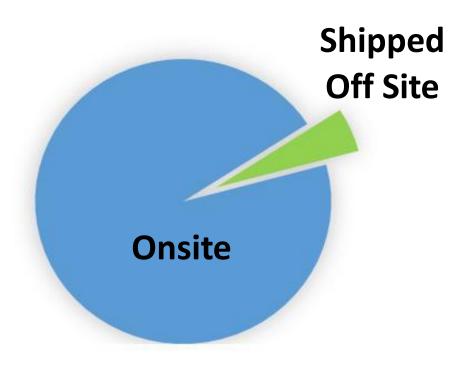
Current and planned disposal capacity is sufficient to meet needs

- The Department of Energy (DOE) operates several engineered landfills for safe and compliant disposal of Oak Ridge site remediation, demolition, and sanitary waste
 - Landfills IV, V, and VII are permitted by the Tennessee Division of Solid Waste Management
 - The Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) and planned Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) fall under the regulatory requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Each landfill/waste disposal facility has established waste acceptance criteria to determine whether waste is acceptable for disposal

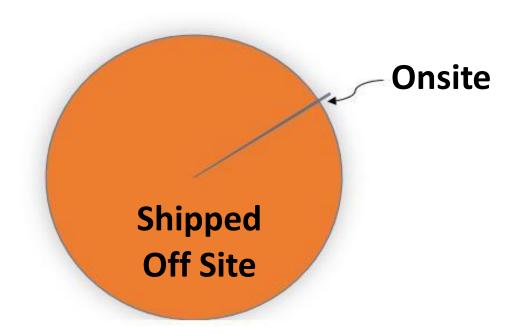
DOE waste disposal decisions follow waste hierarchy



The high-hazard radioactive waste is disposed off site by DOE



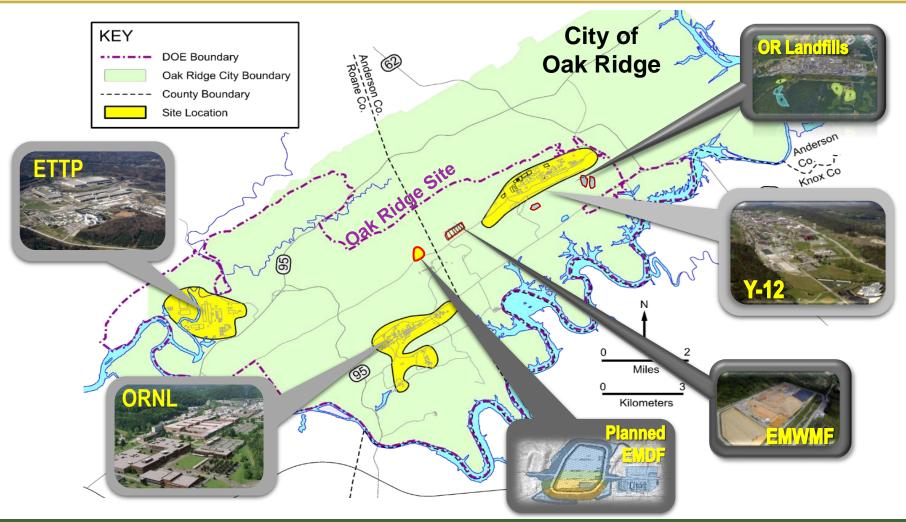
By Volume



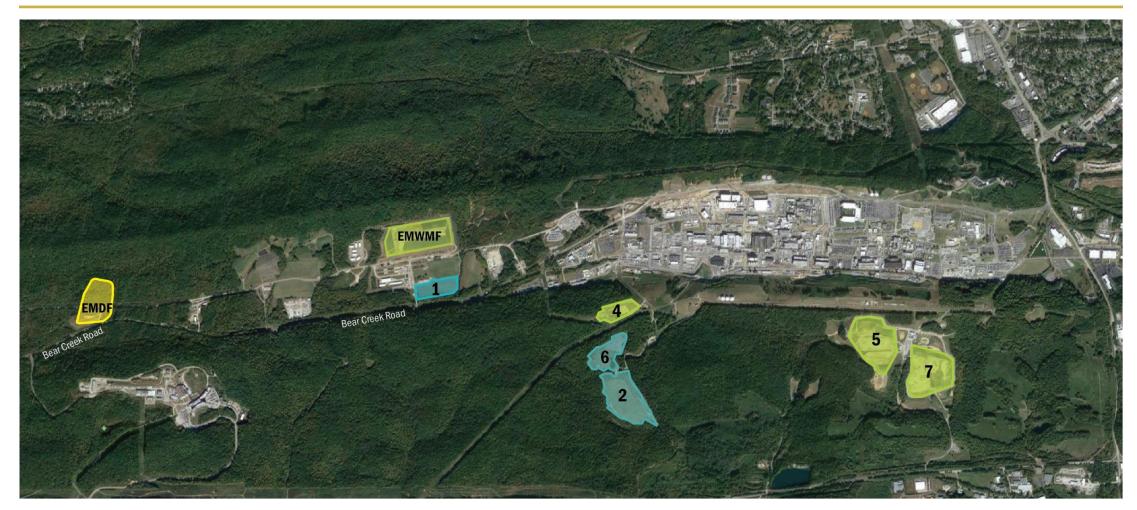
By Radiological Activity



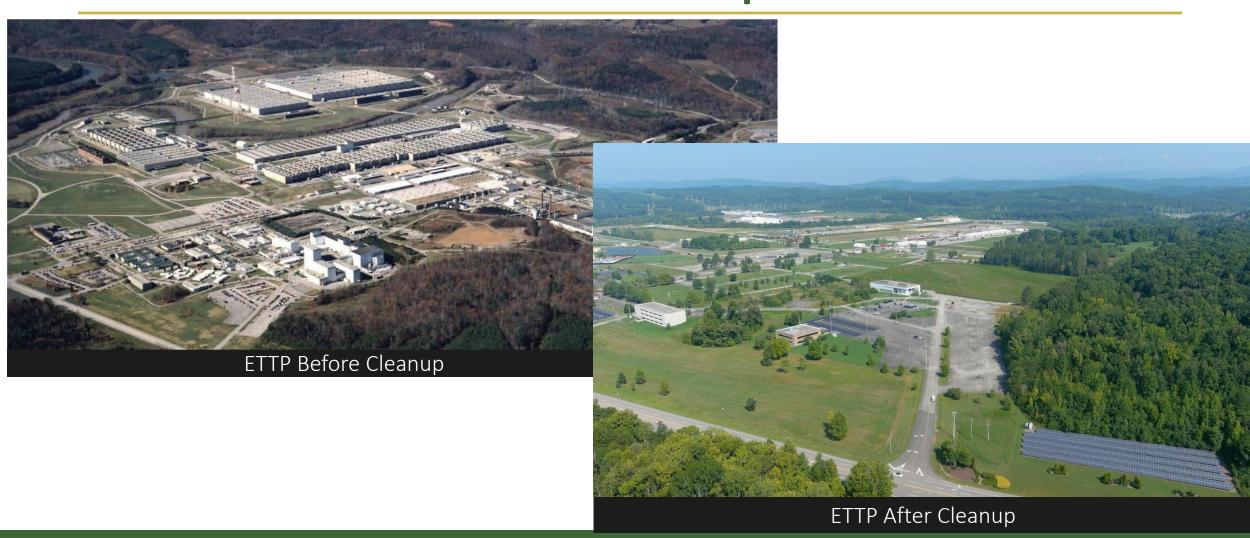
DOE uses multiple onsite disposal facilities to support cleanup operations



Landfills/EMWMF are located within DOE-controlled areas



Onsite disposal availability has been key to the successful cleanup of ETTP



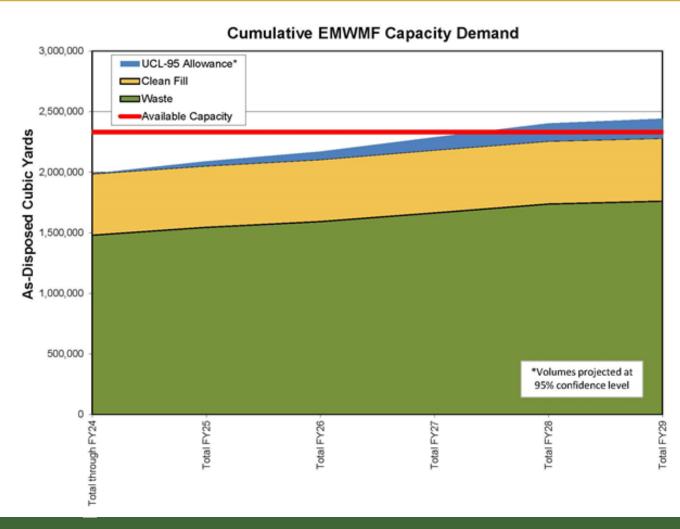
EMWMF remaining capacity supports completion of East Tennessee Technology Park cleanup

- 28-acre waste disposal footprint, opened in 2002
- Lined disposal cells receive low-level radiological and chemical waste from CERCLA cleanup of Oak Ridge site
- Approximate total capacity of 2.3 million cubic yards
 - Currently about 86% full
 - Projected to be full in late 2020s





EMWMF projected capacity nears zero at end of 2020s





Additional waste disposal capacity allows OREM to continue progress and achieve its mission at ORNL and Y-12





- Over 200 buildings to be demolished at Y-12 and ORNL
- Oak Ridge contains DOE's largest inventory of high-risk facilities
- Wide range of physical, chemical, and nuclear hazards that present risk to critical ongoing research and national security missions



Additional capacity is needed for Y-12 and ORNL CERCLA cleanup

- Permitted Oak Ridge Landfills
 - Constructed in phases to reach buildout of permitted capacity
 - Additional area at Landfill V constructed in 2023
 - EMDF (Low-Level CERCLA Cleanup Waste)
 - Chosen site is located at Central Bear Creek Valley
 - Projected disposal capacity is 2.2 M yd³
 - Record of Decision was signed September 30, 2022
 - Projected to be operational by late 2020s





Systems Approach to waste disposal provides multiple layers of protection

- 1. Site SelectionSiting
 - Characterization

- Design and Construction
 - Engineered Barriers
 - Construction QA/QC

3. Performance Assessment

- 4. Site Operations
 - Waste Acceptance Criteria
 - Rigorous Waste Characterization
 - Generator Certification Program
 - Wastewater Management
 - 5. Performance Assurance
 - CERCLA 5-Year Reviews;
 DOE Order 458.1, Radiation
 Protection of the Public and the Environment
 - Active/Passive Institutional Controls
 - Monitoring



Steps remain before Balance of Construction can begin and waste disposal start

- DOE Regulatory Approval
 - Disposal Authorization Statements approval prior to waste disposal
- CERCLA Approval Process
 - Early Site Preparation: Remedial Design Work Plan (RDWP)/Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) approved April 2023
 - Groundwater Field Demonstration RDWP/RAWP approved October 2023
- EMDF Conceptual Design

- Balance of Construction:
 - Landfill Remedial RDWP approved October 2024
 - Landfill Remedial Design Report/RAWP to be submitted by September 2026



Environmental Management Disposal Facility Progress

- Early Site Preparation:
 - Started: August 2023
 - Completed: May 2024
- Groundwater Field Demonstration Construction:
 - Started: February 2024
 - Nearing completion
- Balance of Construction:
 - Scheduled to begin in 2028



OREM is committed to continued outreach

- Meetings with members of the public began in 2015
- OREM offered an initial 120-day public comment period
 - Included public info sessions in Fall 2018
 - Formal public meeting in November 2018
 - Outreach with local government
- OREM offered a 30-day public comment period in Spring/Summer of 2022 that addressed:
 - Water quality protection
 - Site groundwater characterization
 - Waste acceptance criteria



OREM hosted a tour of the EMDF project site in July 2024

OREM will continue hosting events to update the public on progress



QUESTIONS?