



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved November 13, 2024, Full Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held monthly full board meeting virtually via Zoom and in person at 1 Science.gov Way on Wednesday, November 13, 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
Harold Conner, Jr.
Paul Dill
Rosario Gonzalez

Harriett McCurdy
Charles Moore
Tonya Shannon
Tom Tuck

Members Absent

Raiyan Bhuiyan¹
Laure Clark
Amy Jones
Noah Keebler¹
Lauren LaLuzerne

Mike Mark¹
Thomas McCormick
Christine Michaels
Michael Sharpe

¹Third consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Jay Mullis, DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) General Manager
Roger Petrie, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA
Sarah Schaefer, Isotek

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
Sarah Springer, UCOR

6 members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Mullis – Mr. Mullis opened his comments by giving members an update on recent OREM activities, including demolition work on Alpha 2 at Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), the conversion of a soil storage facility into a mercury remediation technology development facility, workforce development, and planned workshops on the \$42 million Natural Resource Damage Assessment Settlement.

Mr. Roger Petrie – None.

Mr. Czartoryski – None.

Samantha Urquhart-Foster – None.

Presentation

Ms. McCurdy introduced Isotek's Sarah Schaefer to present on the Uranium (U)-233 Disposition Project.

Ms. Shaefer began by discussing the history of the U-233 Disposition Project, which began in 2003. She said the first several years of the project mainly involved design and programmatic development work, and management of Building 3019 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) began in 2007. She then described the history of Building 3019 and how it came to be designated as the U-233 repository.

Ms. Shaefer told members that the inventory stored at the facility is a heterogeneous inventory comprised containers of varying shapes, sizes, and configurations of solid material, which proved challenging in designing a way to process all those different containers in a facility dating back to 1943. Due to that, DOE undertook an alternative analysis and determined that about half the material could be directly dispositioned without any processing, and that the remaining half would need processing to meet security and safety requirements. She then described some of the direct disposition activities that occurred from 2011 onwards.

Next, Ms. Schaefer discussed the extraction of thorium (Th)-229 from U-233 and the partnership between Terrapower, Isotek, and DOE that allows Th-229 to be extracted during the disposition process and then used in medical research. To accomplish this, she said, DOE constructed shielded gloveboxes in a building near 3019 that had been unused since 2006.

Ms. Shaefer then showed members a video that provided an overview of the U-233 processing campaign.

Next, Ms. Schaefer gave additional details about processing in hot cells, including the timeline of work, specific challenges encountered, and results before then going into additional detail about the medical uses for the extracted thorium.

Board members asked the following questions:

- Mr. Conner asked what is done with the spent uranyl nitrate. He then asked what type of resin is used in the solidification process.
 - Ms. Schaefer said it is downblended with the remaining spent uranium to a ratio of 150 to 1. She said there is about a three-week process cycle at the end of which, the material is tested to confirm it meets waste acceptance criteria in Nevada and then solidified and prepped for shipment. Ms. Schaefer gave additional details about the solidification process and how resin is used in it.
- Mr. Conner asked if any of the treatments using the extracted thorium have been used in the U.S. for prostate cancer.
 - Ms. Schaefer said not that she was aware of.
- Mr. Mullis asked Ms. Schaefer how many doses 40 grams of thorium equates to.
 - Ms. Schaefer said it equates to about 500,000 doses a year.
- Mr. Conner asked if this is the only facility in the U.S. extracting thorium.
 - Ms. Schaefer said it is.

Public Questions

- Mr. Luther Gibson asked about reports of two personnel contaminated at the depleted uranium nitrate tank.
 - Ms. Schaefer gave additional information about the referenced occurrence and safety protocols.

Public Comment

- Public Comment #1 – Mr. Luther Gibson gave the following public comment:

I'm Luther Gibson, as you know, a former member of the board. I continue to review meeting materials from the other SSABs, make observations regarding the topics presented. And you know by now it's not a secret that I'm not a fan of the single issue each month at the board meetings. At the Idaho advisory board meeting on October 23rd, they received the following presentations: One was an Idaho cleanup project overview; another was a 10-year plan and budget overview which listed and detailed the individual task orders in the contract; they had an

update on their Idaho CERCLA disposal facility expansion of the existing cells; they had an engineering evaluation and cost analysis for d&d for a naval reactor facility prototype; and they did a CERCLA overview on groundwater, including one that they're doing in situ bioremediation like what we're doing here, and maybe a unique problem to have, they have expanded site hunting boundaries.

They had a four-page public outreach summary of events that occurred, including visits by officials, outreach events to the media, naming contacts public affairs made, and other public meetings and documents that are undergoing comments or have been released, such as the Annual Radionucleotide Emissions Report and the Annual Site Environmental Report.

Their meetings appear to be about three times a year, and they meet all day or at least in the afternoon, and they have about 5 or 6 presentations. So arguably, they're getting as many presentations in a day as you're getting in a year.

I'll switch gears here to another thing: ORSSAB boards and committee meeting dates have been reviewed in the past, and in 2000 the board meeting was changed from the first Wednesday to the second Wednesday, and there was discussion about Wednesdays, but it was kept at that although some people had other preferences. But I'd like to suggest now is maybe considering moving the committee meeting to the following week, not two weeks later, as we did back in past.

- Public Comment #2 – Mr. Doug Colclasure gave the following public comment:

Obviously, the end state is a big part of all of our conversations for the site here. You may be interested for the board to know one of the states is a new uranium processing facility. The construction on that started a week ago, and yesterday they moved the heavy equipment on site, the Triso-X facility, that's nearing – I believe the NRC's given them a permit – but it's close; it's right here in town. The impetus for Triso to start was \$500 million from Amazon, so it's a pretty serious project and it's 8 miles, 10 miles from us right here. Two weeks ago, TVA was in Oak Ridge, Chairman Jeff Lyash and senior staff, presenting their integrated resource plan. It's open for public comment, and given the amount of energy used in Oak Ridge, I think it would be good to be part of the process. If you weren't at the public scoping meeting, it was two hours, excellent questions, very responsive TVA staff, totally knowledgeable engineers, and six different major computer models trying to predict the power needs for the next 25 years and generating resources to meet those.

An item I wanted to mention is the City of Oak Ridge has just launched their comprehensive planning process, which hasn't been completed in 25 or 30 years or longer, so given the presence of the site, I think someone from the board may want to be a part of that if you weren't already.

The fourth item is greenways – imagine a greenways guy wanting to talk about greenways – but I think we should focus on how this site and the parcels that are released for reindustrialization are connected to a greenway system. For example, the Blount County municipalities have an organization called Blount Partnership, Brian Daniels is chairing that, he's the president, and he

made a presentation at the McGhee-Tyson board meeting not long ago, where he was working with McGhee-Tyson to get a greenway across there. And he made the point that the Blount Partnership promises every new company connection to their greenway system. So I'd like for the board to keep that in mind as a recommendation as far as release of properties for reindustrialization.

Board Business/Motions

- Mr. Bartholomew asked for a motion to approve meeting minutes for the October monthly meeting.
 - **11.13.24.1** Motion to approve the October 9, 2024, meeting minutes.
Motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Conner. Motion passed.

Responses to Recommendations & DDFO Report

Mr. Petrie said there were no open recommendations. He said headquarters approved two site appointments to fill vacancies on the board; one is Lauren LaLuzerne and the other is Laure Clark.

Committee Reports

Executive – Mr. Bartholomew said the executive committee discussed new member recruitment and asked members to contact staff if they know of anyone interested in joining. He said the committee also discussed a holiday gathering for the board. The next executive committee meeting is set for February 5.

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Moore said there is nothing to report, and the next meeting is scheduled for March 26.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

None.

Action Items

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the November 13, 2024, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Amy Jones, Chair



Harriett McCurdy, Secretary

April 15, 2025

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

AJ/sbm