



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

APPROVED April 9, 2025, 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, April 9, 2025, 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, www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos.

Members Present

Kris Bartholomew
Mary Butler
Laure Clark
Lauren LaLuzerne
Thomas McCormick
Harriett McCurdy

Otto Merz
Charles Moore
Melanie Rogers
Michael Sharpe
Kelli Thompson

Members Absent

Raiyan Bhuiyan¹
Harold Conner, Jr.
Paul Dill
Rosario Gonzalez
Amy Jones

Noah Keebler¹
Mike Mark¹
Christine Michaels
Tonya Shannon
Tom Tuck

¹consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Erik Olds, DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) Acting Manager
Roger Petrie, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA

Others Present

Leah Alexander, OREM
Sierra Generette, UCOR
Abby Hill, OREM

Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Staff
Dennis Mayton, OREM
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Staff

Brad Stephenson, TDEC
Ethan Sweet, TDEC

3 members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Olds – Mr. Olds opened his comments noting his transition to acting manager of OREM following the retirement of Jay Mullis. He also noted changes in the list of portfolio federal project directors, who often present to the board. Joanna Hardin will lead projects at Y-12 National Security Complex for OREM, while Steve Clemmons will handle Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Mark McIntosh will be responsible for East Tennessee Technology Park. Mr. Olds also introduced new members of the board: Laure Clark, Lauren LaLuzerne, Otto Merz, Melanie Rogers, and Kelli Thompson.

Mr. Olds gave an overview of project progress and other activities since the last board meeting. These included a visit by the new Secretary of Energy, updates on the demolition of the Alpha-2 building at Y-12, steady progress on the Uranium-233 Disposition Project at ORNL, completion of the construction of the K-25 Interpretive Center, new land transfers at ETTP, and completion of field work for the second phase of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility.

Mr. Roger Petrie – None.

Mr. Czartoryski – None.

Samantha Urquhart-Foster – None.

Presentation

Mr. Bartholomew introduced OREM's Dennis Mayton to present on the organization's ongoing efforts to assure waste disposal capacity.

Mr. Mayton began his presentation (attachment 1) by giving an overview of the landfills present on the Oak Ridge Reservation and an update on their capacities and nature of the wastes included as well as discussion of additional waste types that are transported off-site for disposal elsewhere.

In particular he discussed EMWMF, the main CERCLA landfill in use now, which supported completion of ETTP cleanup. A large part of operating the facility is water management, especially during the region's wet spring season. He explained the various water storage and treatment systems in place. It is estimated to be full later this decade.

He noted that additional capacity will be needed for cleanup progress at ORNL and Y-12 in the coming years. Landfill V expansion was constructed in 2023. The Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), will be the replacement for EMWMF. As Mr. Olds mentioned, the current activity at the new landfill is the groundwater field demonstration to confirm aspects of the design and expected performance. He discussed the various systems and regulations in place to ensure safe operations of the facility. Several steps remain before final construction can begin on the new facility, but the plan is for it to open in concert with the closure of EMWMF for a smooth transition.

Lastly, Mr. Mayton discussed OREM's community outreach activities to discuss plans for the new waste facility.

Board members asked the following questions:

- Ms. McCurdy asked about wells and water testing.
 - Mr. Mayton said testing started in December and would continue through the wet season in 2026 as noted in the Record of Decision. He said test results so far are positive.

Public Questions

- Mr. Gibson asked if soil and other material from the Kairos site prep was the responsibility of OREM to dispose of. He also if specific DOE landfill property would be transferred to Legacy Management.
 - Mr. Petrie said Kairos had found some foundations of K-31 and K-33. He said under CERCLA DOE is responsible for materials left behind and some of that includes land use controls. Materials found include some piping with lead joints that OREM will receive. Regarding Legacy Management, Mr. Petrie said OREM intends to turn over large sections of the reservation once cleanup is complete, but that there will be challenges. That includes, for example, two areas at ETTP that are historical classified burial grounds that must remain DOE property. Those areas will require security and surveillance, which LM currently does not have the capacity to provide. Future presentations will also discuss completion of groundwater efforts by EM, which must be finished before LM will take ownership. Mr. Petrie noted that much property had already been transferred to private entities.

Public Comment

- Public Comment #1 – Mr. Luther Gibson gave a public comment regarding recent public correspondence documents between OREM and regulators at TDEC and EPA; specifically he mentioned discussion of White Wing Scrap Yard, Bear Creek Valley Burial Grounds, and the recently released OREM Public Involvement Plan. A copy of the full comments provided by Mr. Gibson is attached to these minutes (attachment 2).

Board Business/Motions

- A motion on the previous meeting minutes were deferred until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Responses to Recommendations & DDFO Report

Ms. Noe said there were no recommendations. She pointed out the issue group for topics for new members to choose and asked them to email staff with their selections. Ms. Kimel noted members are encouraged to choose at least one topic. She also mentioned that the EM SSAB Chairs event would take place on April 23 virtually and encouraged members to attend.

Committee Reports

Executive – Mr. Bartholomew said the executive committee discussed the Chairs meeting

The next executive committee meeting is set for May 7.

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Moore noted, the next meeting, scheduled for April 23 has a conflict with the EM SSAB Chairs Meeting, which will be held virtually from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. the same day. He said he felt a meeting for April was not warranted and no members disagreed. It was decided to cancel the committee meeting.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

Mr. Bartholomew encouraged members to join the EM SSAB Chairs meeting.

Action Items

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the April 9, 2025, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Amy Jones, Chair



Harriett McCurdy, Secretary

May 14, 2025

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

AJ/smk

From: [Luther Vincent Gibson, Jr.](#)
To: [Noe, Melyssa P](#)
Cc: [Kimel, Shelley \(CONTR\)](#); [Petrie, Roger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment to ORSSAB Meeting, April 9, 2025
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 11:39:38 AM

I am Luther Gibson, former member and chair of the ORSSAB, retired in 2017 with over 40 years of experience as a DOE prime contractor employee in Uranium Enrichment, Environmental Management, and National Nuclear Security Administration programs. I might claim eight additional years of experience since but without a W-2 as evidence.

"Piques your interest" refers to a situation that gets your attention and makes you want to learn more.

I have become increasingly concerned that correspondence among the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) parties that is publicly available is not sufficiently piquing public interest in the issues and important details surrounding the projects, or even that some projects are underway. Copies of this correspondence are distributed to ORSSAB, the DOE Information Center through Administrative Record transmittals, and local government officials who may share it. A local official that chairs the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance posts correspondence involving TDEC and DOE on the organization's website. She once asked me if I read these and understood them. I said something to the effect that more background information helps.

When I was ORSSAB chair, I would meet with staff prior to each monthly board meeting and go through every item received, referring it to committee chairs, having it copied for the board meeting packet, or assuring its availability was noted in the incoming correspondence log.

The development of Remedial Investigation Work Plans provides a lengthy window during which there is exchange of comments and milestone extension requests as matters are resolved or not.

Although I could go through a long list, just some recent activities that piqued my interest in topics not in the work plan include:

- After about a year of interaction among the FFA parties, a Remedial Investigation Work Plan for White Wing Scrap Yard was rescinded for a time-critical removal action to facilitate early property transfer. A time-critical removal action usually applies to situations where activities must begin within six months of discovering contamination in order to protect public health and safety. What gives here needs to be explained, including any schedule impact on the commercial project this is facilitating. The Action Memorandum under which DOE will proceed but without TDEC and EPA signatures should be interesting.
- There was a comment letter on an Appendix I-5 information assessment for White Wing Scrap Yard. That piqued my interest in what Appendix I-5 of the FFA says about how assessment of potential environmental impacts from classified contaminants must be considered while proceeding through the FFA decision-making process for remediation.
- Recently a D1 draft of a Remedial Investigation Work Plan for Bear Creek Valley Burial Ground was transmitted by DOE to the other parties. It is available to review.
- The 2025 Update to the Public Involvement Plan for CERCLA Activities at the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Site has been in progress.

Thank you for your attention. I hope some of these comments pique your interest.

This message does not originate from a known Department of Energy email system.
Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.
