



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved August 13, 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, August 13, 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
Harold Conner, Jr.
Paul Dill
Amy Jones
Lauren LaLuzerne

Harriett McCurdy
Otto Merz
Charles Moore
Melanie Rogers
Tonya Shannon
Kelli Thompson

Members Absent

Raiyan Bhuiyan¹
Rosario Gonzalez
Noah Keebler
Mike Mark¹

Thomas McCormick
Michael Sharpe
Tom Tuck

¹consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

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

Others Present

Leah Alexander, OREM
Emily Day, UCOR

Ryan Getsi, DOE
Abby Hill, OREM
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Staff
Heather Lutz, TDEC
Eileen Marcillo, TDEC
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Staff
Sarah Springer, UCOR
Randy Young, TDEC

2 members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Olds – Mr. Olds opened the meeting by giving members an update on recent OREM activities. He said EPA’s new Region 4 director, Kevin McOmber, made his first visit to Oak Ridge recently and was excited about reindustrialization and reuse of brownfields.

Next, Mr. Olds said OREM celebrated the signing of the record of decision (ROD) for soil cleanup in Zone 1 at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). He said this was the fourth ROD signed over the past three years.

Mr. Olds then discussed the progress being made at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), including on sodium shields that were shipped to Texas for treatment and disposal, and he showed members a video to illustrate that treatment process.

Mr. Czartoryski – Mr. Czartoryski said he wanted to stress the importance of the SSAB. He said the State of Tennessee works in concert with DOE and the EPA on the cleanup, and the input from the SSAB is very valuable. He said the agency representatives are there to answer any questions and provide input.

Ms. Urquhart-Foster – Ms. Urquhart-Foster discussed a letter released by DOE regarding property transfers at ETTP.

Presentation

Mr. Moore introduced OREM’s Roger Petrie to present on OREM’s Program Overview and Updates.

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

Next, Mr. Petrie gave an overview of OREM’s recent budgets and program plan. He discussed the four

goals outlined in current program plan: Complete ETP cleanup and transition the site to long-term stewardship; reduce radiological risks at ORNL; reduce environmental risks at Y-12; and ensure adequate onsite waste disposal capacity to support remaining cleanup.

Mr. Petrie then discussed notable OREM accomplishments, plus current cleanup work underway and planned in Oak Ridge. He said Oak Ridge was the first site in the world to remove a former uranium enrichment complex, which involved removing more than 500 structures spanning a total footprint equivalent to more than 225 football fields. The crews responsible for that accomplishment are now deactivating and demolishing excess contaminated facilities at Y-12 and ORNL. He added that at ETP, DOE's work is transforming the former enrichment site to a multi-use industrial center, a national park, and a conservation area, and he described some of the industries planning to move onto the site.

Mr. Petrie next discussed some of the recent progress at ORNL and Y-12. Some of the projects 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.

Mr. Petrie then provided DOE's input for ORSSAB topics for FY 2026. (See attachment)

Next, Ms. Urquhart-Foster discussed the EPA's input for ORSSAB topics for FY 2026. She said one of the EPA's concerns is mercury, so getting the Outfall 200 project going again is the agency's primary concern.

Mr. Czartoryski said Outfall 200 is also very important to the State of Tennessee and he would be very interested in discussion on treatment and disposal of mercury-bearing waste. An additional topic he suggested was finding a way to engage the younger generation on cleanup levels, on land-use criteria and restrictions of use. He also suggested discussion on potential engagement in project prioritization prior to formulating the budget request.

Board members asked the following questions:

- Ms. Clark asked what is the 2026 Presidential Budget in the chart displayed during Mr. Petrie's presentation.
 - Mr. Petrie described the budget process, including the role of Congress and the President in that process, and he said the 2026 Enacted Budget is not yet known, so the figure shown is the President's proposed budget.
 - Ms. Clark then asked why the amount was cut between 2025 and 2026. Mr. Petrie said the President's proposed budget is usually lower than the prior year's Enacted Budget.
- Ms. Urquhart-Foster asked if Outfall 200 would be included in the budget.
 - Mr. Petrie said there is money in the budget for that.

- Mr. Conner asked how many years are anticipated to finish cleanup.
 - Mr. Petrie said the current cleanup schedule goes out to the 2040s, and he discussed long-term stewardship needs.
- Ms. Clark asked if DOE will have to monitor transferred properties after the transfers are complete or if the property recipient will be required to notify DOE of any issues that may arise.
 - Mr. Petrie said both cases are correct.
- Ms. Clark asked what percentage of property was able to be transferred at ETPP.
 - Mr. Petrie said well over 90 percent.
- Ms. McCurdy asked about possible ways to engage local students.
 - Ms. Noe, Mr. Petrie, and members discussed various outreach efforts and their associated challenges.
- Mr. Bartholomew asked if local students have field trips to view the Oak Ridge Reservation.
 - Ms. Noe said she wasn't sure about field trips, but OREM participates in activities with local schools.

Public Comment

- Public Comment #1 – Mr. Luther Gibson shared suggested FY 2026 ORSSAB topics and comments. (See attached)

Board Business/Motions

- Ms. Noe gave members an overview of ORSSAB's work planning process and the role of issue groups in the recommendation process.
- Mr. Moore asked for a motion to approve the budget recommendation as written.
 - **8.13.25.1** Motion made by Mr. Conner and seconded by Ms. LaLuzerne. Motion passed.
- Ms. Noe introduced the current slate of officer candidates and asked for anyone else interested in running to contact staff. The current slate of candidates included Kris Bartholomew as Chair, Charles Moore as Vice Chair, and Kelli Thompson as Secretary. She said the vote will be held in October. She said Laure Clark and Otto Mertz are both running for EM & Stewardship Committee Co-Chair positions, which will be voted on at the next EM & Stewardship Committee meeting.
- Ms. McCurdy directed members' attention to the June 11, 2025, meeting minutes and noted one correction needed, to add Ms. Clark to the list of members present.

Ms. McCurdy then asked for a motion to approve the June 11, 2025, meeting minutes as corrected.

- 8.13.25.2 Motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Ms. LaLuzerne. Motion passed.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

During Mr. Olds' opening comments, Ms. McCurdy asked how many shields are there to deal with. Mr. Olds said he believed 43 in total. Mr. Conner asked how long the shields had been on the Oak Ridge Reservation. Mr. Petrie said they'd been there for a very long time. He then discussed the logistics involved with the project, including transportation, treatment, and what the project means in terms of reducing liability for OREM.

Mr. Moore reminded members that the next full board meeting would be in October as the board would not meet in September.

Action Items

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the August 13, 2025, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Amy Jones, Chair



Harriett McCurdy, Secretary

November 21, 2025

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

AJ/sbm

August 6, 2025

Ms. Amy Jones, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
PO Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Ms. Jones:

Fiscal Year 2026 Issues and Input for the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

The following input on the operation of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) and issues that should be studied or tracked is offered and intended to be constructive.

At one time the Annual Planning Meeting was conducted so that ORSSAB members could get to know each other, express their interests and expectations, receive training and orientation for a better technical and regulatory knowledge foundation, and divide the planned workload based on different but complementary interests. Board officers were elected at the Annual Meeting. Committees would meet as soon as possible after the Annual Planning Meeting to select their leaders and to develop work plans that flowed upward into the Board work plan. The present model of focusing the entire Board on a single topic with follow-up discussion at a meeting of a committee of the whole is in contrast. The situation is further complicated by the scope and content of the presentation on a given topic not being known in advance of Board meetings due to Headquarters approval of information much already in the public domain. Ideally a committee would take ownership of an issue and collaborate with Department of Energy (DOE) and contractor subject matter experts on an outcome. If given an option, ORSSAB member interests might conceivably fall into three committees. The Environmental Management (EM) & Stewardship Committee might become separated again, and a third committee could be more attractive to those more interested in board process and public outreach types of efforts. In absence of a committee restructuring, the EM & Stewardship Committee should consider a standing agenda item taking a few minutes for identification and status tracking of important issues that are beyond that month's work plan.

A review of meeting materials from the other EM SSABs indicates that some receive presentations on more and varied issues than ORSSAB and that their agency liaisons have updates with more content formally presented. The issues on which other EM SSABs are receiving presentations should be considered as issues of potential interest to ORSSAB, tailored with local information. Some of the presentations are by DOE Headquarters personnel and of the same type of content presented at EM SSAB Chairs meetings. DOE Headquarters personnel should be invited to make more presentations to ORSSAB and take questions from the public in attendance. With regard to EM SSAB Chairs meetings, those attending and representing Oak Ridge should solicit as much input as possible prior to the meetings on issues that are anticipated or should be raised.

The issues below are recommended for study or at least status tracking in FY 2026.

East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Transition to Office of Legacy Management (LM)

LM frequently updates its Site Management Guide. According to Update 34 (May 2025) ETTP is scheduled for transition in FY 2032, but in Update 30 (November 2023) the date was FY 2029. LM says it conducts due diligence by working on sites as much as five years ahead of transition dates. Given a recent interview by Congressman Chuck Fleischmann indicating that there is about 30 to 40 years of cleanup remaining in Oak Ridge, not to mention additional local DOE presence beyond the foreseeable future, any transition to LM should be reconsidered. There are already at least four Federal managers in Oak Ridge who report to no one else locally but have potentially overlapping or gappy authority and accountability.

Budget Prioritization Input

Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) will most certainly request input on FY 2028 (Already!) OREM program budget priorities. The recommendation should reflect more than the effectiveness of OREM's messaging on its priorities. The initial annual engagement from the OREM subject matter expert on planning and execution has been good but diminished by uncertainty about information that can be shared and the delayed release of budget justification details. Ability to track changes in DOE's requests through the Congressional appropriations process is impeded by inability to cross-reference Project Baseline Summary numbers in DOE's request to items in appropriation committee reports.

Site Treatment Plan (STP) for Mixed Waste on the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation

The STP delineates how DOE will treat the site's mixed wastes or develop/modify technologies when necessary to address generated and stored mixed waste at the site. The plan addresses some waste streams that have been stored indefinitely and have milestones that have been rescheduled, perhaps most notably for transuranic (TRU) sludge stored in the Melton Valley Storage Tanks but also low-level reactive metal shields. ORSSAB should track annual updates and semiannual progress reports and make appropriate comments and recommendations to move along final disposition of the waste streams in the STP. Notably, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill 2026 report encourages the Department to provide sufficient continuous funding to eliminate the Oak Ridge contaminated shields expeditiously.

Excess Facilities Risk Reduction Activities at ORNL & Y-12

Reports on progress should provide even more detail on challenges such as the reactor facilities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and potential need for long-term or perpetual surveillance, such as at the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment Facility. Delays in nuclear facility D&D resulting from sequencing and coordination of activities with other DOE managers and contractors could be better explained. Other SSABs have requested availability of officials from National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to liaise on unclassified activities with environmental implications. In Oak Ridge that could be requested of Office of Science as well.

U-233 Disposition

Progress on dispositioning U-233 material should be reported with, in addition to societal benefits of the project, emphasis on operational experience, nuclear facility safety issues that arose and were addressed, and what the status of the materials and facilities will be upon completion of the contract.

Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF)

In addition to reports on construction progress, issues related to waste acceptance criteria, especially mercury, and ambient water quality issues should be presented with more candor and thoroughness. Six environmental, public interest and community groups just filed a lawsuit in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia over approval of the EMDF.

Mercury Treatment Facility (MTF)

It has been stated that construction of the MTF and the EMDF are essential before any mercury-contaminated facilities can be demolished. The MTF project has had to request additional funding to pay for impacts from site conditions different from what was expected, the need to treat groundwater for contamination, and design changes that necessitated an updated baseline. The task of completing the project was reassigned by OREM to United Cleanup Oak Ridge, LLC. Cost and schedule impacts of the new baseline require fuller explanation. It should be a concern that OREM filed a request with the other Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) parties to extend a Phased Construction Completion Report milestone by five years.

Ongoing Efforts to Assure Waste Disposal Capacity

This issue should encompass assurance of waste disposal capacity of all waste streams, not just those directed to on-site disposal facilities.

Interdependency of Department of Energy Sites

This issue addresses assurance of disposal capacity for wastes generated by Oak Ridge facilities and awareness of where it is being dispositioned. There has been a historical interdependency of DOE sites for waste management and disposal and relocation of stored materials. The Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator in Oak Ridge accepted PCB-contaminated, hazardous, radioactive waste from throughout the DOE Complex. Oak Ridge has sent depleted uranium hexafluoride to Portsmouth for conversion, spent nuclear fuel to Idaho for storage, mixed and low-level radioactive waste to Nevada and Utah for burial, and transuranic waste to Carlsbad for deep emplacement, as examples. Other DOE sites continue to ship waste for treatment to commercial facilities in our community with the impact on our local environment claimed insignificant as long as these facilities comply with permits. Regulators and other stakeholders unfamiliar with the history may assume parochial positions. Ongoing updates are appropriate to understand the current situation and to engage in more informed discussion with stakeholders in other DOE communities as occurs at EM SSAB Chairs meetings. ORSSAB should be supportive of keeping updates of the Waste Information Management System maintained by Florida

International University for DOE as current as possible, including ultimate disposition pathways of wastes from other DOE sites being treated at local commercial facilities.

Groundwater

Information on exit pathway monitoring results is available for all of the Oak Ridge Reservation watersheds but not disseminated in a manner that engages widespread public interest. During FY 2024, the only emphasis was on ETTP sub-units with further updates on status postponed in 2025. A Record of Decision for K-31/K-33 and an Interim Record of Decision for the Main Plant Area were signed. The status and planning for ETTP Zone 1 and the remainder of the Oak Ridge Reservation need to be tracked, not only implementation of the previous ETTP decisions. ORSSAB should consider a recommendation on use and feasibility of maintaining the Tracking Restoration and Closure application developed at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to communicate the status of groundwater contamination cleanup efforts. That application should perhaps have a simpler focus on mapping of the plumes and listing the technologies being implemented so that it can be more easily maintained.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Process

In December 2022, a Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan/Environmental Assessment was issued for the second phase of the Oak Ridge Reservation Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Continued engagement to keep stakeholders aware of projects being implemented is desirable.

Long-Term Management and Storage of Mercury

DOE Environmental Management sought a contractor to establish a DOE capability for the long-term management and storage of domestic elemental mercury waste to meet the requirements of the Mercury Export Ban Act (MEBA). DOE finally and recently issued a Record of Decision designating Waste Control Specialists, LLC near Andrews, Texas as that facility. Understanding the total scope of mercury storage, recovery, and use at local DOE and commercial treatment facilities is essential to understanding mercury issues in general.

Emergency Management

DOE in Oak Ridge should maintain the highest level of public awareness of what to do in case of an emergency at any of its facilities that would require the public to take protective actions. Several commercially licensed nuclear facilities are planned or under construction within the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Depending on their final safety analysis, these new facilities may or may not have their own EPZs beyond their property boundary. There should be more meetings and distribution of materials to inform the public of what to do in case of an emergency. The figure below shows the 2-mile and 5-mile areas that require pre-planned protective actions due to an emergency on the Oak Ridge Reservation from DOE's current operations.

ASER. It may be noted that, as late as for the 2009 ASER, a summary of the document was prepared by Karns High School students but was discontinued as a sponsored activity. Student ASERs have been prepared much more recently for the Portsmouth site. The Oak Ridge Reservation ASER was an agenda topic of early ORSSAB meetings. ORSSAB even issued recommendations on making it more understandable to the general public. Other SSABs currently include ASER presentations on their meeting agendas.

Implementation of Long-Term Stewardship

The 2022 Public Involvement Plan for CERCLA Activities at the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Site states: “Today, the ORSSAB EM/Stewardship Committee continues to work on crucial long-term stewardship issues. Major areas of focus include integration of long-term stewardship with remediation decisions, application of the Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan, and the development of a Long-Term Stewardship Implementation Plan. The committee also serves informally as a Citizens Board for Stewardship and will continue to do so until the ORSSAB completes its mission and is disbanded. At that time, it is anticipated that a formal Citizens Board for Stewardship will be constituted.” The study of this issue includes awareness of the annual Remediation Effectiveness Report and participation to the extent practical in understanding and verifying the maintenance of institutional controls. Whether the SSAB’s approach to participation in Five Year Reviews accomplishes this is questionable. Many of the early stakeholders that envisioned long-term stewardship are no longer with us or able to follow up on their recommendations. The concept of a Citizens Board for Stewardship is somewhat nebulous as such has not implemented, at least formally, at sites where local SSABs have been disbanded due to completion of EM’s work. LM does not have any Federal Advisory Committee Act chartered boards but does appear to effectively engage other types of stakeholder groups in at least in some instances. An additional role for LM in Oak Ridge may no longer be justifiable as discussed earlier. At any rate, the ORSSAB EM/Stewardship Committee is not fulfilling its role stated in the Public Involvement Plan when being used only for follow-on discussion of the previous board meeting presentation.

Public Involvement Plan for CERCLA Activities at the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Site

A triennial update to the Public Involvement Plan occurred in FY 2025. ORSSAB should have reviewed the draft plan revision to identify areas where it can strengthen its role in facilitating communications with the public. However, this did not occur. The plan discusses activities that have not been sustained as described. ORSSAB should consider reimplementing past activities such as reviewing and commenting documents to make the issues more understandable to the public and participating in the development of fact sheets with OREM and its contractors.

Impact of Remediation on End-State Development

Parcels of land have been transferred and are now privately leased or owned. OREM will have to coordinate remediation and monitoring with entities that occupy the parcels of land. Timely updates are appropriate on status, negotiations, and even decisions to change remedy selections such as would have occurred to accommodate the airport. Some new owners that received

property through expedited transfers may not even be fully aware of what happened on the land and the implications of land use controls and restrictions. The activities of some new owners and tenants have created new environmental issues.

Terminal Management of Surplus and Recyclable Materials

DOE has been responsible for bulk and scrap materials such as steel, aluminum, and nickel. The materials may be surface or volumetrically contaminated or contain activation products.

Statutory, regulatory, and DOE Secretarial policy considerations constrain or have prevented final disposition. Long standing policy considerations are reportedly being reviewed and changed by the current administration. There are instances where initiatives to disposition materials were not concluded, and the materials ended up in indefinite storage. Of late, there has been renewed interest in addressing surface contaminated recyclable nickel. A status update on these surplus materials is appropriate. Potential constructive stakeholder input could come from Oak Ridge even for materials being stored at other sites.

White Wing Scrap Yard

A draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP) for White Wing Scrap Yard was issued, indicating initiation of previously unpublicized planning for the project, which has been deferred except for surveillance and maintenance since above ground removal actions were conducted in the 1990s. That RIWP was rescinded in favor of a Time Critical Removal Action ostensibly to facilitate transfer of property to ORANO to build the Project IKE uranium enrichment facility. Time-critical removal actions are intended for urgent environmental remediation efforts that must be initiated quickly to address contamination or hazards that pose an imminent threat to public health or the environment.

Bear Creek Valley Watershed

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for North Tributary-8 at the Y-12 National Security Complex Bear Creek Burial Grounds, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was issued in June 2024, indicating an urgency of which the public may not have been aware. There was also an RIWP drafted for the Bear Creek Burial Ground in March 2025 that has been commented by the FFA agencies. Other activity and discussions appear to be underway toward distant final Records of Decision for the large Uranium Burial Ground and for this watershed that will address the remaining ecological issues, surface water, and groundwater.

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) was initially implemented in 1990 to provide claims for compassionate payments for injuries due to exposure to radiation from nuclear testing. It expired in 2024 when Congress failed to extend it. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act revived, extended, and amended RECA to expand coverage to claims involving public exposure to Manhattan Project Waste in and around Oak Ridge. Review and understanding of previous public health assessments and conclusions would seem in order along with appropriate proactive activities to address reawakened public concerns. An Assessment of Cancer Incidence

in the eight-county area surrounding the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation published in 2006 by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) would not necessarily justify expansion of RECA coverage in this area. However, RECA is now law.

Aquatic Ecology Laboratory

ORSSAB should remain updated on the work of Oak Ridge National Laboratory researchers at this facility with particular attention to the role of ecological management and enhancement in remedy selections.

Technology Development

Technology development activities beyond those being conducted at the Aquatic Ecology Laboratory need to be promoted, including awareness of the work of other technology development principal investigators and even technologies being developed and implemented by local commercial facilities. Any information about technology demonstrations that have been conducted or planned in the old DARA Soils Storage Facility would also be informative.

Processing and Disposition of Transuranic Waste

This issue covers the path forward to disposition of TRU sludge stored in the Melton Valley Storage Tanks and more broadly continued assured access to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plan (WIPP) for disposal of Oak Ridge TRU waste. This includes any that could be impacted intentionally or non-intentionally by a new definition for legacy TRU and TRU mixed wastes. ORSSAB should skeptically monitor public policy discussions and developments surrounding the New Mexico state regulation of WIPP and the priority other sites are receiving for shipments. It should not hesitate to issue comments and recommendations even when not specifically requested by DOE. Awareness of the content of the Annual Transuranic Waste Inventory Report and proposed modifications to WIPP's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit is essential.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

OREM should strive to disseminate information on this issue from a local as well as complex-wide perspective. There seem to be many aspects to PFAS. These include identification of PFAS, whether stored material is PFAS, PFAS contamination of environmental media, health effects from exposure to PFAS, and implications of new PFAS drinking water regulations on remediation goals in current and past cleanup projects.

White Oak Creek Radionuclide Releases

White Oak Dam is a retention structure that holds back sediments contaminated with radionuclides, including cesium-137. The cities of Kingston, Spring City, and Rockwood draw drinking water from the Tennessee River system downstream. In the 2005-2006 timeframe, the ATSDR published a public health assessment. ATSDR concluded that past, current, and future exposures to radionuclides released from White Oak Creek to the Clinch River/Lower Watts Bar Reservoir are not a public health hazard. People who used or lived along the Clinch River or Lower Watts Bar Reservoir in the past, or who currently do so or will in the future, might have or might yet come in contact with X-10 radionuclides that entered the Clinch River or Lower Watts

Bar Reservoir via White Oak Creek. However, ATSDR's evaluation of data and exposure situations for users of these waterways indicates that the levels of radionuclides in the sediment, surface water, and biota are—and have been in the past—too low to cause observable health effects. It was beyond the scope of that report, however, to evaluate a catastrophic release due to dam failure. The schedule and results of periodic inspections may be of public interest.

Final Records of Decision

In addition to presentations and discussions that highlight current news and progress, it might be interesting to visualize final Records of Decision that are projected in the out-years of the FFA and their potential content based on current conditions and anticipated results of actions being taken under interim Records of Decision.

Thank you for your attention to this input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luther V. Gibson, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'G'.

Luther V. Gibson, Jr.

About the Author

Luther Gibson served on the ORSSAB and its Executive Committee from 1999-2005. He served as ORSSAB Chair from August 2000 until August 2002, during which 36 recommendations and comments were delivered to agency officials. During his tenure on ORSSAB, he also served on an Environmental Management Advisory Board Alternative Technologies to Incineration Committee. He authored a report that the DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management directed local EM managers to consider in making technology selection decisions. He retired from Consolidated Nuclear Security Y-12 in 2017 after a 40-year career with DOE Oak Ridge prime contractors at Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, K-25, and Y-12. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kentucky. He worked in the areas of environmental technology development, operations research, environmental compliance, nuclear facility safety, and emergency management technical basis. He is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Air & Waste Management Association. He was recognized in the 1997 *International Who's Who of Professionals*. He is currently a Vice-President of the Coalition of Oak Ridge Retired Employees (CORRE). He chairs CORRE's Planning Committee and its Pension Fund Analysis Committee. He is also a member of CORRE's Other DOE Sites Committee and Contractor Contact Team with Consolidated Nuclear Security.