



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

August 26, 2025

Erik Olds
Manager for Environmental Management
DOE-Oak Ridge Office
P.O. Box 4067, EM 90
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Olds:

Recommendation 258: On the FY 2027 OREM Program Budget Priorities

At our August 13, 2025, meeting the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the enclosed recommendation on the FY2027 Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) Budget Priorities.

The recommendation is based on the May 2025 presentation to the board on the Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program as well as the 10-year Program Plan, EM Strategic Vision document, and the current EM Budget Request.

We ask that DOE consider these recommendations as it formulates its own plan for future budget needs. There are seven specific points in the recommendation the board would like you to address in your response. We appreciate your consideration of our input and look forward to receiving your response by October 15, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Jones".

Amy Jones, Chair

Enclosures

cc/enc:

Kelly Snyder, EM-2.33
Kristof Czartoryski, TDEC, Oak Ridge
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA Region 4
Melyssa Noe, EM-94

Wade Creswell, Roane County Executive
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Randy Hemann, Oak Ridge City Manager



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Recommendation 258: On the FY 2027

Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program Budget

Priorities

Background

Each year the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Program develops its budget request for the fiscal year (FY) two years beyond the current year, including requests from DOE field offices to develop the EM Program budget request to the president.

DOE-EM Headquarters typically issues guidelines to the field offices advising them how much funding they should reasonably expect when developing their FY+2 budget requests. The field offices then brief the public, the regulatory agencies, and the respective site-specific advisory boards and seek input from each regarding budget requests.

On May 14, 2025, representatives from the Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) program presented information about its FY 2027 budget formulation process to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB). This presentation provided content and discussions that ORSSAB used to draft its recommendations.

Discussion

In creating its recommendations for the FY 2027 OREM budget, ORSSAB focused on general near-term and long-term cleanup priorities identified by OREM. Project-specific objectives provided additional details for discussions that took place at the May 28, 2025, EM & Stewardship Committee meeting.

The board also referred to the current [EM Budget Request](#), and the board's [previous Recommendations](#) for additional guidance on budget recommendations.¹

Recommendations

ORSSAB supports OREM's cleanup plan and recommends fully funding the activities that are currently supported by that Plan for FY 2027, broadly understood as follows:

- Continue demolition of excess contaminated facilities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12).
- Accelerate infrastructure development to enable future cleanup at ORNL and Y-12.
 - The primary focus being on the Mercury Treatment Facility construction and operation at the Y-12 National Security Complex.
- Continue disposition of U-233 material and other legacy materials.
 - Nickel, sodium shields, and other materials.
- Continue processing and disposition of legacy transuranic debris and sludges, including contact-handled and remote-handled wastes.
- Maintain and operate facilities at ORNL and Y-12.

¹ All documents are available on www.energy.gov/orem or www.energy.gov/orssab.

- Continue funding support at ORNL's Aquatic Ecology Laboratory for research into mercury and methylmercury pollution and development of new and improved technologies.
- Continue funding to enable property transfers, including reindustrialization and site reuse support programs, to further the current nuclear renaissance taking place in the Oak Ridge corridor.
 - Efforts from TN Governor Bill Lee, Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, and President Donald Trump show the need for funding support for the nuclear industry.
 - Support research and development activities and fund contracts for academia for the next generation of nuclear workers.

ORSSAB recommends funding the FY 2027 budget to include all activities necessary to complete these cleanup priorities in an effective, timely and safe manner.

OREM and its contractors have continuously demonstrated an effective cost-to-value that leads the nation among federally funded facilities over a significant period of time and are recognized for their cleanup progress. Based on OREM's record of performance and effective project management, ORSSAB recommends additional funding wherever possible to accelerate the FY 2027 cleanup plan. With this support, OREM will continue to play a pivotal role in the nation's nuclear renaissance.