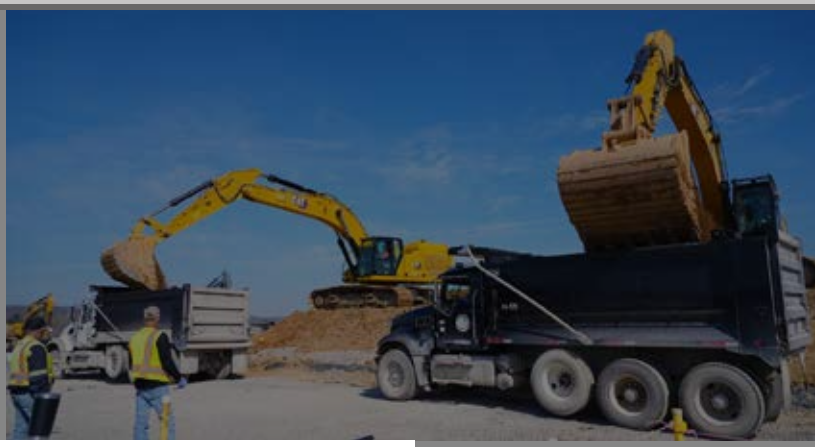
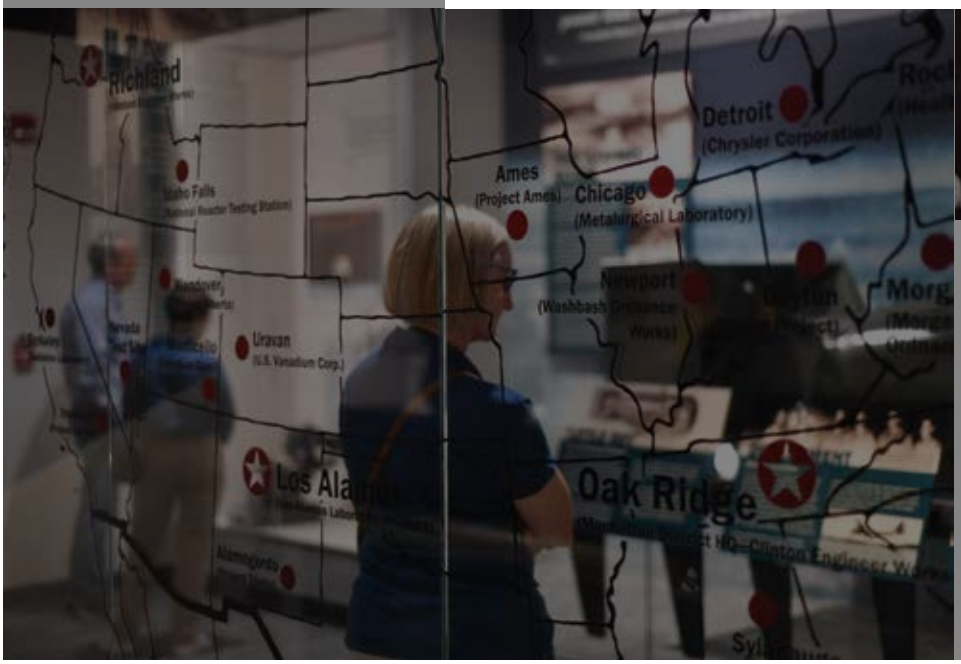
Oak Ridge
Site Specific Advisory Board



2025 Annual Report



www.energy.gov/orssab
orssab@orem.doe.gov

The East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge, Tenn. was once a shuttered uranium enrichment complex. EM's cleanup has transformed the site into a multi-use industrial park for the community with private businesses, conservation areas, and a national park.

Contents

Our Mission

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) is a federally appointed citizens' panel that provides independent recommendations to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) Program.

The board provides advice to the DOE EM program regarding environmental restoration, waste management, long-term stewardship, land use, and economic development.

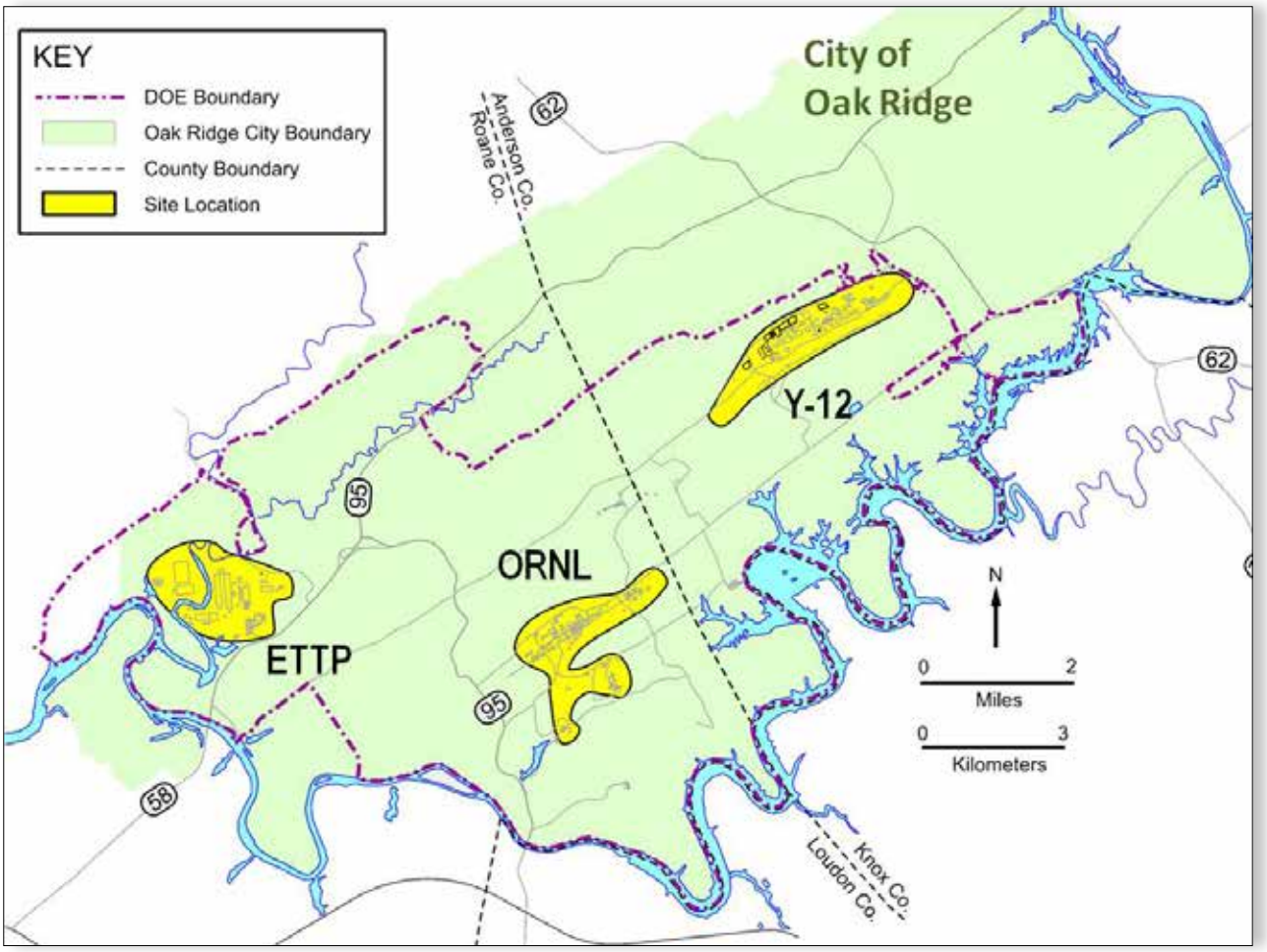
Recommendations regarding workforce, health and safety issues, historic preservation, and other concerns may also be developed at the request of the DOE assistant secretary for EM or the OREM manager. ORSSAB is one of eight site specific boards across the nation that comprise the EM SSAB and may also participate in joint recommendations with that organization.

The board is committed to reflecting the concerns of the communities impacted by EM activities on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) and serving as a communications link between the public and relevant government agencies, including local governments.

ORSSAB provides several avenues for the public to learn about and express views on OREM's cleanup work. All board and committee meetings are open to the public and are announced in the Federal Register, on our website, and in various social media outlets.

Meetings are held at the DOE Information Center in Oak Ridge at 1 Science.gov Way and may also be attended virtually via Zoom on request. Recordings are uploaded to YouTube at **www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB**.

The board maintains a web site at **www.energy.gov/orssab**. Information is also available by calling the ORSSAB support office at 865-241-4583 or 865-241-4584 or email us at **orssab@orem.doe.gov**.



Unlike most other DOE facilities, the ORR is almost entirely within the city limits of Oak Ridge. It contains three main facilities: East Tennessee Technology Park, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

ORSSAB was chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act in 1995. The board is composed of up to 22 members, chosen to reflect the communities near the ORR. Members are appointed by DOE and serve without compensation. Members may serve up to three two-year terms.

During 2025, the board consisted of 22 voting members from Anderson, Campbell, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, and Roane counties. More about members who served, including some who exited the board mid-year, can be found in the "Members" section starting **on Page 12**.

Non-voting participants include liaisons from DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 (EPA), and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), which advise the board on their agencies' policies and views.

FY2025 Board Officers

ORSSAB officers for FY2025 were Amy Jones, chair; Kris Bartholomew, vice chair; and Harriett McCurdy, secretary. Harold Conner, Jr., and Charles Moore were co-chairs of the EM & Stewardship Committee.

Board Meetings

The board meets the second Wednesday of most months at 6 p.m. in Oak Ridge to hear presentations by EM personnel working on relevant projects, listen to and discuss input from concerned citizens, consider recommendations to DOE, and conduct other business. In August, an annual meeting was held to evaluate the board's work during the year and plan activities for the next year. For 2025, meetings were held as hybrid in-person and through Zoom.

The board conducts its deliberations under ORSSAB bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order and strives to consider all relevant positions in reaching decisions.

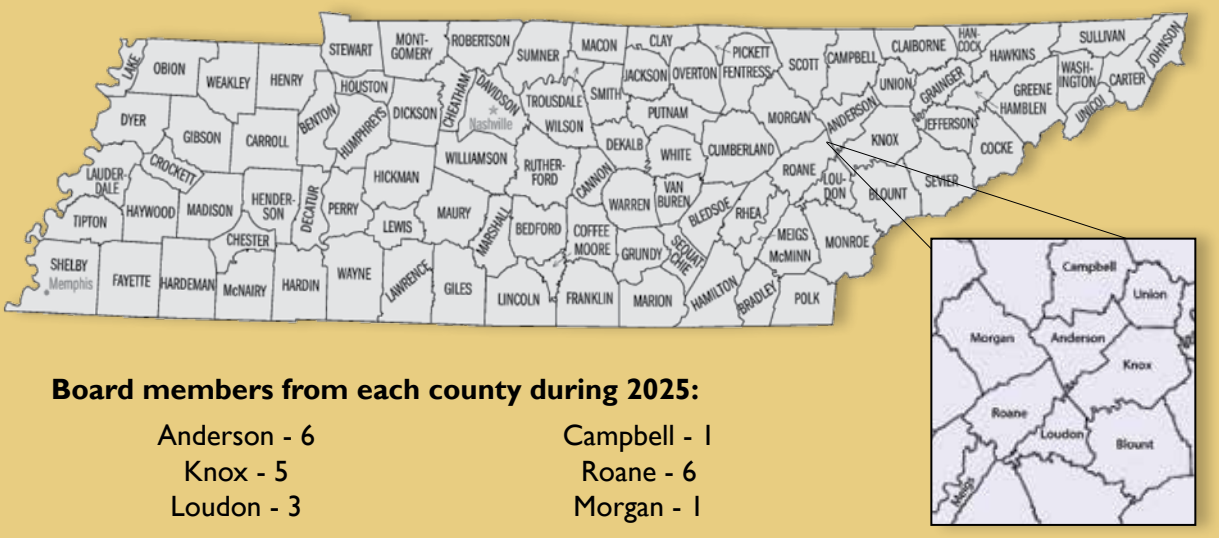
Committees

General business is handled at the monthly Executive Committee meeting, which is composed of the elected officers of the board and the chair of the EM & Stewardship Committee. This committee holds general administrative authority to set board agendas, coordinate the work of other committees, and transact business as necessary.

The EM & Stewardship Committee is responsible for monitoring the major cleanup activities on the ORR as well as stewardship requirements for areas of the reservation that have been remediated, but remain contaminated long-term. It originates recommendations to be considered at full board meetings. All board members are part of this committee.

Committees usually meet monthly, and all meetings are open to the public.

Representing nine counties in East Tennessee



Board members from each county during 2025:

Anderson - 6
Knox - 5
Loudon - 3
Campbell - 1
Roane - 6
Morgan - 1

Join the Board

~~A broad spectrum of backgrounds and viewpoints is desired for board membership; technical expertise is not required.~~ Applications for membership are accepted at any time and are actively solicited through a variety of media during specific recruitment periods.

Residents from the counties affected by DOE operations are encouraged to apply. These counties include Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Knox, Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, Roane, and Union.

To apply, please submit your resume, a short biography, and the following information: name, county of residence, phone number, email, and a short explanation of why you want to volunteer to serve on the board. Information can be emailed to orem.doe.gov, mailed to Oak Ridge SSAB, P.O. Box 4067, EM-94, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, or submitted in person at the DOE Information Center, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge.

Abbreviations

CAB	Citizens Advisory Board
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DDFO	Deputy Designated Federal Officer
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EM	Environmental Management
EMDF	Environmental Management Disposal Facility
EMWMF	Environmental Management Waste Management Facility
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ETTP	East Tennessee Technology Park
OREM	Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
ORNL	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
ORR	Oak Ridge Reservation
ORSSAB	Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
TDEC	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
TRU	Transuranic
TWPC	Transuranic Waste Processing Center
WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
Y-12	Y-12 National Security Complex

The Year's Top News

Fed, State Leaders Sign ROD on ETTP Soil Cleanup

From left, OREM Manager Erik Olds, EPA Regional Administrator Kevin McOmber and TDEC Commissioner David Salyers sign a record of decision on the completion of soil cleanup at a 1,400-acre portion of land at the East Tennessee Technology Park.

Federal and state leaders recently signed a record of decision confirming cleanup of soil is complete at a portion of ETTP, enabling the reuse of land for continuing economic development.

In his first visit to Oak Ridge, EPA Regional Administrator Kevin McOmber joined leaders from TDEC and OREM to sign the document.

The record confirms OREM has finished all necessary soil cleanup work for Zone 1 at ETTP. This accomplishment comes after EPA, TDEC and OREM signed two other records of decision last year focused on groundwater remediation at ETTP.

ETTP is formerly known as the K-25 Site or Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which operated from the mid-1940s until 1985. The plant was originally used to enrich uranium as part of the Manhattan Project, but it continued operations after World War II to produce enriched uranium for defense missions and commercial power.

Zone 1 is a 1,400-acre area immediately surrounding the main plant area of ETTP. It includes a portion of land that previously housed electrical powerhouse facilities, a scrap yard and waste burial grounds. The soil, surface water and groundwater in this area was impacted by previous operations.

Part of that acreage also includes a natural resource management area that was created in 2006 through a partnership between OREM and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

OREM and its contractor, UCOR, excavated the impacted soil in Zone 1 that could pose risks to human health or the environment. In total, crews removed 67,000 cubic yards of soil — enough to fill about 5,500 dump trucks. This cleanup enables reuse of land for economic development and improves the quality of the ecosystem to support animal habitats.

The state of Tennessee has worked closely with EPA, DOE and DOE's federal contractors to determine effective pathways to clean old Manhattan Project-era contamination, protect human health and prepare sites for new industrial use, according to TDEC Commissioner David Salyers.

Decades of cleanup by OREM and its contractors have transformed the former uranium enrichment complex into a multiuse industrial center, historical park and conservation area that benefit the community. ETTP is the recipient of EPA's 2024 National Federal Facility Excellence in Reuse Award.

To date, OREM has transferred more than 1,800 acres at ETTP for economic development. That land has attracted more than 25 businesses that have announced billions of dollars in capital investments, and more developments are expected in the years ahead.

-Contributor: Ryan Getsi

January

Mock-up Training Benefits High-Priority U-233 Disposition Project at ORNL

Inside a mock-up, Isotek employees practice the steps involved in replacing hot cell equipment.The mock-up features the exact dimensions of an actual hot cell.

How can employees safely perform repairs inside highly contaminated rooms used to process nuclear waste?

That was a question OREM contractor Isotek addressed through advanced training to help prepare and protect employees while also facilitating efficient operations to keep ORNL's highest priority cleanup project on track.

OREM and Isotek are working to eliminate the nation's inventory of uranium-233 (U-233) from storage at ORNL.

U-233 presents risks and is costly to keep safe and secure. Originally created in the 1950s and 1960s for potential use in reactors, it proved to be an unviable fuel source.

The remaining inventory of U-233 stored onsite requires processing to convert it into a form safe for shipment and permanent disposal. That work involves Isotek employees placing the material in heavily shielded rooms, called hot cells, and handling that material using mechanical arm manipulators.

Equipment used inside the hot cells degrades over time from wear and tear and from high radiological dose. To replace the equipment, workers must occasionally enter the hot cells.

Entries occur approximately five times a year — only when equipment inside the rooms cannot be fixed or replaced using the openings in the hot cells.

Isotek prepares employees for those entries by providing them opportunities to dress in personal protective equipment and practice tasks before performing them in high radiation areas. Radiological control, maintenance and engineering teams fabricated a mock-up hot cell offsite so key personnel could perform and perfect hot cell entry procedures before ever entering the hazard zone.

The mock-up was constructed to the exact measurements of a hot cell so workers can adapt to the dimensions of the limited space. Staff must learn to perform tasks with minimal contact with surfaces and equipment inside, which helps them avoid areas with high levels of contamination and reduce the likelihood of spreading contamination.

This training was especially timely because these rooms become more contaminated as crews process material from the inventory with increasingly higher levels of radiation.

Hot cell entries also provide an opportunity to make improvements to the processing system.

The hot cell mock-up practice has already paid off.

Recently, Isotek workers entered one of the hot cells and replaced all the processing equipment inside. The activity involved loosening and fastening hose lines, lifting and replacing ion-exchange columns stands, and the challenging process of communicating to personnel outside the hot cell using radios in their protective suits.

The hot cell entry was safe and successful with new and improved equipment installed to support future processing operations.

-Contributor: John Gray

February

Oak Ridge Restores Full Production Capabilities at Transuranic Waste Processing Facility

OREM and contractor UCOR successfully reestablished full production capacity at the Transuranic Waste Processing Center.

Recent repairs had teams at the facility working full speed again as they processed and repackaged waste for shipment and permanent disposal to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. Years of defense-related research conducted primarily at ORNL in decades past generated Oak Ridge's transuranic material.

A large, 900-pound waste-drum crusher at the center had broken. It plays a key role in waste processing operations, requiring teams to replace the equipment.

When drums arrive at the center for processing, employees empty them to access, process and repackage the waste for shipment and disposal. Once emptied, the drums are reduced in size and disposed of as well.

The mission of the crusher is to do exactly that: squash the empty drums. However, its outage presented multiple challenges.

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With the crusher out of commission, workers wore protective suits and manually cut and reduced the size of the old drums. While this approach kept work moving forward, it also presented more risks, took more time and was more labor intensive. The equipment's failure also impacted activities in the work area below the crusher.

Replacing the waste-drum crusher required entering a confined space. Safety, maintenance and waste operator teams planned and trained extensively before entering the room. The challenging work included conducting a critical lift, working from scaffolding and navigating tight clearance spaces on the replacement.

-Contributor: Chris Caldwell

Transuranic Waste Processing Center workers safely replaced the facility's 900-pound waste-drum crusher, restoring the center's full waste processing capabilities for an ongoing cellulosic waste campaign.

March

Secretary Wright Energized by Visit to Oak Ridge Cleanup Projects

During a visit to Oak Ridge, Energy Secretary Chris Wright observed cleanup projects that are helping modernize one of the nation's most important national security sites and opening land for next-generation nuclear companies.

Wright's visit with OREM began at the Y-12 National Security Complex, where he saw the crucial work underway to protect the nation. However, Y-12's ongoing missions are happening near many deteriorated, contaminated facilities dating to the Manhattan Project and Cold War.

Leadership from OREM and cleanup contractor UCOR detailed how OREM cleanup efforts are removing those structures to eliminate hazards and provide space for new infrastructure supporting national security missions.

Wright also gathered with congressional and business leaders at Oak Ridge's East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). The meeting highlighted OREM's efforts to return government-owned land it has cleaned back to the community to attract new economic development.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright was joined by U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty, U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart McWhorter, former Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management Manager Jay Mullis, UCOR President and CEO Ken Rueter and others to discuss how transferred land at Oak Ridge's East Tennessee Technology Park is helping attract nuclear industry to the region.

Those transfers have been successful in bringing next-generation nuclear companies and significant private investments to Oak Ridge.

OREM completed major field work at ETTP in 2024, culminating more than 20 years of cleanup. Along the way, Oak Ridge became the first site in the world to remove a former enrichment complex, and the first DOE site to pursue reindustrialization.

OREM's cleanup and transfers have transformed ETTP from a government-owned, shuttered uranium enrichment complex into a privately owned industrial park that has become a hub for nuclear energy development.

-Contributor: Ben Williams

April

Oak Ridge Kicks Off New Processing Phase for U-233 Project

OREM and contractor Isotek began processing a new set of material as part of the U-233 Disposition Project.

Together, OREM and Isotek are eliminating the nation's inventory of U-233 from storage in the world's oldest operating nuclear facility, located at ORNL.

U-233 presents risks and is costly to keep safe and secure. Originally created in the 1950s and 1960s for potential use in reactors, it proved to be an unviable fuel source. Its removal is the highest priority cleanup project at ORNL.

Employees began processing material known as radiochemical processing (RCP)-06. It differs from portions of the inventory they've processed previously. The material

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has also presented unique challenges, prompting years of preparation before treating it.

Previously, all material Isotek had processed using heavily shielded rooms called hot cells had been in the chemical compound form of oxide or a powder-like form. The RCP-06 material is in a 2-foot-long, solidified, ceramic cylinder.

Much of the preparation went into designing a cutting device that could divide the material into segments small enough to meet critical mass restrictions during processing. These limits enhance safety and reduce risks associated with fissile material by helping prevent potential reactions.

RCP-06 canisters contain U-233 that the Hanford Site in Washington and Savannah River Site in South Carolina sent to Oak Ridge in the 1970s. The material was originally in a liquid form, but it was solidified in the 1980s for safe long term storage. Oak Ridge was designated the location for U-233 storage.

Additionally, Isotek continues to extract extremely rare medical isotopes during processing operations for next generation cancer treatment research. These isotopes are key to a promising form of treatment that is showing success in clinical trials against types of cancer previously thought untreatable.

Currently, only one gram of those isotopes is available worldwide outside of Oak Ridge. However, through this project, Isotek is extracting an estimated 40 grams. That is enough to create 100 times more doses of treatments annually than is currently available worldwide.

-Contributor: John Gray

Radiochemical processing-06 material is removed from its storage container before it is divided into segments small enough to meet critical mass restrictions during processing.

May

Crews Begin Final Demolition Phase for Former Lab at ORNL

Demolition was underway on the last remaining hot cell structure at the former Radioisotope Development Laboratory at ORNL — a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management priority for 2025.

OREM and contractor UCOR installed a six-story protective cover over the former Radioisotope Development Laboratory demolition project to ensure surrounding research missions at Oak Ridge National Laboratory are not impacted.

Removing the structure would complete demolition of the former laboratory, eliminate a significant risk, enable modernization at ORNL and open space to support ongoing research and science missions at the site.

Preparing this structure for teardown required years of planning and deactivation by OREM and cleanup contractor UCOR due to the levels of radioactivity inside.

Crews demolished the facility's outer structure and the other five hot cells in the former laboratory, known as Building 3026, in previous years.

The cells were heavily shielded concrete rooms that provided researchers protection from radioactive material as they conducted research. The laboratory was built in 1945 to support isotope separation and packaging and was later used to examine irradiated reactor fuel experiments and components.

The final hot cell was divided into subcells A and B. Crews demolished subcell B first. Next, workers used remotely operated equipment to assist with deactivating subcell A due to the high radioactivity there.

-Contributor: Carol Hendrycks

(Continued on page 8)

June

An aerial view of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility project footprint. Crews installed a 1.3 million-square-foot geomembrane layer that simulates the effect of lined disposal cells on groundwater elevations, creating an impermeable barrier over the site.

Oak Ridge Finishes First Groundwater Monitoring Phase for New Disposal Facility

OREM and contractor UCOR completed an essential step to prepare for construction of a new onsite disposal facility: groundwater monitoring during the first of two wet seasons.

The Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) will provide the waste disposal capacity needed to continue OREM's large scale cleanup projects at Y-12 and ORNL.

Monitoring groundwater levels is part of a groundwater field demonstration study. This work allows OREM and UCOR to gather information about how groundwater elevations change, providing valuable information for the landfill's final design.

Gathering data during the wet seasons is important because that's when groundwater levels are highest. There is more rain, and plants without foliage absorb less water. In east Tennessee, the wet season typically runs from December through March.

Prior to the start of monitoring, workers installed an impermeable geomembrane over an approximately 1.3 million square-foot area, simulating the effect the disposal facility liner system will have on groundwater elevations.

Results from the first wet season showed groundwater elevations steadily declined over this first wet season by preventing precipitation from infiltrating the future EMDF disposal cell area.

Groundwater elevation monitoring is a requirement listed in the project's record of decision approved by DOE, the EPA and TDEC.

The team, which includes subcontractor CTI, also finished installing utilities at the site to support future EMDF construction activities and operations.

-Contributor: Ella Stewart

July

In a First, Oak Ridge Crews Tackle Multiple Demolition Projects at ORNL

For the first time ever, cleanup crews conducted more than one demolition project simultaneously at ORNL.

While crews with OREM and contractor UCOR begin demolishing Building 3003, another team was tearing down the former Radioisotope Development Lab, one of the most contaminated structures at the site.

Used during the Manhattan Project, Building 3003 was one of three support facilities for the former Graphite Reactor, the world's oldest reactor. The structures were located on a small footprint in a heavily congested area on top of a hill. Removing Building 3003 provided space to support teardowns of the neighboring facilities.

This project cleared 10,000 feet for workers and heavy equipment operators to demolish the adjacent Building 3002 and Building 3018, a 200-foot-tall stack.

Built in 1943, Building 3003 contained a fan house and provided ventilation for the Graphite Reactor. The fan house drew air from the reactor through underground ducts and released it through the stack.

To prepare for demolition, workers made multiple entries into the subgrade duct space to perform sampling, survey and spray fixative. They removed general debris and hazardous waste, and poured a concrete mixture into the exterior utility trench to ensure a flat working surface around the building.

The removal of these facilities cleared away aging, contaminated structures, opened land for reuse and enhanced accessibility to the Graphite Reactor, which is part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

-Contributor: Carol Hendrycks

Demolition crews take the "first bites" of Building 3003 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

(Continued on page 9)

August

Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management crews packed and shipped the first of the sodium shields to the Waste Control Specialists facility in Andrews, Texas, for vitrification.

Innovative Demonstration Creates Disposal Path for Challenging Oak Ridge Waste

Drawing from an innovative technology, OREM and contractor UCOR achieved a breakthrough set to eliminate a complex legacy waste stored at ORNL for the past 50 years.

Recently, DOE-EM crews shipped the first of several large aluminum and steel containers filled with highly reactive metals — called sodium shields — for use in a demonstration of the technology that provides a pathway for their permanent disposal. The demonstration was completed successfully.

The sodium shields were used in the 1960s and 1970s to pioneer radiation shielding research. The largest of them is about 5 feet high and weighs over 30,000 pounds.

This breakthrough effort was made possible through EM's Technology Operations Office funding the demonstration project to ship and process the first sodium shield.

The first challenge involved shipping the sodium shields from Oak Ridge. That challenge was solved after OREM and UCOR obtained a special permit from the U.S. Department of Transportation, thanks to a months-long effort by subject matter experts to conduct an extensive safety analysis and develop a packaging strategy for the waste.

The second challenge was determining if the selected technology could successfully process the reactive metals from the sodium shields. OREM and UCOR employed Veolia Nuclear Solutions' patented GeoMelt technology at the Waste Control Specialists facility in Andrews, Texas. The vitrification process proved successful by converting the metals into a stable glass form for safe, permanent disposal.

Sodium metal presents unique hazards because it is unstable and can be highly reactive when mixed with water. The GeoMelt process is unique because it does not use any liquid to support treatment and avoids generating other challenging waste steams during the treatment process. After treatment, the vitrified waste form no longer exhibits reactive or ignitable characteristics.

The Veolia demonstration project represents a crucial step in addressing challenging legacy waste streams from America's nuclear research history, establishing a potential template for handling similar reactive metal waste streams across the DOE complex.

-Contributor: Mike Butler

September

New Oak Ridge Center Opens, Bringing Footprint of Massive K-25 Into Focus

Visitors to the former Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant can view the entire footprint of what was once the world's largest building from a new vantage point now that an interpretive center overlooking the site of the mile-long K-25 Building has opened.

K-25 was one of five large gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment facilities at the Oak Ridge location, now called ETTP. Constructed in 1943, it produced enriched uranium used in the weaponry that helped end World War II.

Local elected officials and other dignitaries gathered recently to celebrate the opening of the viewing facility, called the William J. Wilcox Jr. K-25 Interpretive Center.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its construction contractor, Geiger Brothers, completed construction on the K-25 Interpretive Center. The facility helps visitors understand the size and scope of the former Manhattan Project and Cold War-era uranium enrichment complex.

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The center is named after Oak Ridge's first official historian, an original resident of the city when it came into existence in the 1940s. The late Wilcox ultimately became the technical director for all research and development programs for the plant, and he used his extensive knowledge from his 43 years of service to educate future generations about what was accomplished at the site.

Attendees included Tennessee Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, Roane County Executive Wade Creswell, Oak Ridge City Mayor Warren Gooch, Oak Ridge City Councilman Jim Dodson, American Museum of Science and Energy Foundation Executive Director Alan Lowe, UCOR President and CEO Ken Rueter, and OREM Manager Erik Olds.

OREM and cleanup contractor UCOR completed demolition of the K-25 Building in 2013, leaving behind a massive 44-acre footprint that was impossible to fully view from ground level. With the interpretive center's elevated view, the entire footprint is visible. The facility also features displays and exhibits, including a scaled model of the building, detailing K-25's extraordinary contributions through the years.

Construction of the center fulfilled an agreement OREM signed in 2012 to commemorate the history of the former Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant. That commitment also included construction of the K-25 History Center next to the interpretive center, as well as preservation of the historic Alexander Inn.

Crews completed construction of the interpretive center through a partnership among OREM, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and contractor Geiger Brothers. UCOR and subcontractor Smee + Busby Architects designed the facility.

The interpretive center is the latest installation on a site that has seen major transformation during the past three decades. OREM and UCOR have completed demolition and soil remediation at the site, marking the first-ever cleanup of a gaseous diffusion complex.

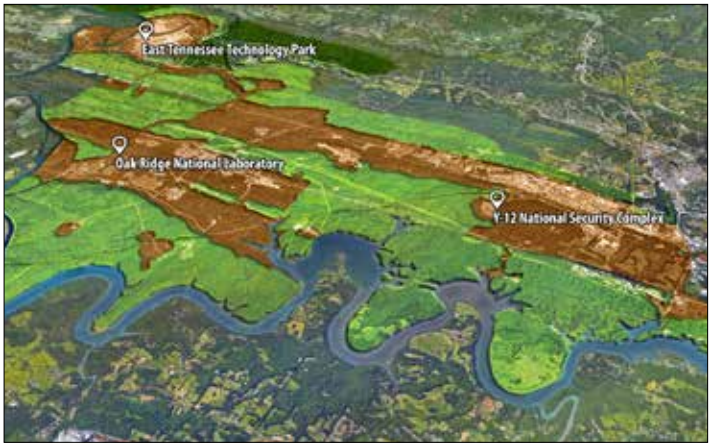
As OREM completed cleanup, it simultaneously made land available for new businesses. That land is attracting companies investing billions of dollars, creating new jobs and advancing energy technologies to meet the nation's future power needs.

-Contributor: Wayne McKinney

December

Half of Oak Ridge's Federal Acreage Deemed Suitable for Reuse

The EPA and OREM confirmed half of the federal acreage on the 33,000-acre Oak Ridge Reservation was not impacted by historic operations and does not require environmental cleanup.



More than 16,000 acres, shown in green, of the 33,000-acre Oak Ridge Reservation were not impacted by the U.S. Department of Energy's historic operations and do not require environmental cleanup. This designation provides clarity about the condition of the land, simplifies future transfers and supports beneficial reuse on those parcels.

This designation provides clarity about the condition of more than 16,000 acres, simplifies future land transfers and supports beneficial reuse on those parcels.

While DOE will not transfer all this acreage under the recent designation, the clarification presents a clearer understanding of the landscape and supports the transfers that do occur. It also allows for a wider variety of uses and developments on the land.

EPA placed the entire Oak Ridge Reservation on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in 1989 to expedite cleanup, said OREM Regulatory Specialist Roger Petrie.

OREM and TDEC have since conducted investigative efforts and environmental surveys to provide a clearer picture of the areas not impacted by DOE's previous operations. Now that information is being put to use, so that land can be, too.

This is among the most recent in a line of success from OREM and EPA's partnership in Oak Ridge.

Through support from EPA's Region 4 office, OREM is setting the pace for environmental cleanup across all the 175 federal facilities in the Superfund program. Since 2020, OREM has accounted for 16 percent of all completed cleanup tasks across those sites and 35 percent for Region 4 in the southeast region of the U.S.

-Contributor: Ben Williams

Key Issues

In 2025, ORSSAB sent one locally generated recommendation to DOE.

Full text of the recommendation and responses is available on the ORSSAB website at **energy.gov/orem/listings/orssab-recommendations-responses**.

Recommendation on FY2027 OREM Budget

Each year the DOE-EM Program develops its budget request for the fiscal year 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 OREM program presented information about its FY 2027 budget formulation process to ORSSAB. This presentation provided content and discussions that ORSSAB used to draft its recommendations.

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.

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).
- Continue demolition of excess contaminated facilities at ORNL & 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.
- 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.

Members & Liaisons

Kris Bartholomew

Kris Bartholomew is the owner of Turn Key Plumbing and Construction, a small family-owned business. A high school graduate with some college, Kris has received licensures related to his trade. Those licenses include general contractor and subsurface sewage installer. He is interested in environmental and public health issues. He lives in Lenoir City.

Raiyan Bhuiyan

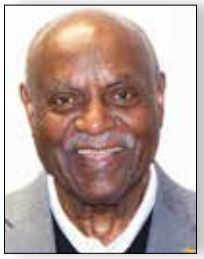
Raiyan Bhuiyan earned a bachelor of science degree in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology from Thomas Edison State University, where he was a recipient of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Scholarship. He was also a graduate of the Naval Power School during his time serving in the U.S. Navy and has received certifications in CPR and as an IBM Data Science Professional. Raiyan is interested in environmental and workforce issues. He lives in Oak Ridge.

Mary Butler

Mary Butler is a former staff pharmacist with Aurora Pharmacy. She received a bachelor of science in pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin. She retired to Rockwood in 2020 and is eager to engage in the community here as she was previously active in several organizations in her native Wisconsin. Mary is interested in civic and educational issues.

Laure Clark

Laure Clark retired in 2019 after serving as an environmental, safety and health advisor for prime contractor Bechtel National, Inc. since 2001. She received a bachelor of science in Earth Studies from the University of Massachusetts and completed graduate work in Water Resources Management at the University of Nevada. Laure is interested in environmental issues and civic participation and lives in Oak Ridge.



Harold Conner, Jr.

Harold Conner, Jr., is a senior engineering advisor with Strata-G. In this role, he focuses on supporting community outreach, university partnerships, student internships and mentoring. Harold is a former K-25 plant manager, serving from 1968-1996. He has bachelor of science and master of science degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT), where he was the program's first African American graduate in 1968. He received his Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Alabama at Huntsville. He is active in many community organizations including: the UT Knoxville Alumni board; the UT Tickle College of Engineering board; the STEM Scouts board; the American Museum of Science and Energy board; and Strata-G's board. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Management. He is also a lifetime member of the National Society of Black Engineers and the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. Harold lives in Knoxville and is interested in educational and minority issues.

Paul Dill

Paul Dill retired in 2018 as a project manager with Project Enhancement Corp. He received a B.S. in industrial engineering/technology management from Roger Williams University and an M.A. in psychology from Ashford University. Mr. Dill also earned a Master Project Manager certification from the American Academy of Project Management. He is currently an associate member of the American Psychological Association and a member of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Mr. Dill lives in Oliver Springs, which includes portions of Anderson, Roane, and Morgan counties. He is interested in environmental and public health issues.

Rosario Gonzalez

Rosario Gonzalez is a returning board member who served from 2016 through 2018. She recently retired as cafeteria manager of St. Mary's Catholic Church Cafeteria in Oak Ridge. She completed her secondary education in Mexico and received her GED from Pellissippi State. She lives in Oak Ridge and is interested in environmental and minority issues.

Amy Jones

Amy Jones is the agency manager for Steve Pyatt Insurance and a licensed agent for Madison Insurance Group, serving as lead agent for their Georgia office and as senior benefits coordinator for their Medicare division. She is also a real estate agent at Stephenson Realty & Auction. She owned her own business, Double J Enterprises of TN, in Rocky Top, Tennessee, for more than 20 years. Amy is active in a variety of community organizations, including the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce, the Anderson County Headstart Policy Council, the Women's

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Ministry Banquet at Main Street Baptist, the Anderson County Republican Party, the Tennessee Republican Party, the Order of Amaranth, and the Order of the Eastern Star. She founded Christmas for Rocky Top Kids in 2018. She lives in Briceville and is interested environmental, economic, and county government issues.


Noah Keebler

Noah Keebler is a nuclear electronics technician with Ametek, which is a manufacturer of electronic instruments and electromechanical devices. Prior to that he was a radiological instrumentation specialist with Perma-fix Environmental Services. Mr. Keebler received an A.S. in Electrical Engineering from Roane State Community College. He holds a certification in Instrumentation from Ludlum Measurements and several other work-related certifications. Noah has Occupational Safety and Health Administration training, electrical safety experience and radiation worker training and is a member of the East Tennessee Chapter of the Health Physics Society. He has an interest in environmental issues. He lives in Knoxville.


Lauren LaLuzerne

Lauren LaLuzerne is on the administrative staff at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory through UT-Battelle, the DOE site facility management and operations contractor for the laboratory. She received a bachelor of arts in Sustainability Studies and Anthropology from the University of Florida and recently completed a master's degree in Natural Resources and Global Sustainability from Virginia Tech. She is interested in environmental and public health issues and lives in Loudon.


Mike Mark

Michael (Mike) Mark is a former first responder and hazmat professional. He earned a high school diploma and has many certifications related to his career. He lives in Harriman and is interested in environmental and economic development issues.


Thomas McCormick

Thomas McCormick is the city manager for the Town of Oliver Springs, which includes portions of Anderson, Roane, and Morgan counties. He received a B.S. in political science from Middle Tennessee State University. He also has numerous certifications from the State of Tennessee, including as a water and wastewater treatment plant operator. He lives in Oliver Springs and is interested in city/county government and environmental issues.


Harriett McCurdy

Ann (Harriett) McCurdy retired in 2014 after more than 40 years as a teacher for middle- and high-school students both in the United States and abroad, with a focus on the sciences. Most recently she served as a teacher of science and biology for grades 6-10 at Yangon Academy in Yangon, Myanmar. Prior to that, she taught a variety of science courses and environmental studies courses in China, Morocco, Kuwait, and Ecuador. Harriett received an M.A. in teaching biology and her teaching certificate from Washington University and a B.A. in biology from Earlham College. She is a past president of the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters and a member of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, which is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector with a focus on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of Tennessee. Harriett lives in Oak Ridge and is interested in educational and environmental issues.


Otto Merz

Otto Merz is a retired electrical foreman who worked at Pace Electric until September of 2021. He received an associate's degree in electrical from Milwaukee Area Technical College and maintains his electrical license from the State of Wisconsin and membership in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union, where he graduated from its apprenticeship program. Otto was previously active in community organizations in Wisconsin and, since moving to Tennessee, has joined the Norris Lake Project and Norris Lake Full-timers. He lives in La Follette and is interested in environmental and labor issues.


Christine Michaels

Christine Michaels is president of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. She received a bachelor of science in Public Relations from Empire State College and has an Economic Gardening Certification for entrepreneurial economic development and an Institute for Organization Management certification from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of several organizations including: the Anderson County Economic Development Board, Adventure Anderson County (tourism board), Altrusa Foundation Board, Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival Committee, and the East Tennessee Economic Development Board. She is a Paul Harris Fellow with the Rotary Club. Christine lives in Oak Ridge and is interested in economic development and business issues.

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Charles Moore

Charles Moore is a source house technician with Mirion Technologies and is pursuing a degree in chemistry from Roane State Community College. He is interested in economic development and environmental issues. He lives in Knoxville.

Melanie Rogers

Melanie Rogers is an assistant teacher at Oak Ridge City Schools, where she works with the Wildcat Preschool Program at Oak Ridge High School. She received a bachelor of science and master of science in education from the University of Cincinnati and has volunteered locally at the American Museum of Science and Energy and Horse Haven of Tennessee. Melanie lives in Oak Ridge and is interested in educational issues and public health.

Tonya Shannon

Tonya Shannon works in accounts payable in the finance department for Morgan County and serves as a funeral director through Service Corp. International. She is also a trustee assistant with the Morgan County Trustee Office. She received an A.S. degree in human services from Jefferson Community College. She is a member of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association and has insurance licensure from Kaplan Financial Education. Tonya lives in Wartburg and is interested in public health and civic issues.

Michael Sharpe

Michael Sharpe is a SharePoint administrator and performs other technology- and web-based tasks for Oak Ridge Associated Universities, which manages the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education for DOE. It provides science, education, workforce development, and health services that include some OREM areas such as decontamination verifications to support cleanup. He received a B.S. in business administration from Tusculum University and an A.S. in computer programming from ITT Technical Institute. He is interested in civic and environmental issues and lives in Lenoir City.

Kelli Thompson

Kelli Thompson retired as an attorney from a Knoxville law firm in 2015, but has continued a limited solo practice. She is also a photographer with a particular interest in public nature areas, including those on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation. Kelli received a juris doctorate from the University of Tennessee in 1989 and a bachelor of science in Business Administration from Tennessee Technological University in 1986. She has authored legal materials for several publications and taught seminars on a variety of legal topics. She is a member of the Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board and currently serves as president for the board of directors for the Appalachian Arts Crafts Center. She has been active in the community in several other organizations in the past. She lives in Oak Ridge and is interested in civic and environmental issues.

Thomas Tuck

Thomas Tuck is a banking executive with TNBank. He served as president of the bank since 1995 and in March of 2020 transitioned to part-time employment as part of a leadership transition/retirement. He received a bachelor of science in business and marketing from the University of Tennessee and is a Certified Banker through the School of Banking of the South. He is a member of boards of directors for local organizations including the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association, and the East Tennessee Economic Council. He is a member of the Y-12 Community Relations Council. He lives in Knoxville and is interested in civic issues and economic development.

Agency Liaisons

These individuals serve as points of contact between the board and their respective agencies. A DOE liaison must be present at all board meetings. TDEC and EPA liaisons are often on hand to contribute to discussion and answer board member questions.

Erik Olds

Erik Olds became the OREM Manager. in June 2025 after previously serving as the OREM Deputy Manager. He is responsible for safely executing the environmental cleanup of the 30,000-acre Oak Ridge Reservation.

Melyssa Noe

Melyssa Noe is the board's Deputy Designated Federal Officer and previously served as the board's Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer. She is branch chief of program support in the Quality and Mission Support Division for OREM.

Roger Petrie

Roger Petrie serves as the board's Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer. He is the Federal Facility Agreement Project Manager for OREM.

Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA

Samantha Urquhart-Foster represents the Environmental Protection Agency. She is part of the Superfund Division in the agency's Region 4 Office, which covers the Southeast.

Kristof Czartoryski TDEC

Kristof Czartoryski is an environmental consultant with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. He is part of the agency's Division of Remediation in Oak Ridge.