



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved April 8, 2026, Full Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly full board meeting virtually via Zoom and in person at 1 Science.gov Way on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6 p.m. Copies of referenced meeting materials are attached. A video of the meeting is available on the board's YouTube, www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos.

Members Present

Sammantha Ashley
Kris Bartholomew
Mary Butler
Laure Clark
Paul Dill
Lauren LaLuzerne
Kenneth Lewis
Harriett McCurdy

Otto Merz
Charles Moore
Melanie Rogers
Michael Sharpe
Kelli Thompson
Tom Tuck
Matt Van Dalen

Members Absent

Brandon Adcock
Harold Conner, Jr.
Rosario Gonzalez

Thomas McCormick
Tonya Shannon

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

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

Others Present

Leah Alexander, OREM
Steve Cooke, OREM
Emily Day, UCOR
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Staff

Mary Magleby, UCOR
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Staff
Anne Wallace, OREM

3 members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Ms. Robbins – Ms. Robbins, OREM’s new deputy manager, introduced herself and described her background. She then gave members an overview of OREM activities since the last board meeting. She discussed a visit by EM’s Assistant Secretary Tim Walsh; the recent demolition of Alpha-2 at Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12); and the successful technology demonstration of the disposal of sodium shields from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL).

Mr. Petrie – Mr. Petrie told members that Ms. Robbins also served previously as the acting administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). He also said being able to dispose of the sodium shields is a really big deal because of the risks associated with them.

Mr. Czartoryski – Mr. Czartoryski said TDEC’s Division of Remediation is in the process of being combined with the Division of Solid Waste Management. The new division will be called the Division of Land Protection.

Ms. Urquhart-Foster – Ms. Urquhart-Foster said Jana Dawson is the current Federal Facilities Agreement project manager, but Ms. Urquhart-Foster is still ORSSAB’s EPA liaison.

Presentation

Mr. Bartholomew introduced OREM’s Steve Cooke to discuss OREM’s Reindustrialization and Historic Preservation at ETPP, formerly known as the K-25 site.

Mr. Cooke first gave an overview of the K-25 site, from its origins as the Wheat Community to its role in the Manhattan Project. He discussed the site’s historical significance: The facility, built in less than two years, was the largest and most costly industrial plant ever constructed when it was completed in 1945. It was designated as a “Manhattan Project Signature Facility” for its essential role in the success of the Manhattan Project. It is now part of the Manhattan Project National Park and an American Chemical Society National Historic Chemical Landmark.

Next, Mr. Cooke discussed the decommissioning and demolition of the K-25 site and the associated historic preservation efforts. He said the National Historic Preservation Act required DOE to enter into consultation with the Section 106 community stakeholder parties. Stakeholders had originally wanted to try to retain something of the former building for historic preservation, but that wasn’t feasible due to contamination. The K-25 building was demolished in its entirety, along with more than 500 other buildings on the site, however a portion of the K-25 concrete slab remains as a remnant of the historic footprint. Other preservation efforts included a grant that led to the renovation of the historic Alexander Inn and its productive reuse; the collection of more than 800 artifacts, of which 285 are on display at the K-25 History Center; and the recently opened William J. Wilcox, Jr. K-25 Interpretive Center, which gives visitors a sense of the scale of the K-25 footprint.

OREM’s Abby Hill then discussed reindustrialization efforts at the site, from the beginnings as a leasing program in the 1990s to the current land and building transfers, which is the current operational model. Lastly, she gave an overview of the property transfer process from the point at which the property is

designated as “No Further Action Needed” to the end state delivered, including the authorities under which the transfers are completed.

Board members asked the following questions:

- Ms. Thompson said she lives across the river from what she called the “Powerhouse/Carbon Rivers,” which was a parcel of property transferred previously. She said it’s become a “windmill blade junkyard, essentially,” and asked if there were any lessons learned from that transfer because it had included wetlands.
 - Ms. Hill said there were lessons learned from the Powerhouse. Now, the site Reuse Support Program will be working with companies interested in moving to the site to better understand the scope of the companies, which will have to present construction plans and soil and groundwater management plans to EPA, DOE, and TDEC.
- Ms. Thompson asked whether discussions of a possible airport at ETTP affected the value of the land since it was transferred to Carbon Rivers.
 - Ms. Hill said property values at the site are similar to other real estate in that values are based off previous sales, but there are other factors involved including the challenges associated with having a brownfield site, which lowers price per acre. As more companies have moved in and expressed interest, values have increased. Mr. Cooke said the establishment of the site reuse support program has helped, as had the nuclear renaissance. He said there was less industry interest in the property at the time of the Carbon Rivers transfer, but recent interest in nuclear technology, carbon-neutral production, and artificial intelligence (AI) has attracted high-quality development. Mr. Petrie added that DOE has no control over the property after it is transferred. DOE is responsible for ensuring that the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) restrictions and controls are in place, but beyond that the property is under the purview of owner, the State of Tennessee and local governments.
- Mr. Lewis asked if the public could access the K-25 History Center and William J. Wilcox, Jr. K-25 Interpretive Center.
 - Mr. Cooke said they are both completely open to the public. He added that the former K-25 site is the most publicly accessible among all the Manhattan Project National Historic Park sites.
- Ms. McCurdy asked to clarify the amount of control DOE had on property uses at ETTP, such as ensuring an apartment complex was not built on the site.
 - Mr. Petrie said for every property where DOE executed a decision document under CERCLA that DOE, TDEC, and EPA conduct a five-year review and look at the area covered under that remedy. One of the items reviewed at that time is land-use controls, so if someone is out there trying to build an apartment complex, that will be flagged. He said DOE’s involvement in the property after the transfer only goes as far as ensuring the deed

restriction controls are being obeyed.

Public Questions

- Mr. Luther Gibson said there had been discussion about some of the nuclear companies out there like Standard Nuclear coming back in under DOE jurisdiction, and he asked if that would subject them to emergency management orders.
 - Mr. Petrie said there is an effort to evaluate bringing those organizations under DOE jurisdiction, but that effort has not progressed to the point there the emergency response aspect is being evaluated.
- Mr. Doug Colclasure said there are two established trail systems at ETTP, and he asked the board to take an active interest in obtaining easement agreements to give incoming industries access to the greenways directly from their businesses and access for the public from the greenways to the museum and the interpretive center.

Public Comment

- Public Comment #1 – Mr. Luther Gibson discussed ORSSAB’s last recommendation regarding onsite disposal of CERCLA wastes, which was passed in August 2018. He expressed concerns about funding for long-term care of the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) and said there needs to be greater understanding of the issues and challenges in Bear Creek Watershed before the board can make an informed recommendation on the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF). He said discussion of ongoing efforts to assure waste disposal capacity should include more awareness on the status and confidence of future access to offsite disposal facilities. Mr. Gibson also discussed the importance of understanding the scope and schedule of remaining remediation at ETTP, the ramifications of nuclear projects working under DOE jurisdiction rather than the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Budget Justification Documents. (see attached)

Board Business/Motions

None

Responses to Recommendations & DDFO Report

Ms. Noe said DOE had previously asked the board for a recommendation on waste disposal, but there had not been much response from board members. She gave members a brief recap of the recommendation drafting process and asked members to consider participating.

Committee Reports

Executive – Mr. Bartholomew said the executive committee discussed the Spring Chairs Meeting scheduled for the 28th and 29th. The next meeting is May 6.

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Merz said the committee discussed waste management, and members voted

for the committee co-chairs, himself and Ms. Laure Clark. The next meeting is April 22.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

Ms. Kimel said the next new member recruitment is about to begin and asked members to forward the recruitment page on the ORSSAB website to anyone who may be interested and let staff know of anyone members would recommend.

Action Items

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the April 8, 2026, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Kris Bartholomew, Chair



Kelli Thompson, Secretary

May 18, 2026

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

KB/sbm

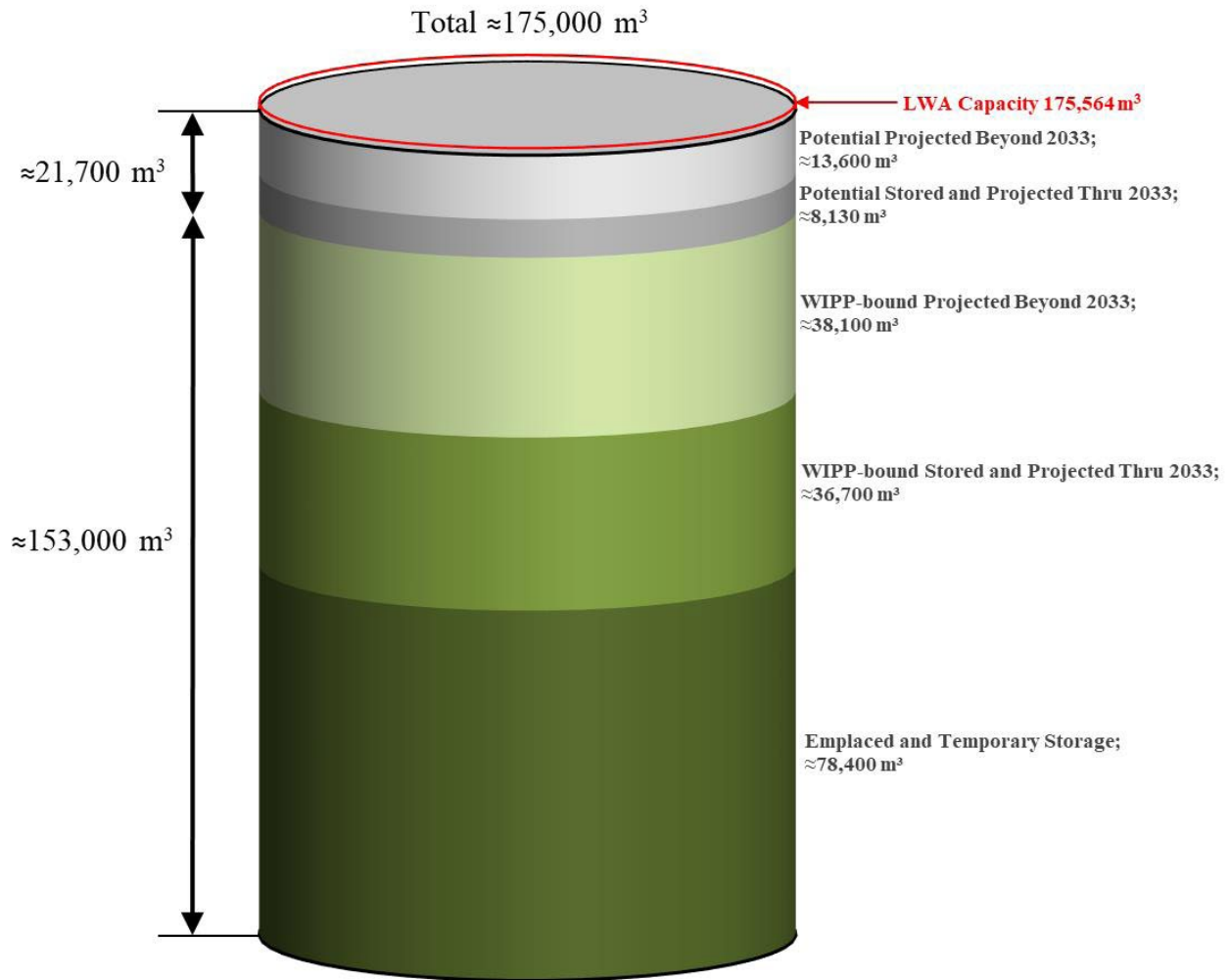
Public Comment to Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
Luther Gibson
April 8, 2026

Ongoing Efforts to Assure Waste Disposal Capacity

A recommendation from ORSSAB has been requested by OREM. Last recommendation in August 2018 was Recommendation 240: On the Proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility at the U.S. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation. The recommendation supported onsite disposal of CERCLA wastes that meet the onsite waste acceptance criteria. Those criteria were unknown at the time and are still unclear. The recommendation touched on funding, community engagement, expansion/additional capacity, monitoring, and budget for future monitoring and maintenance of the completed facility. At the time of Recommendation 240, the EMWMF perpetual care fund still existed and influenced thinking on funding long-term care of such a facility. That perpetual care fund was repurposed to partially fund a Natural Resource Damage Assessment with DOE required by agreement to pay for long-term care of the EMWMF. DOE should be able secure funding for its perpetual obligations without the community having to rely on alternative creative financing schemes. After Recommendation 240, former EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler approved a controversial decision resolving a dispute between DOE and the other FFA parties waiving certain Clean Water Act regulations to facilitate construction EMDF. Details are still being resolved in decision documents. There needs to be greater understanding of issues and challenges in the overall Bear Creek watershed to make any informed recommendation on EMDF.

Assurance of onsite waste disposal capacity has generally been assessed by OREM considering the projects within their purview at any point in time. The Y-12 National Security Complex chapter of the 2024 Annual Site Environmental Report for the Oak Ridge Reservation discusses replacement of current key operations buildings as far out as 2055. The Record of Decision for Interim Actions in Bethel Valley has been modified to add multiple reactor and non-reactor facilities in Melton Valley.

The discussion of ongoing efforts to assure waste disposal capacity should include more awareness on status and confidence of future access to offsite disposal facilities. The Waste Information Management System (WIMS) application that has been maintained by Florida International University for DOE is an important educational tool. It should be supported in the future and regularly updated as waste streams and the disposal facilities change. An example of a GIS map generated by WIMS for waste from Oak Ridge Reservation to all facilities in the database was generated. See Page 4. Transuranic waste is not tracked in WIMS but annual reports on status of WIPP capacity are available from the WIPP website. Projected volumes are very close to the Land Withdrawal Act authorized capacity. The figure on the next page is from the 2025 Annual Transuranic Waste Inventory Report.



Eventual Haul Road remediation and bridge removal has been a planned outcome since the decision to build the Haul Road. Current expectations to achieve or modify that outcome should be discussed with stakeholders.

Select ORSSAB recommendations from 1997-2010 on onsite CERCLA waste disposal indicate the thoroughness and rigor that was previously applied to the issue. Recommendation 180, approved by ORSSAB on July 8, 2009, recommended that DOE proceed expeditiously to expand the current facility and plan for the development of a new facility to meet waste disposal needs forecast as a result of work to be done through the anticipated (at that time) Integrated Facility Disposition Project.

Number	Title
97.4	Elimination of the White Wing Scrap Yard Disposal Site from Consideration as a Location for the EM Waste Management Facility (<i>verbal request made at 3/5/97 SSAB meeting</i>)
97.8	Requested for a Public Workshop to Address NEPA and Its Associated Issues for the On-site Disposal Cell
R03/04/98.7	On-Site Waste Disposal Facility on the ORR
R11/05/98.4	Recommendation for Including Public Involvement in Proposals for the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility at the Oak Ridge Reservation
C03/12/99.7	Comments on the <i>Proposed Plan for the Disposal of Oak Ridge CERCLA Wastes</i> (DOE/OR/01-1761&D3)
C07/7/99.14	Comments on the <i>Record of Decision, D1, for Disposal of Oak Ridge Reservation CERCLA Waste, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, May 1999</i> (DOE/OR/01-1791&D1)
R03/14/01.7	Recommendations and Comments on the <i>Attainment Plan for Risk/Toxicity-Based Waste Acceptance Criteria at the Oak Ridge Reservation, Oak Ridge, TN</i> (DOE/OR/01-1909&D1)
R10/10/01.4	Recommendations on Explanations of Significant Difference for CERCLA Records of Decision at the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation
R7/9/03.15	Endorsement of Preferred Alternative for Underdrain at the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility
R12/8/04.3	Recommendation on the East Tennessee Technology Park to Environmental Management Waste Management Facility Haul Road
158	Recommendation on the EMWMF Explanation of Significant Difference for Leachate Management Information Sheet
166	Recommendation on Preparing Future Explanations of Significant Differences
180	Recommendations on Expansion of the CERCLA Waste Facility and Sorting and Segregating of Wastes Destined for the Facility
181	Recommendation on the Fact Sheet for the Explanation of Significant Differences for the Record of Decision of Comprehensive Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 Waste, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Reindustrialization and Historic Preservation Activities at ETPP

It is critical to understand the scope and schedule of remaining remediation at ETPP. More information about current unresolved challenges should be readily available and publicized. The ramifications of nuclear projects working under DOE jurisdiction and authority rather than NRC while pursuing DOE approvals that will later be used to leverage NRC licensing need to be understood. The applicable DOE orders need to be identified and implemented, particularly in areas of environmental compliance and emergency management. To cease future planning for an unneeded transition of ETPP to Office of Legacy Management should be considered.

FY 2028 Budget Development/Prioritization

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Justification documents to support the Department of Energy Budget Request to Congress began to be released on April 3, 2027.

Waste Information Management System

Home Contact Us Help

Forecast Data Disposition Map **GIS Map** Reports

Waste from **Oak Ridge Reservation** **Generate GIS Map**

Waste To **All Facilities**

Fiscal Year : From **2025** To **2050 To 2054** Waste Type: **All Materials**

Hide All Labels Reload All Labels

Map Satellite

- Area 5 LLW Disposal Unit (NNSS) (145320.34 m³)
- EMWMF Disposal Cell (ORR) (139400.11 m³)
- Energy Solutions-Clive (formerly Envirocare) (14578.30 m³)
- Energy Solutions-TN (formerly GTS Duratek) (1451.25 m³)
- Perma-Fix--Northwest (formerly PEcoS) (290.00 m³)
- Perma-Fix--Diversified Scientific Services-Inc (875.00 m³)
- Perma-Fix Gainesville (252.39 m³)
- Waste Control Specialists (557.16 m³)
- Clean Harbors (0.96 m³)
- Commercial TBD (314.05 m³)
- Area 5 MLLW Disposal Cell (NNSS) (2138.69 m³)
- Veolia (4.92 m³)

